



Newsletter

November 2004

Hello Folks,

After four most enjoyable days on the Whanganui River I was left thinking hard about where the Club was going to be in another 50 years.

We all had learnt so much from each other and at the same time I had great fun. One of the lessons that I learnt was the need to explain techniques in simple terms.

We had explained to everyone how to use the movement of the river to move from side to side across the river - a ferry glide. I did not explain why it was called a ferry glide, and now I have the delightful image of a fairy gliding across the river. The ferry glide will never be the same! Perhaps the term will go into the Club archive for the next 50 years

Remember the Swim escort on the 5th Dec.



Regards,

Ian

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Deadline for next month's newsletter: 14 December 2004

Useful phone numbers and addresses

Club address	23 Spinnaker Drive Te Atatu Peninsular, Auckland	Safety & Training	Ken Marsh	828 0701
Patron	John Watts	444 4006	Storage & Club Kayaks	
President	Matt Crozier	817 1984	Lindsay Sandes	522 3344
Vice President	Lindsay Sandes	522 3344	50th Anniversary:	Peter Sommerhalder 631 5344
Secretary	Rona Patterson	834 3399	Vine House:	Andrew Frances 021 142 4857
Treasurer	Des Matthews	575 5804	Committee	Margaret Thwaites 818 9609
Trips Officer	Gavin Baker	528 5188	Committee	Wayne Fitzsimons 298 5087
Publicity Officer	Roger Lomas	579 8799	Newsletter Editor	Ian Calhaem 579 0512 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 and Kayak, 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.odnz.co.nz

Positively First Training Ltd, Jo Piggins and Chris Gulley,
ph 09-813-9494 email www.pft.co.nz Check our
website for details.

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, Ken Marsh, Mike Randall.

Safety Policy for Club Trips.

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

Trips and Events Calendar

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

TRIP CANCELLATIONS

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

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

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

Regular Evening Paddles

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 Café 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 Gavin Baker on 528 5188 or email gavinbaker@clear.net.nz**

December 2004

December 5th - Chelsea Sugar Swim Escort

Event Name: Swim Escort - Curran St to Chelsea Sugar

Date: Sunday, December 5, 2004

Time: 12:00pm-3:00pm

Race start 1.00pm, Tide 2.10pm, 2.36km (each way) At least 40 kayaks required.

Meet at Curran St 12pm, be on the water by 12:45pm. Bring kayak trolley wheels if you have them.

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! Also to keep an eye out for swimmers exiting the course (they must instead board a coastguard vessel). 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!

- All club kayaks are reserved for the swim escorts, and are available free of charge.
- If you have a VHF radio, please bring it. Initial comms are on channel 86.
- Listen to the cancellation service on Newstalk 1ZB (1080Hz AM) in the morning if the weather looks dodgy.
- Please STAY in the area until the last swimmer arrives, in case a search is needed.

We just need to get an idea of numbers and this will help avoid a panic! We will be doing a ring-around to see if you intend to come. If we don't manage to contact you, then please ring Gavin Baker (528 5188) to put your hand up, or for more information.

January 2005

Club Christmas Trip

I am currently working on the details for a five to six day Northland trip. The idea is to meet in Kaeo on Monday January 3rd, launch that afternoon on the Whangaroa Harbour and end the trip at Aroha Island on the Kerikeri Inlet. Car care will be with a friend who owns a farm near the harbour. I will announce further details in the next newsletter and also via the website. But if you send me your email address I will also communicate directly with you. There is a stretch of coast that is proving to be a problem in terms of camping. This is the 48km from Matauri Bay to Urapukapuka Island – too far for one day given that the trip is aimed at medium-level paddling skills. If anyone has a contact who can provide a beach or paddock near Cape Wiwiki for a group of 15-20 kayakers, then please get in touch with me ASAP.

PLAN B: If this trip does not eventuate we will adopt Plan B which is to base ourselves on Urapukapuka Island for 4-5 days.

Vincent Maire

(09) 424-2293

Vincent.Maire@xtra.co.nz

February 2005

February 6th Waiwera to Motuora Start at Waiwera and paddle up the coast to the Mahuragi, out to Saddle island then (weather permitting) out to Motuora for lunch. **Contact John Cryer (09) 426 1169 or Phiip Noble 575 3493 to register and time of departure**

February 13th - St Heliers Bay to Tamaki Yacht Club Swim escort - see details on this page

February 27th - Eagle Technology Rangitoto Swim Escort - see details on this page

Swim Escort Dates

2nd Swim CHELSEA SUGAR SWIM 2.36k

Curran Street to Chelsea

Sunday 5th December 2004

Time: 12:00pm-3:00pm

At least 40 Kayaks required.

Meet at Curran St 12pm, be on the water by 12:45pm. Bring kayak trolley wheels if you have them.

Race Starts at 1.00pm Tide 2.10pm



3rd Swim EAGLE TECHNOLOGY BAYS SWIM

St Heliers Bay to Tamaki Yacht Club

Sunday 13th February 2005

Assemble 9.15am Start 10.15am Tide 11.49am



4th Swim EAGLE TECHNOLOGY RANGITOTO SWIM 4.45k

Rangitoto to St.Heliers Bay

Sunday 27th February 2005

Assemble 5.45am Embark 6.45am Sail for Rangitoto 7.15am

Arrive Rangitoto 7.55am Start 8.30am Tide 10.38am



Please make sure you email Matt Crozier (matt@vsl.co.nz) or ring 817 1984, even just to leave a message, if you intend to come. If you require a club kayak, contact Ken Marsh 309 1000. We just need to get an idea of numbers and this will help avoid a panic!

Prez Sez

It's been a fairly quiet month for the committee, apart from those organising and taking part in the Whanganui River expedition. I gather this was a great success.

Swim Escort

Thanks to all those who were not put off by the strong winds last Sunday, and came to help with the first swim escort. We were gratefully aided by Glen Eden sea scouts to boost the numbers. Most people stayed behind for a chat, a biscuit or two and some fizzy drink.

The next swim (Dec 5th) is from Curran St (city side of the harbour bridge) to the Chelsea Sugar factory on the other side of the harbour. Gavin Baker will be looking after this one. This is a popular event so we need double the number of paddlers, so please make yourself available if possible. See the events calendar for more information.

New Members

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

Hala Akkad	Michelle Baird	Erin Beneteau
David, Suzanne, Amber, Devon Cripps		Elena Doyle
Carol, Natalie, Vanessa Irvine		Andrew Lamont
Mark Nicholls	Marian O'Brien	Sally West
William Williams		

Happy paddling,

M@ (matt@vsl.co.nz)



The Start of the Whanganui River Trip - Ohinepane



Dreamtime on the Whanganui

"You'll all fall out', our leaders cried
'Including us', they said with pride
Only some of us obliged
But generally the company
Was set to have a merry ride
Down the Whanganui..

We started out with twenty three
And finished up with an extra five
This was a plus to say the least
It proved we all came out alive
Along the Whanganui.

The ghosts of fifty years past
Were there to keep us cool
With help from Peter, Ian and Pete
All was corker as a rule.
On the Whanganui.

In keeping with the human race
We were an assorted bunch
A rowboat came along as well
It was good to stop for lunch
On the banks of the Whanganui.

The rapids, they were rapid
The eddies, swirly as they get
So if you didn't watch it
You'd be swimming in the wet
Of the whirly Whanganui.

On the long flat stretches in the gorge
We thought of days long gone
When people acted out their dreams
Of Paradise ere things went wrong

The evidence lay in the ruins
Of rotting boards and rusting iron
And artifacts of former times
Stories told in many a song
In the land of the Whanganui.

Ohinepani to the coast
That would have been a lark
But as it was we planned to stop
At Pipiriki Park
Five days down the Whanganui.

A thousand years of people
They found this place to dwell
Their source of life and transport
What tales it has to tell.
This ancient Whanganui.

In our very brief encounter
So important to us all
To celebrate our fifty years
We answered to the call
Of the wonderful Whanganui.

Kiaora
Mike Randall



The Whanganui Journey

(145 Km 5 day paddle down the Whanganui River)

Marian O'Brien

I did the Whanganui journey with 26 members of the Auckland Canoe Club to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Auckland Canoe Club.

I used a puffin sea kayak from Auckland Canoe Club. It had plenty of room for all my things so my worrying was all for nothing, thank goodness!

All the drivers drove their cars for an extra hour to Ohakune for safekeeping and got shuttled back to Ohinepane where we were camping for the first night beside the Whanganui River.

Some canoe club members took my heavy sea kayak down to the riverbank by 9am to commence paddling on the Whanganui River.

Peter, Peter and Ian explained fairy gliding, rapids and general paddling skills before we all went down our first grade

1 rapid. I had never paddled rapids in a sea kayak before and was pretty worried about tipping out, as longer boats are harder to use on the river than shorter play boats like the one I own for river kayaking.

Ian Deverick had an excellent kayak made of totara and pine with paua shell decoration that he built himself. It took him 2 years to build and is a great kayak.

Two of our members went down the river in a rowboat. They had a great time and didn't fall out at all.

I heard a couple of ducks quacking in a panic above us and didn't know why until to my great joy two adorable grey ducklings appeared in front of us. They were oblivious to the kayaks and their parents mad panic and just kept swimming and diving under the water then resurfacing 40 seconds later. They were great little divers.

We stopped at the side of the riverbank to walk up to the Nukunuku Museum owned by J Erceg, which consisted



of 3 small sheds, one of which was made of thatched wood.

One had old Whanganui photos, bottles, china and jars in it. One had an old cot and record player in it. There was even a piece of the flagpole Honi Heke cut down at Russell. I loved the photos of the old houseboat that used to take people on journeys on the river until about the 1950s.

We continued to paddle down the river seeing plenty of green hills providing a backdrop to dark green trees and mini waterfalls trickling down the cliffs.

I saw one particularly beautiful waterfall that went down in steps. We even saw two stranded sheep that looked like they had a steep climb to safety but we couldn't help them. There were many goats up high and you could hear them chatting away. We could hear cars driving past on the road above but we couldn't see them.

We then stopped to look at the Ohura Falls. I saw some falls and thought they were it but followed some others onto the bank where after a short walk through the shallow water we were presented with the beautiful Ohura falls. Above them is the peace poll that the Maoris put up about 100 years ago. Some people scrambled up the bank to see that but I was quite content to see it from afar (I had had enough exercise for the day).

I was treated to more ducks and their ducklings, which are always enchanting.

We also safeguarded our journey by offering the Taniwha some greenery on his rock.

On the first day there were a lot of Kowhai trees that the birds enjoyed snacking on. I saw tuis, ducks, native pigeons and fantails. I heard kingfishers and grey warblers.

We got to Maharanui at 4.30pm and I was real tired after my 30 km paddle as



I am not used to paddling for such a long time but it was well worth it.

I put my tent up and made a delicious dinner of potato, tuna, peas and corn. It was easy to make and I was hungry so it was fine by me.

I filled my thermos flask up with boiling water every night and it lasted me for the next days breakfast, lunch and dinner so it made things a lot easier as I am always scared of lighting my cooker and usually get someone else to for me.

We tied our kayaks to trees on the riverbank so they wouldn't disappear if the river rose overnight.

We left Maharanui at 10am after the rain had stopped (about the only rain we had). We had two stops today one at Whakahoro hut which required us to paddle up stream up the Retaruke River, which was a bit tiring.

The first day I paddled with my rudder up the whole time and kept going in circles so on Thursday I saved energy by using my rudder on the flat and putting it up in the rapids so it wouldn't catch on any rocks.

We paddled below a bridge and got out for a walk up to the hut. The walk was up a dirt road for about 10 minutes and is where some tour operators start their paddling. It was neat being on the road with the river out of sight even though it was right there, as we had just paddled it.

We went for a walk across the bridge we paddled under. A max of 100 people were allowed on it so we were right. However, someone pointed out to me a bend in the bridge and said it was caused when the river flooded so that is how strong the water is!

The hut was great with gas cookers and an information board. It had a big field for camping in the busy times. There was only about 15 other people on the river and we didn't see them until the third day at John Coull's Hut.

There were little caves and grottos throughout the Whanganui journey and many had water trickling in them. I often thought I was approaching a rapid but would get closer and find it was one of these gorgeous little waterfalls. The cliffs leaked a lot! On the last day we climbed up the riverbank to a cave that had a big waterfall in it falling into a stream in the cave so you could even have a swim in the cave.

The cave just up the river was huge and very muddy – I had to walk in knee-deep mud to get to the entrance. I took my paddle shoes off so I wouldn't loose them in the mud. I wanted to walk to the end of the cave but was a bit reluctant as I figured there would be big cave wetas in there, so didn't. I think it would be neat to walk along it with a torch.

I was not at all pleased at the prospect of getting mud thrown at me when I got in the way of a mud fight. I told them to "bloody well leave my paddle jacket alone".

We paddled past rock faces and a few looked like faces with big holes for eyes, mouth and noses and moss for hair. There was lots of moss on the rocks.

We stopped for lunch about 1km from the campsite. Peter was doing his usual cook up of corn fritters and banana fritters and sharing them with everyone. They were great and gave me some much-needed energy to keep paddling. I sure needed all my food on the river.



We got to Mangapapa at 3.30pm having done our shortest day of 15km. It was a lovely campsite right near the river so we could have a swim and clean up. It wasn't too cold but I still took a while to get into the river. I could see a waterfall about 2 metres across the bank, which enticed me to get into the water and have a look. Some people jumped off the cliff into the river.

There was goat pooh all over the table in the shelter so they even manage to get on the tables! Luckily there were two tables so I ate at the other one, which was appeared to be a little more appealing.

We listened to the radio every night for the weather and it tended to say rain was on the way but it didn't really come at all! We reported in at 8.30pm every night to let people know where we were.

We had fires every night, which was nice and meant;

we didn't have to take our rubbish out as we could burn it.

Peter told us to bring all our food inside the hut, as rats have been known to chew through life jackets and dry bags to get to food! Strong hideous creatures!

We left Mangapapa at 9am on Friday where I took two photos of the Battle Ship Bluff for my friend Judy. Unfortunately they didn't come out so if anyone has some please let me know. The battle Ship Bluff is a cliff face that looks like the bottom of a battleship. But if you ask me that description requires quite a lot of imagination and is not like "Lion Rock" at all i.e. it doesn't look like what it says it does! However, maybe it did before plants covered it and before the slip earlier this year.



The gorges had lots of Nikau trees in them and were so pretty. Again with so many waterfalls and little grottos like the ones you see in Mary Shrines sometimes. Some were step waterfalls and some were gaps in the cliff with water peeping out. We saw Tamatea cave which is a cave that is big enough to get a car in and more.

We had lunch on the riverbank and I checked out all the beautiful rocks. There were grey, red, purple-grey, terracotta and cream coloured rocks. There were also fossils with bits of shells and pebbles in them.

Since the weather was so fine there were great reflections in the river and it sparkled like a Monet painting. I loved being able to see the sky in the river. The sky was usually blue with white cotton wool clouds.

I was getting tired by Friday so Peter taught me some more paddle strokes to make me go more quickly and it worked.

He ended up swapping paddles with me on the last two days as mine was too heavy so that helped and I kept up with the others. There were lots of flat stretches in the gorges so I would try to float down the river but my kayak would stop moving so that didn't work. One day we played with a ball that ended up being quite fun and taking my mind off paddling a bit while I was tired.



I am glad we didn't see many whirlpools, as I don't like giving them a whirl as they could tip me out. Once there was a whirlpool so big that it could turn the houseboat round, but they tamed that whirlpool by blasting rock. What a sight it must have been!

We got to John Coull's Hut at 3.30pm having done another long day of 30km.

People tied my kayak up for me (4 people have to lift the kayaks) and we organized our bunks and campsites. I slept in the hut. It was nice being in a hut tonight as it rained a bit but was fine by the morning again. Some people went for a walk up to an old derelict farmhouse but I didn't want to get cold and wet so stayed in the hut. They said it had only a few walls some of which still had old wallpaper on it and no furniture and the floor was gone. It sounded interesting.

We left John Coull Hut at 8.30am and were at the "Bridge to Nowhere" by 12.20pm.

It is not easy getting on to the landing to the "Bridge to Nowhere", so many paddlers parked on the other side and were rowed over by the rowboat in our party. I followed two others who landed on the right side so it was easy for me.

It was built in 1936 even though the settlers first arrived in 1917 and were forced to leave by 1942. This bridge is up very high and looks like a mini-"Grafton Bridge". It is surrounded by bush and overlooking a gorge and the Mangapurua stream. The remnant of the old swing bridge, which is older than the "Bridge to Nowhere", is nearby. The reflections of the sky and trees in the stream were great.

We didn't paddle under it but walked 40 minutes to get to it. The walk to the "Bridge to Nowhere" was nice and smelt like fresh rain. There are even 3 long drops on the way and a shelter where we could eat our lunch.

Two settlements are on the way – Morgan and Hunter. Morgan got a photo next to the Morgan sign.

There is not much evidence of these settlements. Not like when I did the walk in the Mangapurua area and saw Mr. Bettjeman's chimney still there from 1942 when he was forced to walk off the land due to lack of access.

There is a walk, to a look out, full of fallen trees on each side of the track. The rest of the track to the bridge was

pretty with dark bark against bright green ferns and some trees at weird angles. We could see the river from the track.

In 1946 the "Bridge to Nowhere" was covered in grass and small scrub so it looked like a bush track. It is now clear of grass! People come in jet boats from Pipiriki to view the "Bridge to Nowhere". The jet boats are nice and didn't threaten to run us over on the river like the ones at FullJames Rapid Jets!

There were often fallen branches in the river and one looked just like a sharks fin! Peter pointed out a tree with a silver tab on it way up high. This silver tab represented the flood levels of the past. It was so high at one time that jet boats could jet up to the huts so it must have been super high and scary.

We saw hunters today with pigs on their backs after a successful hunting expedition.

We got to the Tieke Keinga Marae at 4.30pm all prepared to sing "Ten Guitars" with Mike on the mouth organ. Thank Goodness no welcoming party was at the Marae as none of us really knew the verses and only sung the chorus which would have been quite funny.

The Marae isn't finished yet as it needs all its carvings on it. It should be finished next April. It sleeps about 20 people and is nice and comfortable.

There is an elaborate carving outside the Marae. It was carved out of a trunk from one of the floods in the Whanganui River and is a lovely dark brown. It had many different carvings on it and I wish I had a photo!

There are three main buildings at Tieke Keinga – The Marae, the kitchen and hall and the bunkroom and hall. There is even a warm shower but I did not inspect it as I didn't have a dry towel so didn't think there was much point plus I was happy to wait to I got home.

We had a big shared meal on the tables outside which was fun.

The Marae had a rooster, which was beautiful with a lovely black feather tail with a green and purple sheen. I love birds so was delighted by this colourful rooster. People were worried he would cock-a-doodle-doo real early in the morning but he didn't at all. I think he started around 7.30am.

I also saw a very tame little finch with a red face, black eyes and peachy stripe on his chest.

We could hear peacocks from across the river at the "Bridge to Nowhere" lodge but they didn't start too early either.

We left the Marae at 8.30am and the day was fine. It was a bit windy so I saw some paddlers stick their paddles up vertically on the front of their boat to act as a sail and speed them up. This is a good idea.

We stopped and looked at where Goldie painted his famous "Drop Scene" painting. It is of the gorge and hills and river. The last rapid had a steel eel trap in it. I got stuck on the rock just before it and thought, "oh oh here I go" but I remembered what AUCC had taught me and leant into the rock and came off it with no problems.

We ended our river journey at Pipiriki where it had just started to rain. Pipiriki has an old ship that you can view and a house that is half finished as the owners ran out of money so that is a pity.

Three hats were sacrificed to the river but not mine so I was lucky. I am pleased to say that my whitewater training put me in good stead as I didn't fall out once but I wasn't as fast as the others.

We got our shuttle to Ohakune and arrived at the gear shed at 10pm. The weather was awful with thunder and waves crashing on the rocks.





It was a very good trip. Thank you to Steve for driving me, Peter, Peter and Ian for coaching me and everyone else for carrying my boats and being such good company.

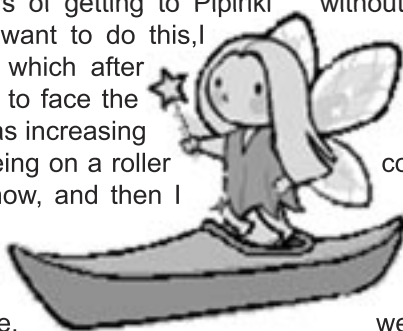
May the canoe club continue to flourish for another 50 years and more.

Thanks Marian for this extensive report ED.

First time in moving water!

David Ward

I'd not paddled in moving water before and from the doc camp at Ohinepane the first rapid was clearly visible, fast moving water with 600mm high standing waves at one metre intervals and a sharp left turn half way through. After dire warnings that if any of us had ideas of getting to Pipiriki without falling out we were living in cuckoo land, I'm having thoughts of; do I really want to do this, I grapple with ferry, or was it fairy gliding which after Peter I managed to get the hang of. Time to face the triangle of water proceeding it my speed was increasing was in amongst the turbulent water, like being on a roller a cork, spray everywhere, hard left turn now, and then I fun actually! I came to look forward to presented, thank God I didn't go home. that after rehearsing our song and never a single Maori to be seen at Tieke Marae, Many thank yous to Peter, Ian and Pete for all



some very patient instruction from rapid. Keeping in the middle of the flat all the time as I approached, suddenly I was through it and still upright, good the rapids for the challenge that they My only disappointment on the trip was having been on a marae, there was not we did have a great feast nevertheless.

your hard work in making it such a memorable trip for us.

Where is the bow?



Just a little water to get rid



Whew!

The perfect sea kayak

Keith Edwards

I thought the heading would get your attention! Let's make it perfectly clear that what I am talking about is a purely personal idea of perfection (it's in the eye of the beholder). So here's a bit of background. I've been paddling on and off for 40 odd years. I've owned a Nordkapp and a Puffin (remember the pod?) and currently own and paddle an Horizon and a Puysegur. Like many paddlers I do most of my paddling in fairly sheltered waters. However I have done trips to the Bay of Islands, Whangaroa, Queen Charlotte sound, Lake Te Anau and Doubtful Sound, some of them multi day camping trips.

Like other people I have preferences. I don't like the handling characteristics of chine boats – I've been paddling round bilge boats for too long. I really dislike clutter because it adds to the weight of the craft and provides more things to go wrong. And I thoroughly dislike unbalanced boats. Most of the modern crop of Kiwi Kayaks can not be paddled comfortably in a brisk side wind without a rudder. I am told that modern rudders are 100% reliable – yeh right!

So what do I want in my perfect kayak? I want light and simple: light moves better in a seaway and is easier to get on the roof-racks. So just two compartments, less weight and less clutter. I can't twist round to get to a day hatch and those rubber covers are hard enough to remove and replace on dry land. I like Sisson's idea of glassing round the seat instead of having a completely separate bulkhead, it's neat, saves weight and makes the cockpit easy to wash out.

I don't do rock gardening so glass or kevlar is fine (indeed using plastic would not meet my weight criteria). I like the flush hatches on the Cutlass – simple and light (especially in carbon!). I've not paddled a kayak with a skeg so that remains a possibility. Failing that I suppose I'll have to have some sort of rudder for down-wind riding swells. Couple that with a solid foot rest with steering flaps and the basic structure is done. This lot should weigh in at around 20kg complete (less if the skeg works well).

What about the important stuff; the hull shape. Well, I think about 5.3 metres overall (including rudder) because that's all my garage will take. Yes, a longer kayak will be marginally faster but there will also be a greater risk of the rudder lifting out in steep seas. Beam could be about 520mm give or take a centimetre, after all it's a sea kayak not an aircraft carrier. I prefer a bit more U shape in the bottom rather than a pure V to push a little more buoyancy towards the ends (without going overboard about it). I would use a reasonably flat rocker (by sea kayak standards) because I don't plan to circumnavigate any large land mass and enjoy the additional speed. The deckline forward would be upswept and flared for additional lift when surfing. I would also push the forefoot out to maximise waterline length.

So far we have light, reasonably fast, balanced enough to paddle without a rudder in most conditions. I would also like a combination of reasonable primary stability and very good secondary stability. But what of creature comforts.

I insist on having a cockpit long enough to get in and out of easily. When the waves dump you on a beach you don't always have all day to get out of the kayak! A sensible cockpit also makes the clambering in part of self rescue easier. Knee braces are essential, either separate or in the form of a nice little dip for the knees under the coaming.

A dip in the deck forward of the cockpit for storage or even a moulded in shallow tray would be nice. I don't like a storage compartment protruding into the cockpit between my knees because such a device prevents you twisting from face down to face up in a re-entry. A groove in the deck behind the cockpit to take the paddle shaft and a couple of straps to hold it down would be good. I'm quite happy with bolted on eyes for the deck lines (a bit of regular maintenance with silicone rubber keeps the inside dry). Lifting handles should be bolted through the deck where there are a couple of additional layers of kevlar or glass running under the deck over the hull/deck join and down onto the inside of the hull.

So there we have it, simple, light, fast, comfortable and convenient and reasonably robust. Now all we need is a willing designer and builder!

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Book Club

The Auckland Canoe Club Book Club continues to meet on the last Monday of the month at Judith Wesley's home in Grey Lynn. Currently we are eight (Judith, Mike Randall, Rosie Thom, Brian Strid, Cynthia Bourne, Jimmie Thompson, Debbie Dunsford & me) but are able to have 12 members. We source our books from the WEA Book Group Scheme in Christchurch and have a great variety of titles to choose from. In the past year some of the titles read and discussed include The Poisonwood Bible (which generated one of the longest discussions yet), Bulibasha, (we sent a card to Witi Ihimaera saying how much we enjoyed it), The Journal of Mrs Pepys (a fascinating book that lead us to order a book about her husband's diaries), Dance of the Peacocks (probably the best read of the year as we learnt so much about these five NZ Rhodes Scholars and the events that shaped their lives). You are not obliged to read a book if it isn't your cup of tea and not all titles are well received by the group; e.g. Daughter of Fortune, which we thought a bit an over-rated pot boiler. Titles listed to read in 2005 include English Passengers, From the Holy Mountain, The Curious Incident about the Dog in the Night, Biography of Bruce Chatwin, The Shag Incident, Anil's Ghost, The Bonesetters Daughter, The Mangoes Kiss, Samuel Pepys – The Unequaled Self and Season of the Jew.

As a group we also talk about more than just books and our two-hour monthly meetings touch on many other topics (new movies and plays) and we always seem to laugh a lot. One thing I especially appreciate about the group is using it to stay in close contact with my good sea kayaking friends over the winter months.

The cost is just \$40 a year and if you enjoy a good read and the above titles are your thing, then we would love to have you join us. There are only four places available. Contact me if you want to become a member of the Auckland Canoe Club Book Group.

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An invitation

to learn, brush up or exchange knowledge on the 'Re-entry and Roll'.

Now the summer weather's here
And the water's calm and flat
The wind's a gentle zephyr
Breathing kindly on your back
The thought of tipping over
On this bright and sunny day
Is as far away as Christmas
When you're working hard in May.

But it happens to the best of us
And just when unexpected
So thoughts must turn to what we'd do
If we get to be up-ended.

Now a bomb-proof roll is what we want
And we will to our best
But just occasionally it fails
And we fall out the nest.

All's OK when friends are there
To get you in your boat
But there are occasions, now and then
You're the only one afloat.

A paddle float is next in line
To give ourselves a chance
But sometimes seas are just too rough
And that's a merry dance.

There is another method
Which many paddlers use
It's getting in from underneath
And rolling up ---Yahoo!!

Now the Beach is Back at Kohi
And I'm living thereabouts
So if you want to learn this trick
Email, phone- just give a shout.

Carry on paddling Mike
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Deadline for next month's newsletter: 14th December 2004

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