

# Newsletter



April 2005

## Highlights in this bumper! issue

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A summer lyric - [di] Vine House

Conquering the mighty Waikato River

Auckland to Paihia (with Cape Brett horror)

Gavin's curious encounter

Tiritiri at high tide

Rangitoto's nudes and neap tides

Debbie reviews

Mike muses

Roger ebbs and flows

URGU nauseates

Can you cope with more?

## Editorial

First, many thanks to all those who have sent me material for this and future newsletters. The response has been very heartening. Please keep it up!

This issue leads off with a beautiful piece by Stephanie Seager on her summer at Vine House - renovating/repairing the building and enjoying visitors. She captures the essence of good companionship and summer in the Mahurangi. If you haven't visited Vine house, then put it on your travelling agenda. There are details below of the next working bee 23-25 April.

Then we move from the lyrical to the masochistic and travel the length of the Waikato River with Evan Pugh and companions - it's a tale of privation (Ryan had to do without tomato sauce on his fish and chips), dangerous portages, busted trolleys, and decapitated wildlife. If Easter Bunny didn't visit you this year, you'll learn why.

Mike Scanlan hails from Gisborne, but since he trespassed onto our territory in his recent Auckland to Paihia voyage, I insisted that he pay his dues with a trip report. Read about what happens at Cape Brett. I've heard of sea kayakers being washed into sea caves, but never of them being *sucked in*. It's like a nightmare!

I'm always pleased to get reports of smaller trips too. There are TRs for Tiri and Rangitoto.

Gavin Baker takes on the role of marine educator and probably saviour of a couple of very silly fellows he encountered on the high seas.

Roger is back with his ebb and flow reflecting on life's flotsam and jetsam, and Debbie Dunsford, the Newsletter's resident literary critic, reports on a very useful book for Auckland sea kayakers on the ARC's regional parks.

URGU's previous column listing MIAs has drawn a response from at least two assumed-to-be-defunct persons. Let's hope some more respond.

**Enclosed with this issue is your Club subscription renewal form. Please return it promptly - with payment, of course!**

**Kerry Howe**

## Poet's Corner

I'd like to draw attention  
To the good old paddle float  
Designed to help a sea kayaker  
Get back into their boat  
That's if the basic kayak rule  
The paddler cares to flout  
I'll spell it clear right here and now  
Simply don't fall out

But that's a dream for most of us  
Poor mortals such as we  
Each one of us will do it once  
At least, when out at sea.

Right from the start I must declare  
An interest in this stuff  
For I'm a paddle float sceptic  
Is the paddle float enough?

You have to blow the damn thing up  
Now is that really fair  
When endeavouring to stay composed  
And coming up for air?

Now when you've done inflating  
And that takes quite a time  
Making sure it's well secured  
By a goodly length of line.  
The loom is anchored nicely  
Under hand or paddle straps  
Or maybe you're unlucky  
With stretchy cords perhaps.

You're probably attempting this  
In a half a metre chop  
The paddle's bucking up and down  
You only wish it'd stop.

So after several minutes  
You've completed all the bits  
A flip up on your belly  
A twist, you're in the pit.  
But this is not the last of things  
There are other jobs to do  
Unhook the shaft, deflate the bag  
Deck on, all comfy, whew!

**Mike Randall**

## A summer lyric Vine House



Stephanie Seager

It was for me a most happy summer at Vine House, salubrious even! Yet I didn't set out expecting so much wonderfulness. All too aware of my poor and single status, I decided to make myself useful. My priority was to complete the kitchen. I confess now that it remains unfinished. My mission was sabotaged by a steady stream of quality people bringing quality food and wine.

Privileged was I, the happy little fly on the wall. With an uncluttered mind and a soul at peace I had the opportunity to read, talk about, and observe the past and present goings on. This house had seen many happy times some decades ago. People with a love for life, conversation, and the arts had gathered here. They were vibrant people, lovers of composting and moonlight skinny dips. Somewhere between reading the past and observing the present, it dawned on me that the house continues to draw to it a certain ilk of person. The house and I were visited by people with a love for life, conversation, and the arts. There was also talk of composting and some skinny dippers (no names mentioned!).

The visitations were many and interesting. Marianna and I cleaned the walls and talked girl's talk. A.R.C. came en masse. I met archaeologists, rangers and the new project leader for parks property, Jonathan Gullard. He mentioned that our partnership was held up as a model. Well done team!

The esteemed Cluny MacPherson called in for a day. A fellow lover of Vine House, Cluny is the man on the microphone at The Mahurangi Regatta. He was a family friend of the Vines and donated the Fairburn painting which now graces the wall. He is a great story teller and an all round nice guy.

Nice people came in their droves.

I shared Rosie's cake with sailors who had lived on their boat for 14 years and exuded peace and happiness. Nicole bought her own brand of peace and happiness in the form of a ten year old bottle of fine French wine. We sat under the pohutukawa and quaffed the stuff straight from the bottle.

Design students marvelled at the house and long time Mahurangi residents made happy comments on its restoration. A boatless Emma swam (yes, it does say swam!) over to stay the night and paint a cupboard. I received a perfect gerbera from Brian Strid's garden and a family story of their introduction to New Zealand from Vince Maire. (Ask Vince for the story and the correct pronunciation of the name.)

Our electrical saviours, the Sneddons, called in to fix the stove. The herculean Steve Melrose did in an hour what the rest of us would do in a day. Alison, the dietician, cooked a beautiful dinner and patiently answered my questions on food. I delighted in the company of Judith, Rosie, David, Ralph, Des, Anne, Tony and others.

Such fine people you all are. The house and I sighed in contentment. Laughter and quality conversation were in residence again.

As I sanded back paint to find Ron's scribbles on the bare timber beneath, I felt as if the past and the future were pleased with each other. Happy was I, the fortunate fly, who witnessed the goings on. As my salubrious stay came to its end I reached a conclusion: if ever a house could choose its caretakers, I'm sure that this house picked you.

## Trip reports

303km, 7 dams, 5 people, 3 bloody trolleys

Evan Pugh

The ground is very rough. On this section three sets of wheels broke, two of them totalled.

Over the last year I had spent much time checking and planning this trip, get in and get out points, and camp sites. I had paddled the whole river before but not in one hit and was rearing to go.

Ryan Whittle, John Flemming, Mike Bell, Linda Pugh and I started our journey on Friday 4 February 2005 at 4.30pm at the southern most sea kayakable part of the Waikato River just below the Full James rapid and paddled to our first camp site 28km downstream setting up camp at 7.45. This part of the river was a tad higher than usual and some were slightly apprehensive through the moving and swirly waters but the fully laden kayakers guided them safely.



First day calm  
(photo - Bell)

Day 2 away at 7.30am we paddled on in settled and overcast conditions that were perfect for paddling, we stopped at the Ohakuri camp for lunch and had Sandy, a Taupo kayaker, paddle up to us as she was waiting for a group from Tauranga and thought we were them so she enjoyed her lunch and kayak talk with us before we departed. After fitting our wheels and up the road to the get in area I knew our hardest portage would be Ohakuri dam. Three of us had to stay up top of the 50 metre high 70 degree bank and slowly lower each kayak while Mike and I manhandled and released them at the bottom before carrying them through scrub and boulders to the small get in beach. It was very physical.

Once we had them all down and had a swim to cool off, we carried on paddling this lovely section of river to the Artiamuri dam. We got out into some lovely mud

before again fitting wheels and off to the get-in. We had to lift them over a locked gate which happened several times during the trip. At the front of the dams the current can be fairly swift and I decided to get in the water last in case of mishap. There was mishap as I followed Mike through trees. Around the corner we saw John ahead had also hit trees and had decided to cool off in the flowing water. We sorted him before too long and carried on to camp at lake Whakamaru, finishing the day at 7.10pm and 52kms.

Day 3 7.30am seems a good time again and another ripper day as we portage the Whakamaru dam, and then paddled through the great Maraetai section of river and on to the Maraetai dams. There are two of them side by side. A bit of a lift out as the bank is steep from the water and five sets of wheels are fitted to the kayakers. We drag and push them up the small hill before leveling off, and there's steep, long downhill to go. I repaired mine but we had to be gentle with them. I was not happy as we had at least a 3km portage at Arapuni dam not counting other dams. We swapped and helped each other and did extra back and forths. But that was how it was and it wasn't so bad after all.



Whakamaru Dam

This portage took us 3 hours. Once we were at the bottom and had a quick lunch we then had to lift them down a bank and a 2 meter drop onto rocks before launching. Again very physical. On the water paddling seemed to be the easy part as we headed through again another great piece of river down to the Waipapa dam and portaging, carrying wheels back for the others.

Once back in the water we paddled 5kms to a neat camp site up a 2 metre bank where we dragged the gear up. With a simple turn of a full kayak on the bank I managed to send Mike catapulting ungraciously into the water. He wasn't happy. We had landed at 7.45pm having paddled 32km and conquered 3 dams.

Day 4 was going to be easier. We started at 8.30am and had some nice stops before pulling out near the Arapuni dam and starting the long portage down the road and down the hill through the farm race to our camp site below the dam. Finished at 5pm and 20kms paddled with fine weather yet again.



'It was very physical'  
(photo - L. Pugh)

Day 5 started at 8.05am, I had been keeping tabs on paddling hours with the GPS. They had just started releasing water from the dam so we all shot off at 17kph in the grade one section through a couple of corners and headed down stream. Mike and Ryan paddled up the Pokaiwhenua stream as far as they could and met up with us at Horahora domain. We had a long relaxing lunch there then continued to Karapiro and portaged around and down to our get-in area. There are two different spots to get in and we chose the downstream area for safety and the great camp site in the old quarry. I had fun putting some pegs in. Mike's lovely wife arrived at the gate up the hill so we went up and helped her bring the fish and chips down, Ryan was not happy as there was no tomato sauce, well he didn't have to eat them did he now? This day had finished again at 5pm - 25kms paddled.



Karapiro Dam

Day 6 we started at 7.45am, the water had gone down so we carried the boats a couple hundred meters to a get-in area nearby. I got in first. The water was rising rapidly with the demand for power increasing. The flow was good so I sat in a back eddy until the others got going so they could follow me through this 6km section. This morning's flow was better than I had encountered here before and our single file of paddlers followed through the gorge and the rapid, successfully negotiating the strong current and swirly water. We stopped paddling and people chatted. But where was Mike? We looked back and saw him taking photos. Actually he didn't quite get the rapid right, took a swim and self rescued, lost another hat. Through Cambridge and a stop at Hamilton then on to Ngaruawahia. We stopped at Huntly for water as we

always carried two days worth and had been filling up at different spots along the way. This water would have to keep us going till the end. Our camp spot a few kilometres north of Huntly was reached at 5.45pm - 74kms paddled in hot weather.

Day 7 on the water 8.45am and the weather was pleasantly repetitive, through willow lined river banks and islands we paddled, on past Rangariri, Meremere and Mercer to our island camp site landing at 3.30pm and 38kms paddled, This was a great spot to sit and enjoy some wake boarders crashing and splashing while we all had a well deserved rest.

Day 8 7.10am and we are off to the sea past scores of huge koi goldfish that were in groups of 20 or 30 and you could paddle into. Past the sand works and on and on with mullet jumping nearby. The current stopped, the tide was coming in big time so we stopped for about an hour before heading off with a tail wind and waves helping us the last 5kms. We got to Port Waikato at 2pm - 34kms for the day.



Triumphal arrival at Port Waikato  
(photo - a conscripted local)

Between camp sites we spent 68 hours and 10 minutes. Actual paddling time was 41 hours and 1 minute. Elevation at the start was 295 meters guess what it was at the end?

To get over the 7th dam by Tuesday we had spent 44 hours and 35 minutes, but had only paddled for 23 hours and 16 minutes, most of the other time was portaging. The portaging was a lot harder than I had thought and my wheels will be strengthened to prevent breakdown in the future. But it was rugged ground that we were on. The weather was brilliant, cloudy some days, hot-as on others, and we had a slight head wind for half an hour so it could not have been better.

The crew were great. This trip would be very difficult to do on your own and a few injuries were inflicted upon members due to slippery surfaces or kayaks during downhill portages getting out of control. We also found out that a fully loaded kayak on wheels will disembowel a dead rabbit in the way on the road (sorry bun bun).

## Auckland to Paihia

### Mike Scanlan

the surge then sucked back massively into the tunnel dragging John in with it. John gave a huge yell of dismay and disbelief as he disappeared.

For a Gisborne paddler to write up a trip from Auckland to Paihia for an Auckland Canoe Club's Newsletter seems a bit suspect. However I did grow up in Takapuna so maybe that makes it OK. Otherwise blame Kerry Howe.

Since January 2002 I had paddled the entire coastline between Auckland and Wairoa (140Km south of Gisborne) over 3 extended summer trips, a couple of weekends and numerous day trips, almost all with my paddling mate John Humphris. This was to be the next stage.

9 Jan 2005 Fine weather

We left Auckland's Okahu Bay farewelled by my wife, two daughters and their respective husband and boyfriend. Very social and very different to our usual solitary departures. John's Storm was low in the water, my Barracuda Beachcomber much less so. John likes real food. A quick nip across to North Head and then it was revisiting boyhood memories as we paddled along the beaches. I was particularly keen on seeing the 'King' and the 'Queen' again - two big offshore rocks just before Hauraki Beach that I had spent numerous hours climbing on, diving off and swimming around as a kid in the late 1950's (yes the 50's!) Shock and horror only one was left and it was a miserable little thing almost eroded away. We live in a very temporal world. On to the far end of a crowded Takapuna beach and a rendezvous with two of my sisters. This was unreal - we were not used to so many people. Once past Torbay we headed straight towards middle of the Whangaparaoa Peninsular into a headwind wind and a choppy sea. This was a bit tiresome and it took quite a while. As we got close enough to identify where things were, we headed to our planned camping spot, the ARC campsite at Haruhi Bay. On the beach we met Kerry Howe and friends fresh from a Fullers trip to Tiritiri Matangi Island. Kerry had been looking out for us. We had booked at the camp so carried our gear and kayaks over a low fence and set up our tents. Having completed this we were then approached by the camp custodian who informed us that we had camped in the wrong place and had to relocate. There was of course an official sign saying this but naturally the sign faced the road and not the sea. Our mild protests were met with a threat to call up the ranger to deal to us. Thanks

for the welcome mate. That evening the sky was dominated by the lights of the Auckland.

10 Jan Fine weather, calm seas.

Around the end of Whangaparaoa and Auckland disappeared and the trip proper seemed to start. We paddled straight across to Motuora Island where we stopped and had a walk around. Beautiful island and very clear water. From there it was across to Kawau Island. On the way we met Gordon Robinson creator of my new kayak. We must run out of people soon. From Kawau Point we crossed North Channel to the Tawharanui Peninsular in calm conditions. This was a particularly attractive area with lovely clear water. Around Takatu Point and we were looking for somewhere to camp. The ARC camp at Anchor Bay was apparently not ideal for kayakers being too far from the water so we continued on. At Pukenihihi Point (before Omaha Beach) we found a tiny sandy cove with a large house at the back of it. The house turned out to be unfinished so we happily set up camp on the sand.

11 Jan Fine weather

Paddled across to Cape Rodney in a lumpy following swell and wind. John was happy to have his sail up and surfing. The long open beach sections from here to Bream Head had been on our minds as potentially difficult if there was a big swell but our conditions were perfect. Lunch was at Te Arai Point and we then kept going, past Mangawhai Heads to Bream Tail, keen to cover some distance. Just around Bream Tail we found a great camping spot at Anderson's Cove. There were a couple of imposing dwellings close to the shore but John got approval to camp on the beach by some big pohutukawa trees. Later a resident couple visited us on a 4 wheel bike offering water and cans of beer. We were grateful for the water but disappointed them in only taking one can of beer. It was nice to be made welcome in what they obviously regarded as their cove.



Camp at Andersons Cove  
(photo- Scanlan)

12 Jan Fine weather

We headed straight across towards the distant land mass of Bream Head. From our low vantage point in the kayaks it was difficult to work out just where we needed to go. The breeze was onshore so we felt comfortable being well offshore. Jellyfish littered the water. John was trying to use his sail and we were often quite a long way apart as our tracks diverged. As we got closer John sorted out what lay in front of us (he had a better map) and we headed into Smugglers Bay for a well earned break. A leisurely wander around to Peach Cove followed. Lovely coastline. Peach Cove was not all that obvious with only a tiny beach and bush down to the water. We landed and had a look around. There was a DOC hut about 5 minutes up a track. It had a keypad lock on the door and had to be prior booked. Sign of the times I guess. There was an excellent camping spot a little way up the track on the right and a 'no camping' sign. The rocks around were covered with oysters. Very tasty. We were really pleased to have made good time so far, and felt more relaxed with the most exposed part of the trip behind us and plenty of time left.

13 Jan Fine weather

The sea conditions around Bream Head gave us no problems. At the far end of Ocean Beach we stopped for a break feeling pretty laid back. The rocky coastline was very scenic but without any particularly memorable features. At the Taiharuru River we paddled into the estuary for lunch but rejected it as a campsite when a local there seemed somewhat unfriendly. About 10km further on we came to an awesome elevated campsite above a sandy beach just before Kumi Point. The view looked back towards a distant Bream Head and was quite stunning.



The view back to Bream Head  
(photo- Scanlan)

14 Jan Fine weather

From Kumi Point we paddled straight across to Whau Point. There was a stream of boats coming out of Tutukaka. The very scenic rocky coastline continued to Matapouri Bay where we visited the local shop to replenish our blood sugar levels. After a brief look into

the famous (and crowded) Whale Bay we headed straight across to Motutara Point. Further along we met a couple of day paddlers who directed us to a tiny rocky cove near Roimata Point which made a great hideaway campsite.

15 Jan Fine weather

John was looking forward to visiting the fish and chip shop at Oakura. It took us off course somewhat but after a longish paddle across from Taukawau Point we arrived there and sat back to enjoy the milkshakes, flat whites and food on offer. The owner was chuffed to hear that his shop was mentioned in Vincent Maire's book and said he would go and buy a copy. John replenished his supply of steaks and eggs at the store down the road and then we were off again feeling somewhat bloated. We were pondering how far to go and how to best use the days left but decided to go for Whangamumu Harbour so as to have plenty of time to spare to get around Cape Brett if the weather changed for the worse - the sunny stuff couldn't last forever. Around Home Point there were some great rock channels to explore.

From Home Point across to Whangamumu Point was a long paddle in choppy conditions. At Whangamumu Point we turned in along bleak rock shores towards the unseen harbour some 4km away at the end of the inlet. It was choppy, breezy and cool and we were tired so when the harbour opened up on the left it was a very welcome haven. There were around 15 boats anchored in the harbour but it did not seem crowded. Among them was the now chartered Whitbread yacht 'Lion NZ'. When I paddled over to admire it I had a classic encounter with a female passenger - 'I've dropped my sunscreen in the water, can you see it?' Sadly it had sunk. Green hills formed a backdrop and it was beautifully sheltered, warm and serene.

16 Jan Fine weather

The day was decreed a rest day and we spent it making pancakes (thanks John), reading and wandering around. We went for a walk up the track that leads to Rawhiti and admired the views and had a freshwater shower from the hose in the stream. A truly excellent place.

17 Jan Fine weather

This was Cape Brett day and our senses were heightened in anticipation. From the warm shelter and mellowness of the harbour we paddled out into a world of bare rock faces and surging waves. The peninsular stretched out towards the Cape with no landing options. There were some interesting gaps to paddle through and the hint of caves. Near the Cape there was a big cave opening which we investigated but found unpaddleable. However by turning in towards it we spotted a tunnel that passed through a headland. The tunnel was elliptical in shape, about 40 metres long

and we could see open sunlit water at the end of it. John is addicted to gaps, caves, tunnels and any other challenge and headed towards it like a starving bee to a honey pot. I followed. When he got close to the opening he stopped and waited watching the pattern of surges that were coming through from the far end. It became evident that the surges were quite big and we both came to the conclusion that the tunnel was a no go. What followed will probably remain in our psyches for a very long time.



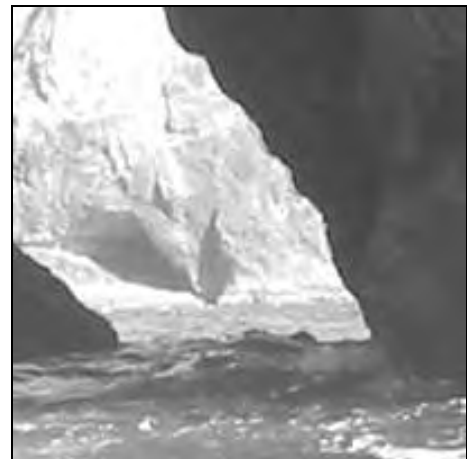
John, ahead, entering the cave  
(photo- Scanlan)

As John sat back from the tunnel opening a big surge came through from the far end. The water compressed and swelled at the tunnel exit welling up the sides and spilling out in a mass of white water. The water where John sat must have been shallower than back inside the tunnel because the surge then sucked back massively into the tunnel dragging John in with it. John gave a huge yell of dismay and disbelief as he disappeared. Inside the tunnel he was tossed around and into the wall and capsized. I was somewhat stunned but not immediately concerned as I fully expected him to be flushed back out with the next surge. This did not happen. Instead John was sucked further into the tunnel and held there by the big to and fro surges of water. He was not having a fun time being alternately smashed into the walls and pushed under the water, while trying to protect his head as the water rose and fell and trying but failing to get back into his kayak.

I was having trouble in deciding what to do. To go in after him seemed certain to result with us both ending up in the water, while paddling around the headland and attempting to come in from the other side was an unknown in how far it was and even if the tunnel could be accessed from there. I kept expecting John to get washed back out. Then the whole nature of John's yells changed from that of someone fighting back to those of someone calling desperately for help. There was really no decision to make - there was just a

paddling mate who was very likely going to drown if I didn't make an attempt.

As I paddled for the opening I was praying hard and just as I got there the surges stopped coming through. The water was still turbulent and white but now doable. Hard focused paddling and I got to John who had managed to get 2/3 way through towards the far end. I paddled past John then turned around and went back to him. John was unable to access his towrope from behind his seat (and my new one was back in Gisborne) so John held onto my bow while I back-paddled hard. It was slow and difficult pulling John and his capsized kayak through the turbulent water. A bit further out I turned around and John held onto my stern, a bit further and we righted his kayak, got him back in and pumped out. On the far side of the tunnel where we now were the sea was still surging and difficult. A little further out wind bombs from the ridge above were impacting on the water. We carefully paddled out of the immediate danger area. John wanted to keep going rather than risk totally running out of steam. He was pretty much exhausted.



John capsized and in big trouble  
(photo- Scanlan)

We carefully paddled on and around the Cape. The wind was now gusting strongly the seas were significant and the scene seemed threatening. As we moved into the waters of the Bay of Islands conditions eased and we started to feel safe and relax. We came abreast of the narrow channel that makes up the true Cape (we missed it going around) and followed it. There lay the wrecked Fullers Ferry. They were very lucky to get everyone off safely.

At Deep Water Cove we landed. John kissed the beach, hugged the big warm DOC sign and lay on the hot stones while I piled more on his back. After a rest we decided not to camp there but to move on to the Rawhiti peninsular. Back on the ocean the wind freshened considerably and the swell grew to a metre plus side on. This was more than we really wanted and



conditions continued to worsen. By the time we got to the land end of the peninsular we had had enough. Our camping spot there was idyllic and a total escape from the worsening conditions outside. John collapsed on the grass and remained there till evening. He had a serious headache and was covered with abrasions but otherwise OK.



John in love with life in the form of a DoC sign  
(photo- Scanlan)

Jan 18 Fine weather

The next day was a different world. People and boats abounded. Noise filled the air. Collisions were to be actively avoided. The two tourist Excitor speed boats droned back and forth. We paddled non stop to Russel and across the congested Veronica Channel to Waitangi. Our rendezvous point was a holiday camp past Paihia but we had navigation problems deciding where it was. No seaward facing signs. Eventually it turned up.

On arrival I met my wife Janet to learn that we needed to be back in Auckland for a funeral the next day. Welcome back to real life. The next morning as we drove back past Bream Bay a very strong wind had whitecaps everywhere and we marvelled at the gift of such great weather and another great trip.

#### Postscript

Gear that works well is of great satisfaction and worth passing on. On this trip I used the following good gear:-

- Ortlieb 4L material Water bags. I hate plastic water containers. They are hard to pack and vulnerable. These water bags - from Canoe and Kayak-were expensive but great. They packed behind my seat.
- Coleman Duo Delux 2 man tent - from Brittain Wynyard- is cheap and excellent in design with 2 entrances for hot night ventilation and many great design features such as a dry bag to carry it in. Brilliant to erect.
- My new Barracuda Beachcomber Kayak - the 3.5mm plastic version. My previous and well

travelled kayak was a Prion Seayak. It had many good points but was tender in following seas and gusty side winds. I just love my new Beachcomber which is very light, stiff and handles like a dream.

- Composite paddle. If you have any combination of a plastic or fibreglass paddle the joy of a lightweight composite paddle will be a revelation. (if anyone would make me a wooden Greenland paddle I would be happy to try that.)
- Text messaging - rather than use my VHF radio and trip reports to local Coastguards we kept in touch with home by cell phone texting. This worked really well and we were able to get through everywhere (if we climbed up the hill a bit).

#### High tide at Tiri

#### Vincent Maire

Wednesday 2 March was such a beautiful day that an email from Clive Hookham to spend the day paddling around Tiritiri Matangi was just too good to pass up. Also, Taisho Kaneko had returned from the Far North and was staying over before continuing his journey to that distant realm beyond the Bombay Hills. He was delighted at the idea of another day on the water - in fact so delighted I suggested he paddle from Manly while I drove to the designated start point at Army Bay.

David Ward couldn't resist the idea and nor could a craggy looking chap called Warren who Clive had met while paddling off Torbay. Warren was born in Melbourne but has lived 35 years in Toronto and has a holiday home in Long Bay. He is a very keen sea kayaker doing most of his exploring on Lake Ontario, so I guess Long Bay does have a lot of appeal.



We were on the water by 10.30 and made easy time in the calm conditions to Little Wooded Island, just off the north-east of the island. Once we had had a look at that

we headed back to the eastern side of Tiri and began some serious rock gardening.

I have been to Tiri many times and generally plan to be there around mid-tide as this is when the rock gardens are at their best. But this time was different. It was a 12.30 tide and this gave quite a different perspective to the trip. We were also blessed with very little swell so could get really close to the rocks.

I was amazed to find myself heading into parts of the island that I hadn't visited before, particularly those channels and gardens tight in close to the steep cliffs. Best of all was being able to paddle through the Gables, something that can only be done on the tide and even then, you have to pick your wave because of a very large rock midway beneath the arch.

Another 'first' was passing through the tunnel on the south-eastern end of the island. It is not long but broad and oblong in shape. In fact, I had always thought it was a cave! But no, it passes right through a steep promontory that separates two narrow channels.

The water was incredibly clear and with no breeze to cool us we were all very pleased to arrive at Hobbs Beach for a swim, then lunch, then another swim.

Sure beats working!

## Rangitoto - nudes and neap tides

### David ward

1. **Rangitoto Evening BBQ** 25 February. A perfect evening dawned for this trip. An almost cloudless sky and a gentle sea breeze made for a very easy, uneventful paddle across to Mackenzies for Alistair, Ralph, Mike and myself. The cooking and feasting were under way when 4 other paddlers unknown to us, appeared. They beached their kayaks a little way along from ours and proceeded to take off their buoyancy jackets and spray skirts. There were 3 females and 1 male and they continued to take off clothes until the strip tease was complete before going for a swim. On returning to the beach they dressed before going up to the summit to watch the full moon rise over Coromandel. We saw it rise when we were half way back to Narrow Neck sadly there was no phosphorescence but what a night you all missed, there was something for everyone!

2. **Rangitoto Circumnavigation** 5 March A perfect day again for this trip as David Newth, Bruce Somerville and Gerard Boterman joined me at Narrow Neck beach for the paddle across to Mackenzies for lunch,

on this occasion there was sadly no entertainment provided. As we left for the paddle along the northern coast of Rangitoto we were joined by Nigel Wild who had set off from Okahu bay. Paddling along this coast and into Gardiner gap we were slowly overhauled by a double kayak which had made a late start from Narrow Neck. The neap high tide had not been particularly high and although there was not a problem paddling to the causeway the channel out into Islington bay was easy to miss requiring some of us to pull our kayaks along to where we stopped for a stretch and a drink. The remaining paddle saw Nigel peel off for Okahu bay at the wharf and David, Gerard and the double pull up there for a refreshing cup of tea from their Thermos. All arrived safely back at Narrow Neck beach after a tiring, uneventful, but very enjoyable day out on the water. Another neat paddle on a superb day that you missed!

## Don't worry, be happy file

### Curious encounter on the high seas

#### Gavin Baker

*sometimes one should say something!*

After completion of the Rangitoto - St Heliers swim escort, having replenished the reserves with coke and chocky biscuits I resolved to make up for 3 hours loitering while escorting the back markers by indulging in a quick down wind run to Bucklands Beach assisted by a building nor'west breeze. Bidding adieu to all and sundry I took to the briny, heading for the aforementioned destination. Passing Ladies Bay under full easy reaching sail I glanced over the port (left - red) bow and thought 'How odd! My eyes must be deceiving me' for there, several hundred meters further out to sea, was a most unusual sight. My curiosity piqued, I hardened up the sail to a tight reach, dug in the paddles and soon came alongside the target.

Two Asian youths (+/- 18 years old) were manning a Warehouse type blow up, clear plastic round raft emblazoned with transfers of Donald Duck and sundry other Disney characters and designed for use by minors under adult supervision in the home swimming pool. Each crewmember had a miniscule plastic paddle which they were wielding with might and main and total non co ordination. The whole unit was spinning around in circles and bobbing up and down like an out of control yo-yo.

'Hello', says I, as we bobbed about in an increasingly choppy sea. 'And where might you be heading?' 'Langitoto! Langitoto!' came the enthusiastic response, accompanied by much gesticulation in the general direction of our beloved icon. 'You have just got to be f-----g joking!' says I in a friendly caring way.



I decided that, while it is indeed true that we live in a democratic country and we all have the right to make our own decisions without being hindered and hassled by every Tom, Dick and Helen, and, that while this is the land of the true adventurer, the land of Hillary and Blake, *sometimes* one should say *something!*. There followed a discussion encompassing amongst other topics:

- Risk management - and how sometimes missed or incorrect input data and assumptions can lead to an incorrect conclusion and a bad decision.
- Marine architecture - and how some vessels, sea kayaks for instance, are to a degree multi functional and while being designed to be paddled on the open sea, are equally at home on flat water, while others, such as their chosen craft, were, on reflection, better suited to the sole purpose for which they were designed - like paddling around in a swimming pool.
- Personal flotation devices - and how they can be of great benefit, especially to those in the community who have absolutely no idea how to stay afloat under their own power, such as our Asian adventurers- 'Swim!? Aaaaah no! Never swim!'
- The effects of wind and tide and the rule of twelfths and how many kilometres it is to Chile, leading nicely into
- How suitable protective clothing such as a hat and a T-shirt could provide some protection from the elements and that even just one bottle of water may not have gone amiss, and finally
- How the intrepid crew might find themselves somewhat financially disadvantaged should it be deemed necessary that the Coastguard be notified of the situation and decide to launch a rescue mission. And this would indeed occur if they did not go back. The sight of the VHF in my hand confirming to them that this was a very possible option.

After some debate it was determined that the crossing attempt, however laudable, should be postponed until more appropriate travel arrangements could be put into place. The 'ship's' course was reversed and at an infinitely slow pace the duo set course for St Heliers. In the meantime a fizz boat approached and having noted the situation indicated that they would be doing a spot of fishing near the reefs and would be able to monitor the progress of our heroes.

I then resumed my trip to Bucklands Beach at a goodly clip with the following wind the sun on my back. As is the way of kayaking I then had to labour my way homewards into the self same wind, the occasional salt spray on the face as we shipped a green one over the bows adding to the pleasure.

All in all another excellent day on the water and I'm sure my new found (not foundered) Asian mates enjoyed their day despite not getting to Rangitoto!

Good on ya, mates. Have another Speights!

## Book review

*A Visitor's Guide to Auckland Regional Parks*, by Valerie Monk, New Holland Press, Auckland, 2004.

Perhaps it takes a fresh pair of eyes to recognize both the rare value of Auckland's regional parks network as well as the need for this very useful reference. We can be grateful for Valerie Monk's transfer to Auckland, a move which has directly resulted in this book, and also wonder why such a guide has never been published before. Maybe it has been the slow and steady but often invisible growth from two parks in 1965 to 20 parks in 2005 that has allowed many Aucklanders, even those keen on the outdoors, to remain unaware of how spoiled for choice we really are.

Monk's book sets out to remedy our ignorance as well as being a basic reference for any visitor. Parks are listed from north to south and each chapter gathers all the basic information about the particular park concisely into a standard format under headings such as walks, kayaking, swimming, bikes, camping, history, opening hours and how to get there. There is also useful information on basic facilities e.g. most, but not all, have water supplies. It is certainly a measure of kayaking's ever-increasing profile that it has been included as a category in its own right. Monk should be congratulated for taking advice from Peter Sommerhalder on the subject, as well as pointing readers to Vincent Maire's *Sea Kayaker's Guide to*

*New Zealand's Upper North Island.* In truth, the kayaking information is extremely general and simply indicates the coast is suitable - something most of us have already discovered simply by climbing in our boats and having a look. However it is still an excellent handbook and should prove a helpful companion, especially for those considering heading outside their routine paddling territory.



Perfect campsite, Tawhitokino Regional Park  
(photo- Howe)

My own paddling ground is very much the northern parks and it was interesting to read about these familiar places from a visitor's point of view. I thought Monk made them sound very appealing and covered the main attractions of each park thoroughly. In the chapter on Tawharanui in the kayaking section, she mentions a 'pleasant minimum-facility campground at Anchor Bay'. Excited at the possibility of there being a small camping area just for kayakers, I investigated, but it turns out she is referring to the large Tawharanui campground just back beyond the dunes. Reading about Long Bay in particular brought back memories of one of the magical days of my childhood. In December 1965 (the same year that Long Bay and Wenderholm opened), our Form One class was taken there unexpectedly for a picnic. We seemed to be the only people on the beach that day and I think we all knew we were somewhere very special. We spent a superb day swimming in a sea ruffled by light offshore breezes, building sand castles and retreating to the shade of the huge pines that lined the whole beach. By coincidence, Kevin and I celebrated his birthday a fortnight ago with lunch at the Long Bay Restaurant. We sat on the deck looking out to sea and afterwards headed to the water for a swim. On a beautiful summer afternoon, there only appeared to be a few people scattered along the sand and a light north-easterly breeze was playing with the water. Forty years on, it was still magic.

Reading about the southern parks I found my interest sharpened in a different way. I have barely visited any of these but thought that so many of them sounded perfect for a relaxing weekend away with the kayak and a tent that I now have a mental list of parks to visit, starting with Omana and Duder. Both the descriptions and sixteen pages of colour photos entice the reader to visit whether to paddle, walk, bike or just relax. This is one of those helpful books that would be a source of inspiration when searching for somewhere different to go at the weekend or when planning a club trip. It reminds us just what a lucky bunch we Aucklanders are and gives us plenty of reasons to go out and enjoy ourselves.

**Debbie Dunsford**

### Roger's ebb and flow

Have you seen the new life jackets in the club locker? They are a little bit different and have irreverently been called the naked PFDs. This is because they have no fabric covering their foam buoyancy areas. The plus side to this innovative construction is a quicker drying product that does not incur as much extra weight as other PFDs do when wet. The club has been loaned a couple of these new on the market devices by our good neighbours at Fergs Kayaks, with possible view to a purchase. Feel free to trial them and maybe make a comment in the hire book. Keep it brief of course.

Our coffee cruisers are getting more adventurous. After a lengthy training period that saw them paddling the familiar waters along the coast to the Kohimarama Café, they were reported to have recently ventured to St. Heliers. Under the watchful eye of minder and mentor **Rosemary Sanson** the small group of regulars that often included **Lester Miller**, **Susan Thomson** and **Rosie Thom** have up skilled over the summer months. If you want to get up to speed and enjoy an outing with the girls, pop down to Okahu Bay and have a talk to Rosemary who is there most Saturday mornings ready to leave at 9 am sharp.

Some years ago it was reported in this column on the saga of the old Sea Bear left unclaimed in the club locker. After numerous futile attempts to find an owner, the craft was placed in storage at a club member's property. At a recent committee meeting approval was given for the craft to be gifted to its caring custodian. **Trevor Arthur** now has a brace of Bears to choose from.

We really do have a great launch site at Okahu Bay. In almost all weather and tide conditions we can arrive

and depart with ease. When we return from our paddle it is comforting to know that just a few metres up the ramp is the club locker with its excellent high pressure wash down hose. Another plus is that the ramp is concrete and there is no sand to infiltrate all those impossible places. But sea kayaks were made to travel and when off the water they often venture to idyllic launch sites strapped atop our cars. Obtaining a good wash down at a remote sandy beach can be a problem. Some club members employ good old kiwi ingenuity to get around the salt and sand scenario. **Aaron Goodwin** tackles the task with the aid of a large plastic jerry can of water fitted with snap connections for a length of garden hose. The water tank is placed in an elevated position atop his car and gravity does the rest. The tank and fittings would cost less than \$40. Another method to desalinate your craft is to employ the services of a simple plastic solar shower, available from any good outdoor shop for about \$20. Many local launch sites have a tap nearby so a garden hose with all the tap connections will make you a very popular person on a club outing. If none of the above appeal you can always kill two birds with one stone and drive home via your local Wash World. Do the car and kayak together. A warning to the fair headed ones. The automatic roller brush wash is not what we promoting, but it would make a damned good photo of the month for the newsletter.

Spotted in the real estate section of the *NZ Herald* last month. Motuihe Island - Once in a lifetime opportunity. For Sale is the Recreational Concession over 10ha on this beautiful island located on Auckland's doorstep. Revenue streams from catered functions, campgrounds and planned visitor centre providing restaurant, shops and associated accommodation. - Coffee cruisers ahoy.

Going the distance recently was a pod of sea kayakers who cruised the length of the Waikato River. Getting around the numerous hydro dams created a few challenges. Portages often via rough bush tracks and down steep embankments severely tested the groups kayak trolleys. Most of the wheeled wonders suffered some form of mechanical failure. One that did stand up to the off road rigours was that used by **Ryan Whittle**. It was our club hire trolley, a Ronco Folda Roll, designed and manufactured by club life member **Ron Augustin**. How's that for an endorsement?

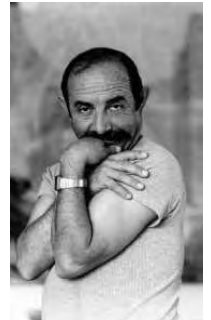
A couple of Easter Bunnies hopped down the aisle during the holiday break. **Lindsay Sandes** and **George Gerard** will now have their tails bobbing to obedience under the watchful eyes of **Jackie** and **Noelene** respectively.

Rumour has it that the Barracuda Boys will be holding their annual winter solstice celebrations at Vine house this year. The ritual burning of an old dunga sea kayak

is part of the event. Maybe Trevor will be invited this year.

## URGU speaks

*URGU aims to present a mix of news, views, gossip, scandal and both sound and questionable advice. Contributions welcomed, especially if they are salacious.*



### A classic tale

Paddling with Colin Quilter is always great fun. He can tell some wonderful stories, the following which he shared with **URGU** while on a recent unaccompanied, open crossing from Cape Colville to Raoul Island. Colin, Trevor Arthur, Peter Sommerhalder and Laurie Bugbee were paddling up the Northland coast. They decided to stop at lovely Smugglers Cove on the Whangarei Heads. Peter and Laurie were out front but all four paddlers could see two bikini-clad bathing lovelies at one end of the beach. 'Let's see where they go,' says Trevor to Colin, 'the two lovelies or to the shade of the old pohutukawa tree at the other end of the cove.' Sure enough, the two old fellows couldn't resist a peek and cruised in amongst the girls. When they landed Trevor was heard to say, 'There may be snow on top but it's nice to know there is still fire in the furnace!'

### Correction

Accuracy is not a strong point in this column. However, the following needs correcting. Giselle was not separated from the group for some hours as reported last month but some days. It was, according to David Ward who has since spoken to the Giselle, a frightening ordeal. And she wasn't in her sea kayak but walking at the time she got lost. But she made it and **URGU** looks forward to having her back in the bosom of the club.

### Kiwi Husband

In Japan, the perfect husband is called a Kiwi Husband. In Japan all right thinking liberated geishas want to marry a Kiwi Husband. 'I have found for myself a true Kiwi Husband,' is the longed-for boast of every Japanese girl. And how is such species described? He cooks, cleans, irons, never stays out late, nor strays nor goggles at other women. He only goes kayaking when she says he can, he adores and cares for his kids and, he is ultra-polite to his mother-in-law. It seems the expression comes not from those ruggedly good looking sensitive blokes who grace this fair land but from the national bird. The male of the species

does all the egg minding and chick rearing and it is the 'mothering' qualities of the Kiwi Husband that the oriental sunbeams go for. (URGU says all this can be verified on Google so it must be true!)

#### Last night URGU dreamed of Mandalay

He also dreamed of Dave Lee, Keith Martin, Wayne McCarthy, Takashi Nakamura, Hugh Oakley-Brown, Paul O'Brien, Brian O'Shea, Enid Blyton, Selwyn Palmer, Frank & Esmé Price, Mary Reid, Giles & Katrina Rinkes, Grant Stone, Willie Taylor, Sammy Davis Jr, Bruce Vickerman, Derek Wakeling and Barry Wybrow. Where are all these people?

### Out of the blue file

**Maurice Hanvey** writes: 'It was great to read the March newsletter reports of the Muriwai **BIG** day out. The respective scribes colourfully described a day to remember. The day can be vividly recalled - especially when tossing and turning in bed dreaming of arriving back on the beach 5 minutes after my kayak!

After the timely recall of this memorable experience, I was somewhat concerned to read later in the newsletter that **URGU** believed I was MIA. During a recent visit to my doctor, I was assured that I was still alive and after a belt on the knee with a mallet, that I was still kicking. I believe that **URGU** and I go back a long way - certainly to the early days of ASKNET. **URGU**, I will return!

**Etienne de Beer** notes that he too is not missing in action as reported by **URGU**. Etienne and his partner Rhyl have been busy with their two children Alex (4) and Kate (3). But as you can see Etienne still gets out in his kayak with Alex using the rear hatch as a dickie seat.



### Events calendar summary

2 April - The 3 Peaks

16 April - Candlelight *hors d'oeuvre* on Rangitoto

23-25 April - Vine House working bee

23-25 April - Rawhiti camp

14 May - Chilli, Spice and Curry night on Rangitoto

28 May - Poetry Night on Rangitoto

4-6 June - Queens Birthday Weekend at Otakawhe Bay Lodge, Waiheke Is.

### Scheduled Club trips

You paddle on Club trips at your own risk. Please be aware of the Club Safety Policy inside back cover.

2 April - The 3 Peaks

Leave from Okahu Bay 8:15. Paddle to Browns Island, Rangitoto, and North Head and walk to the top of each one. The order visited depends on the conditions on the day. This usually turns out to be a long day with plenty of time spent enjoying the views from each summit. Bring plenty of food and water, and good walking shoes.

A typical trip is: Browns Island by about 9:30, leave about 10:30. To Rangitoto 11:30. Up and lunch at 12:30. Down and leave 14:00. North Head 15:00, leave 15:45, back Okahu Bay 16:30. The day's high tide is 13:02.

Contact: **Ryan Whittle** 4192672(H) or 6303554(W)

16 April - Candlelight *hors d'oeuvre* on the Rangitoto Deck

Club social night, meet at Okahu Bay 3.00pm for a 3.30pm departure, paddle across to the Rangitoto Is, stay the night at the old scout bach. Please bring along a candle to light plus pate, cheese board snacks, salads and BBQ type food, BYO. Cost for the night's accommodation will be \$6.00.

Contact **Morgan Lewis** on 6204005 or email [morganl@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morganl@xtra.co.nz)

### **23-25 April (ANZAC weekend) - Vine House working bee**

Depart from Sullivan's Bay. For a map see <http://www.geocities.com/tofska/VineRoute.gif> Vine House is in Lagoon Bay. Just paddle to the green shed at the right hand side of the bay coming in, and walk up the track. It's a twenty minute paddle from Sullivans to Lagoon Bay. Bring a pillow case (probably a roll mat, just in case) and carry bags. Come prepared to get dusty and splashed with paint Also bring \$5 for dinner on Saturday plus your own supplies for the weekend. It is a good idea to have wheels as the estuary is very tidal.

Please phone **Stephanie** to register your interest 09 8345 769

### **23-25 April (ANZAC weekend) - Rawhiti camp**

The planned Easter trip to Rawhiti was cancelled due to bad weather. However, lucky punters, Rona Patterson has kindly agreed to run this event over ANZAC weekend! Rawhiti is a brilliant location in the Bay of Islands! You can bring the whole family. Charge is \$10.00 per person per night for tent site and \$12.00 per night for powered site. The facility is run by a Maori trust.



Rawhiti camp is very well appointed with flush loos, hot showers, kitchens, fridges and freezers, laundry, flat mowed lawn, situated directly over the road from the water. Kayaks can be carried or wheeled across the road. The camp is a very short paddle from Urukupuka and countless other islands. Cape Brett is near for the keener paddlers and there are some awesome walks if the weather is unkind.

Contact **Rona Patterson** 834 3399.

### **Looking ahead:**

#### **14 May - Chilli, Spice and Curry night on the Rangitoto Deck.**

Club social night, meet at Okahu Bay 3.00pm for a 3.30pm departure, paddle across to the Rangitoto Is,

stay the night at the old scout bach. Please bring along your favourite Indian, Thai, Indonesian or Malay food, BYO. There will be a prize for the hottest, meanest and spiciest food. Cost for the night's accommodation will be \$6.00.

Contact **Morgan Lewis** on 6204005 or email [morganl@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morganl@xtra.co.nz)

#### **28 May - Poetry Night on the Rangitoto Deck.**

Club social night, meet at Okahu Bay 3.00pm for a 3.30 pm departure, paddle across to the Rangitoto Is, stay the night at the old scout bach. Please bring along your favourite poets' works and have a bit of fun reciting to one and all. Bring along a pot luck dinner for the evening meal, BYO, there will be a Poets BBQ breakfast, bacon and eggs, hash browns. Cost of the night's accommodations will be \$6.00.

Contact **Morgan Lewis** on 6204005 or email [morganl@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morganl@xtra.co.nz).

#### **4-6 June Queens Birthday Weekend at Otakawhe Bay Lodge - Waiheke Is.**

Join us for Queens Birthday weekend at Otakawhe Bay, spend the weekend exploring around Rotoroa, Pakatoa, Ponui and Tarahiki Islands or visit the Te Matuku Marine Reserve. Otakawhe Bay Lodge is a large two storied building with lounge, four surrounding bunk rooms and front enclosed verandah. The lounge has a supply of books, magazines and games, TV and video, CD and tape player are available by arrangement. The Lodge can sleep up to 36 persons. A three metre wide verandah surrounds most of the building, just 5 metres from high tide mark, there are outstanding marine views. The Lodge has separate male and female ablutions on the ground floor, the kitchen has been completely renovated and is well equipped with all the mod cons. The weekend will be self catering and the cost for the weekend accommodation will be \$38.00. For more information, contact **Morgan Lewis** on 6204005 or email [morganl@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morganl@xtra.co.nz).

## Regular Tuesday evening paddles

Now that daylight saving has ended, these night paddles are not suitable for novices who might instead try the Saturday morning paddle.

Meet at Okahu Bay every Tuesday at 5.30pm, for departure at 5.45. Trips usually last 1-2 hours.

It is a legal requirement for every night paddler to have an all-round white light fixed to a pole at least a metre high, or a large lens (e.g. Dolphin) lamp at hand on deck. No legal light, no paddle. Club boats can be hired at a reduced price.

## Regular Saturday morning paddles

Meet at Okahu Bay by 9.00am. The usual trip to Café at Kohi lasts about 2 hours. All skill levels are catered for. It's a great chance for novice or slow paddlers to mix and mingle with older and/or experienced club members. Club boats can be hired.

## Tip of the month

Rather than apply Vaseline to a chafe spot, use sun cream instead. Vaseline, while it has its supporters, is sticky, greasy and generally yuck. Sun cream has none of these vices, and notably is extremely slippery. Just don't let people see you applying it to your armpits!

## President's State of the Club address



### Newsletter Archive

For anyone interested in browsing past issues of the newsletter (yeah, right!), these are available at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/auckland-canoe-club/files/Newsletters>

However, we've now filled up our file space allocation on the group website - so the oldest issues are being purged when space is needed for the latest issue.

### Kudos

I received an email from the ARC recently in relation to Vine House, which included the following: Had a nice letter back from Mark Kirby, who added: 'ps Can I just add that we're delighted to have the Auckland Canoe Club as our neighbours. They are a friendly lot and their mode of transport suits the area well!'

Hooray for us! We had a situation recently where it very helpful to have the neighbour's assistance.

### Annual General Meeting

Pencil in your diary the 17 May for the club AGM. It would be good to start thinking now about what you would like to get out of the club, any direction you think we should be taking, or any niggles you have that you think should be raised. Promote discussion about any issues with committee members or among yourselves. Any motions can be discussed closer to the time, so that we can make final decisions more quickly on the night of the AGM.

There will be a slight reshuffling on committee for the following year as I intend to step down as President and from committee, and so does Rona as Secretary. 3 years at the helm is a reasonable term, and it's time for someone else to take us in a new direction. It's a good opportunity to come on board if you would like to offer your skills to the club.

Any specific motion or nomination should be sent to the Secretary before the next Committee Meeting (12th April) so that it can be published in the next Newsletter and included in the Agenda of the AGM.

### Membership

It is now the time to renew your subs. This year's membership form is attached, so fill this out, attach your cheque, and send to the club PO Box. New members who have joined since 1 Jan 2005 are already signed up for this financial year (till 31 March 2006).

### New Members

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

**Trevor Alborough**

**Judith Begg**

**Barbara Coston**

**Peter Kitchener**

### President M@



# AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



- New member  
 Rejoining

Surname:.....

First Name(s) (If family, please list all names):.....

Address:.....

Phone (home)..... Mobile..... Fax.....  
Phone (work)..... Email.....

- Rate your experience:  I have completed a basic skills course  
 No experience  Novice (confidently forward and back paddle, paddle for 30mins without rest)  
 Intermediate (able to brace, perform deep water entry, paddle for at least 2 hours or 25ks)  
 Advanced (self rescue in all situations, off-shore paddling experience)

Do you own a kayak?  Yes  No If yes, list type/s:.....

Please tick the type of kayaking you are most interested in:

- Sea kayaking  Polo  Sea kayak racing  
 Whitewater  Surf/rodeo  Multisport

Kayak trips: Are you interested in co-ordinating kayak trips?  Yes  No

Fees for year ending 31 March 2006 (please tick amount being paid)

Member \$30  Family \$35 **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$**.....

To comply with the Privacy Act 1993, please read and complete the form below.

- I agree (please tick one)  
 I do not agree

to let the Auckland Canoe Club publish my name, address, telephone number, or any other information concerning me in the Club Newsletter or to the National Canoe Associations. I accept responsibility for correcting information where applicable.

The Auckland Canoe Club and its officers take no responsibility for any injury any person may suffer, or any damage to equipment, while participating in the Club's kayaking activities. Any person who does participate acts at his or her own risk.

Signed..... Date.....

PLEASE RETURN TO: AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB, PO BOX 9271, NEWMARKET, AUCKLAND

This page is deliberately left blank so that when you cut out the membership form you do not lose anything from the precious Newsletter!

Well, actually, what a waste of revenue earning space! So, here is an important announcement!

**A new consignment of club caps has arrived**

**They look chic on the girls,  
and cool on the guys**

**So stylish  
yet so practical**

**One size fits all**

**Only \$20**

**Rush your order to Tony Hannifan  
(the best dressed member in the Club)  
ph 489 1706**

## Auckland Canoe Club - information

**Postal Address:**  
P.O. Box 9271 Newmarket, Auckland

**Clubrooms:**  
Hauraki Kayak Group boatshed clubrooms, Coxs Bay,  
just off West End Road.

**Website:**  
<http://aucklandcanoecub.org.nz>

**Email discussion group, send blank email to:**  
[Auckland-kayakers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Auckland-kayakers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**Email event reminders, send blank email to:**  
[Auckland-canoe-club-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Auckland-canoe-club-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### Officers:

Patron:	John Watts	03 541 9296
President:	Matt Crozier	817 1984
		<a href="mailto:matt@vsl.co.nz">matt@vsl.co.nz</a>
Vice-President:	Lindsay Sandes	522 3344
Secretary:	Rona Patterson	834 3399
Treasurer:	Des Matthews	575 5804
Trips:	Gavin Baker	528 5188
Publicity:	Roger Lomas	579 8799
Safety/ Training:	Ken Marsh	828 0701
Storage/ Club Kayaks:	Lindsay Sandes	522 3344
Vine House:	Andrew Frances	021 142 4857
Committee:	Brian Strid	09 238 8084
	Philip Noble	575 3493
	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
	Peter Sommerhalder	631 5344
Newsletter:	Kerry Howe	
		<a href="mailto:krmhowe@xtra.co.nz">krmhowe@xtra.co.nz</a>

### Club trip/event policies

Visit the Club website for more details of policies:

#### Contacting trip/event leader.

- You must notify the trip leader in advance of your intention to go on a trip. Leaders need to know numbers and to be able to contact you if the plan changes.
- You must also discuss with the leader in advance any medical or other conditions (such as your experience and ability) that might affect the progress of the group.

#### Cancellation

- If the weather looks uncertain don't call the trip leader but listen to Newstalk ZB Cancellations on 1080AM or 89.4FM, Saturday and Sunday from 7.00am.

#### Safety Policy

- You must make a realistic assessment that your skills and endurance are sufficient for a planned trip.
- Any Club members who have doubts about their skills for a particular trip MUST contact the trip leader in advance to talk about safety issues.
- It is your responsibility to wear a buoyancy aid, to be suitably dressed and prepared for likely conditions, and to carry necessary safety equipment.
- In the event of you capsizing in deep water, you must be able to re-enter your kayak, with help from another paddler if necessary.

- On a night paddle it is your responsibility, and a legal requirement, to provide a fixed all-round white light on a pole, or a large lens lamp at hand on deck.

- Kayaks must be appropriate for a trip. A sea kayak with water-tight bulkheads is essential for open water sea kayaking. Sit-on kayaks are usually too slow and not seaworthy enough in rough conditions and are therefore not recommended for sea kayak trips.

#### Gear hire

- The club hires out a range of sea kayaks and accessories. See the website for details.

#### Swim escorting (seasonal)

- Auckland Coastguard controls operations for kayak swim escorts, and has stipulated that there be a minimum number of kayaks before events can proceed. The Club receives some financial support depending on the number of kayak escorts it provides.

- With small distances and a slow pace, there are no Club paddles more suitable for novices. Club kayaks are available for use at no charge.

- The on-water job is to guide swimmers if they veer too far off course and to flag down a roaming rubber boat if a swimmer needs to get out.

- If you have a VHF radio, please bring it. Initial comms are on channel 86, then move to channels 6 and 8 for each side of the course. Please STAY in the area until the last swimmer arrives, in case a search is needed.

To:

From: Auckland Canoe Club, PO Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

**Pics of the month**



What is this monstrosity? It's been in the Okura estuary for months!  
(photos - Clive Hookham)