

# Newsletter



June 2005

## Highlights in this unique issue

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**Mega-Feature:** Debbie Dunsford's camping and kayaking with kids

Lindsay's Rangitoto gourmet gobble

Peter and Su's tropical life

Rona's rudder at Rawhiti

New extended marine forecasts

Intrepid Kiwis review

Sea kayak insurance

Marinas and Landings

## Editorial

This Newsletter contains the first of a series of planned **mega-features**. While the usual material continues, the featured theme for this month is **Debbie Dunsford's** camping and sheltered water paddling for kids. It's a marvelous feature and serves to remind us all how kids' life experiences can be so enriched if we share some of our adventures with them. Kids of my (aging) generation were always in the great outdoors, but now it's often a much less common experience. The world has changed, there's less outdoor leisure and holiday time, mum and dad are often too busy. But an adventure with young kids doesn't have to be onerous, or even time consuming. And it can be great fun and rewarding for all concerned.

**Lindsay Sandes** has a positively sensuous report on what was consumed at the gourmet feast on Rangitoto. Read and drool.

The **Sommerhalders** write about their life in Fiji. Read and be jealous of the tropical ambience.

**Rona** rues her rudder at Rawhiti - a salutary lesson in checking gear in advance and being prepared for anything!

In the wake of **Ryan's** little accident with his Albatross, he's been sussing out insurance issues. Read his survey of insurance company policies for sea kayaks. Better still, just tie the things on roof racks properly!

The **Club AGM** was held mid last month and a new committee has been installed. See the new line-up of eager enthusiasts inside the back cover. The new president is **Ian Calhaem**. Ian has also arranged for our new club meeting room to be in the Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay. Ian is also instrumental in keeping an eye on proposed marina developments at the Marina and Landing at Okahu Bay and ensuring that longstanding Club interests are protected. See his account in this issue.

If your address label on this Newsletter says **LAST NEWSLETTER!** it means that you have not paid your annual membership and you will not get anymore Newsletters - so don't let this dreadful fate befall you! Whip those cheque books out now! Individual \$30, family \$35. Post to ACC PO Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland.

**Kerry Howe**

## Guest editorial - Debbie Dunsford

These articles around the theme of camping and kayaking with kids have come out of a series of weekends we have enjoyed with our terrific, young nephews. They are great company, enthusiastic for new things and still at an age (12 and 13) where going somewhere with their aunt and uncle is an attractive proposition.

We decided it was high time we introduced them to the outdoor life that has given us so much pleasure. They are lucky to be able to spend long summer holidays at a family bach at Whangamata and, like all kids, go on annual school camps. However we wanted to show them what a great time you can have in a paddock in a tent without *all* the trappings of civilization. We have often met people who can't imagine why you might want to suffer camping, or who have had a bad experience, putting them off camping forever. Our aim was to disprove both of these misconceptions for all time and use the experience as a lead-in to sea kayaking and tramping and hopefully build an unconscious love of just being in the outdoors.

Our first weekend had the minimal aim of showing them that camping could be comfortable as well as fun. It was a great success and the next time we were asked to have them for the weekend, the boys assumed they would be going camping again. We have had three wonderful weekends away now and have progressively introduced a few challenges. The boys are picking up some of the basics of successful camping. Last time a weekend was planned, camping with us was the hands-down winner over a competing offer to go to Kawau with the boys next door. We were flattered!

It would seem that not many Auckland Canoe Club members take youngsters away on their trips. A request for information and advice did not gain many responses but I would like to thank Mark Pearce, Christine Fryer, Wendy Dykes, Gerard Boteman, Peter Sommerhalder and Doug Howard who did offer their experiences and so many thoughtful suggestions.

I'm sure that most sea kayakers do take their own children on trips like the ones I have described but I would encourage you to also consider taking nieces and nephews and other youngsters away for overnight trips. It has been a chance for us to develop individual relationships with our nephews, without being part of the usual full-on family event. We have developed our own little camping traditions together and, best of all, have got to know and love them even more.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Kevin Dunsford for his suggestions and advice and to Kevin and James and Robert Butler for sharing such memorable adventures.

## Padding with kids in sheltered places

### Recommended for camping and paddling trips close to Auckland

This is not an exhaustive list but each place has been recommended. Let's call it a work in progress. Any other recommendations or contributions would be welcome.

#### Camps

Whangateau Camp, Whangateau Harbour  
Regional Park camps: Mita, Te Muri and Sullivans Bay, Mahurangi East, Wenderholm, Shakespear, Omana, Awhitu.

#### Day trips

##### Hauraki Gulf

Waiake Beach / Browns Bay. These are favourites of Gerard Boteman and his children. They go out to the rocks, about 800 metres off shore between Browns Bay and Waiake. Trips are usually two hours maximum as the kids do not have full strength yet.

Okura or Stillwater inlets, starting from Long Bay. Wenderholm and Puhoi River or Hatfields Beach to Wenderholm along the coast. Sullivans Bay, Mahurangi to Mita Bay or Te Muri.

##### Tamaki Strait

Omana Regional Park - very tidal

##### Waitemata Harbour

Christine Fryer has taken Guide groups paddling and recommends Westhaven as well as Lake Pupuke and Orakei Basin.

Too many creeks to name but Wendy Dykes suggests that the creeks leading to the Auckland Zoo, Te Atatu and Henderson all make good exploring trips. She also says the bottom of Garnet Road, Westmere is very shallow and sheltered and has used it as training ground for her six year old nephew.

##### Manukau Harbour

Mark Pearce recommends Slippery Creek, Drury, and took his kids there from eight years old until they were teenagers. Mark has paddled all of the Manukau but says Slippery Creek is best for children because it is narrow (2m wide) and windy and the children feel safe. Cows come down to the water's edge, there are ducks and plenty to keep them amused. Mark says there is an island lunch spot about ½ an hour down the creek. You can carry on past there and out to the harbour but take care. The rip under the Hingaia Road

bridge can really whip through so time the trip for near high or low tide when the current has slowed. You can go right through to Bottle Top Bay or out to the harbour.

Awhitu Regional Park - watch tides and currents.

Debbie Dunsford

## Tips and advice for paddling and camping with children

### Padding

- Exercise extra special caution while on the water
- For those *in loco parentis*, recognize the trust and responsibility you have been given
- Keep the adult to child ratio low. Gerard Boteman suggests 2 children to 1 adult maximum. (For our purposes, we have found that 2:2 gives us peace of mind)
- A certain amount of discipline is required, even for short trips
- Keep paddling distances low. A good average speed might be 2 km/hour
- Build up skills over time
- Make sure each of the learning activities also has a fun element
- Plan a variety of activities as well as paddling
- Explore creeks and harbour areas
- Offshore islands are not a good idea, unless you can arrange alternative return transport. Kids can get freaked out far off land. A rough rule of thumb is 'can they get back to land themselves if each adult in the party is incapacitated?'
- Make features of the coastline, baches, boats, etc interesting with stories, etc
- Play canoe polo or chasing games, play at rescuing each other to build skills
- If hiring kayaks, insist on the correct size of life jacket for the kids. We were fobbed off with jackets that were really too large but, later in the summer, when we hired life jackets only from the same place, we received ones that were the correct size. Also, check the kids can reach the pedals. Make sure hire staff set them up as sometimes kids' legs are too short (i.e. may need a different kayak model)

### Camping

- Take a ball, any ball will do
- Make a base camp
- Give children jobs to do around camp

- Try to keep a tidy camp but remember it's not the Army
- Take a separate tent for the children. Make sure it's big enough to avoid arguments
- A communal shelter tent is necessary to keep out wind chill and for socialising
- Make sure you have a means of communication 100% of the time. Younger kids often like to know they can contact their parents each day and vice versa.
- Take a good first aid kit and extra plasters (fabric plasters for salt water)
- Take extra torches and batteries, extra loo paper and lots more food than normal
- Find meals you all like and make them camping standards
- Ensure a variety of activities
- Go with another family
- Tell stories, talk after dark
- Kids (like adults) like open fires but, unlike most adults, forget the dangers. Be aware and check if they are permitted at your campsite or park
- Go back to the same successful places - kids love repetition and familiarity
- If you want to go to a northern ARC camp during the summer months, book as early as possible, even the maximum six months in advance
- And, whatever you do, don't forget the ball!

Debbie Dunsford

## Padding and camping with kids - trip reports

### Whangateau - January 2004

This was our first camping weekend with nephews, James (then 12) and Robert (then 11). Our first choice of campground, Tawharanui, was fully booked (the usual state of affairs on late summer weekends). In fact, our second choice, Whangateau campground turned out to be a delight and far superior for our purpose. This Rodney County camp does not look impressive from the road but once out of sight around the corner, it is tranquil and very beautiful, with clean, smart facilities and a playground. We set up our tents on the water's edge. The boys needed firm directions on every aspect of tent erection, especially the fact that their input was required until the completion of the operation and not just half way through. Camp was complete before dark and we boiled up drinks and played cards while listening to the water lapping and

looking across the harbour at the lights of the Omaha mansions.

It is mid tide in the morning and only two steps to a pre-breakfast swim. Breakfast is the big production of French toast a la Dunsford. The boys get practice at cracking eggs and pushing toast around a frypan. With tide receding, we wade across to tiny Horsehoe Island and the boys paddle the small ginger white water kayak we have taken. The harbour is perfect for learning to paddle with short distances from the camp to Pt Wells and the Omaha River.



Camp at Whangateau  
(photo - D. Dunsford)

Our next activity is more spectacular. We are off to Goat Island for some snorkeling. On arrival, there is the usual mass of activity. Cars cover the hillside, there are spectators all over the beach and rocks and black bodies with snorkels spread out over the channel. All very impressive for a couple of kids - they know they are about to do something pretty cool. The only downside is squeezing into old wetsuits for their aunt and uncle.



Uncle Kevin in charge at Goat Island  
(photo - D. Dunsford)

We spend a couple of hours in the water, each accompanying one of the boys across the channel to Goat Island. Both boys are strong swimmers and confident in the water but today are freaked by the

masses of small jellyfish we have to push through. But luckily there are the usual schools of blue maomao, demoiselles and huge snapper to marvel at. It doesn't matter that there are people everywhere. That only proves that this is a cool place to be. We arrive at Goat Island, clamber onto the rocks and explore the pools, then back across the channel to investigate the reef before the cold sets in. Swimming across to the island and back was a big achievement for both and they were pretty chuffed with themselves.

Lunch in the carpark, an icecream at the Leigh store and we are back for a restful late afternoon for adults to read the paper on the grass while the kids do their own thing, Rob on his skateboard over at the rugby league club and waterboy James spending what seems to be hours wallowing in the sand and pools in the harbour at dead low tide.



James in action  
(photo - K. Dunsford)

We have had a gorgeous sunny day and eat dinner at the water's edge. The two-person Nautilus tent has proved too small for two active and at times combative boys and Robert asks to sleep in the vestibule of our big tent, with the fly ajar so he can see the view of the Omaha lights and the stars. James now has his own tent, a headlamp to read by and is suddenly absorbed by Edward Bloor's *Tangerine* - he is in heaven and the book becomes his constant companion. Camp is struck next morning. Somehow we get it all in the boot and deliver them home mid afternoon: a highly successful first camping weekend for them and us.

Tip for non-parents: don't absent-mindedly agree that they can buy a Coke on the way home unless you want hyperactive chaos happening in the backseat for the next hour.

### Mita Bay - December 2004

Our next camping trip was scheduled for October but turned into a weekend of torrential rain and thunderstorms. We camped on the living room floor and did city stuff. Rescheduled for December, the appointed weekend arrived. But this was the Auckland spring of 2004. We had been trapped in a jetstream of wind for weeks and our weekend turned out to be no exception. The forecast was for showers and SW winds of 25, gusting to 35 knots. The previous cancellation meant the pressure was on for the trip to go ahead. We had hired two double kayaks (\$25 per seat per day = \$200. Ouch!) and the destination had been Te Muri. Mita Bay suddenly seemed far more sensible.

We arrived at Sullivans Bay about 6pm on Friday and you could see the whitecaps fair sprinting past the outside of Saddle Island. The kayaks were carried to the water's edge and a huge amount of gear was then carried by our small chain gang while I wondered how on earth we were going to get it all into two unknown kayaks. Somehow it all got jammed in and we got everyone changed into thermals, jackets and footwear for the long journey of 600 metres around to Mita Bay. Off we set, to paddle around the rocks. The 13-year old, highly competitive in every way, paddled flat out for 300 metres then declared that his arms were tired. The much smaller 11-year old in contrast just settled into a rhythmical stroke that was a perfect match for Kevin in the second boat.

The journey took around ten minutes and we arrived at Mita. Only one other person in residence and a team effort to transfer the gear to the grass. Thank goodness we are here for two nights. Makes the vast amount of gear almost worthwhile.

Setting up camp in the strong gusting winds takes a while. The boys are still not much good at putting up the tent so, by the time two tents and the communal shelter tent are up and dinner is being cooked, it is dark. We have learnt the lesson of Whangateau and bought a cheap tent that comfortably takes both boys and given them their own inflatable airbeds (\$30 from the Warehouse). Their first visit to the pit toilets produces predictably outraged howls and denunciations of revolt. We sit snugly out of the wind in our shelter and wait for the standard camp dinner of Indian rice, peas and tuna. Luckily the kids just love rice and don't notice that, with a couple of wines under her belt, their aunt has burnt the bottom layer. We end up telling stories, joking, watching the red eyes of all the rabbits and enjoying ourselves until late. A brilliant full moon rises over Lagoon Bay and floods the harbour with silver.

The weather was consistent the whole weekend - strong wind, very strong gusts, intermittent rain and, in between the clouds, it was bloody hot. The wind

strength kept the clouds moving, the rain misty and the grass dry. We simply retired to the shelter occasionally during the rain but it didn't cramp our style in any way.

Mid-morning and some kayaking was in order. We set off up the Mahurangi River, sticking to the western half of the river past Opahi and Jamiesons Bay, rather enjoying the squalls when they hit, taking it all slowly. There is lots of interest in the Mahurangi, paddling amongst the interesting moored boats, even between the hulls of the bigger multi-hulls. We did some volunteer maintenance on one very tired looking launch and gathered mussels from the waterline. Lunch was catered for. All this took about two hours, quite enough for the kids.

Back to Mita and a great hunter-gatherer lunch. Two families have arrived and our bay now has six adults and nine kids and we are quickly on first name terms with half of them. These families had all walked around from Sullivan's Bay, carrying all their gear. One family were Korean Kiwis and dad immediately set up a number of fishing lines on the beach. Over the next couple of hours he caught 19 squid and, when not tending his lines, practised golf shots along the beach. The kids gathered on the beach and skimmed rocks, talked and raced about. Perhaps the mantra of the weekend was 'Next time, I'll bring a ball.' The four of us took a late afternoon walk around the rocks and back via Tangutu Point with its majestic trees, kumara pits and precipitous views of our Mita Bay campsite. Everyone retired to their own camp for dinner and then assembled on the beach for a communal fire with a small army of fuel gatherers.

Sunday and the weather is unchanged so we time our packing up at the end of a hot period so everything is dry. Our small mountain of gear is stacked close to the beach and we head off again in the kayaks. The route is pretty much the same but this time we head up into the Pukapuka Inlet. I'm finally getting through to James that slow, steady and in time is the best paddling in a double. He is now hankering to transfer to the other double with Kevin. A bigger boat than ours and with a bigger rear motor, they always go faster - a state of things Mr Competitive just can't stand. We venture out across Huawai Bay and take the full force of the wind gusts along with the chop from a longer fetch. It's great fun and we make a run alongside some crumbling old oyster farm frames for interest. Back to Mita Bay, load the boats and we set off for a slow dawdle back around the rocks, waving to our enthusiastic Korean family. Dad is now fishing off the rocks on their journey back to Sullivans. A late arrival back home at about 7.00pm, fish and chips for dinner and Dad collects them ready for the new week.

A casual comment from someone the next day gave me the idea for this trip report. It had been a very

windy and at times wet weekend and the comment was that they had thought of us often but not with envy. We were just astounded. We had had a fantastic time and been dry and comfortable at all times. The constant wind and intermittent rain had not detracted from our enjoyment and, with hindsight, we couldn't have thought of a better way to spend the weekend.

### **Te Muri - March 2005**

A March weekend in the gorgeous summer of 2005 and we book in the boys for a slightly more ambitious overnigher at Te Muri. Our intention is to walk and paddle our way (with our single sea kayaks only) and give the boys a chance to use our boats under supervision and teach them a few skills. A last minute glitch is that I cannot accompany the others on Saturday morning but will have to walk down in the afternoon.

Kevin and the boys carry three packs of gear down the track and across the stream at low tide and Robert is left to ferry each of the packs the 500 metres to the camp. Kevin and James walk back to Sullivans to paddle the rest of the gear around. The water is flat with only a light breeze and James apparently settled into my Albatross like a professional. He and Kevin paddle around the coast, with James pushing through the tired arms and handling the boat extremely well. Robert meanwhile has made three trips along the beach and selected the camp spot.

Camp is set up, Mum's bacon and egg pie eaten, then swimming, snorkeling (over an hour spent going around the southern rocks and reef with reports of plenty to see). We eat the standard rice and tuna dinner in the evening sun, with Robert making sustained pleas for the shelter tent to be erected. After dark, we walked along the beach marvelling at the stars in a clear sky. We lay down on the sand and gazed up at the heavens to spot satellites and shooting stars and were instantly rewarded with one of each. There was a final tally of two satellites and three shooting stars (one sighting slightly suspect). Back in the shelter with the dew settling fast, we snuggled up for warmth, told stories and talked.

Next morning, we have a swim, breakfast and some kayaking for the boys. We had intended teaching them a few skills in the bay or taking them up the estuary if there was a surf. The wind is rising, there is now a small chop and low surf break as a north easterly comes around Cudlip Point. We decide to give them a go in the main bay with reminders about what to do if they fall out and, with Kevin and I standing thigh-height in the water, they start to paddle around. To my amazement (but not Kevin's), they both take the chop, the small surf break and the adult-sized boats in their stride. James is the bigger and stronger and powers around in huge circles negotiating the chop and wind without any problems at all. Robert is smaller and

lighter and, as a board surfer, seems unable to stay out of the surf zone. He bobs confidently across the waves even when I think he will surely flip. I can only assume he instinctively knows to lean onto the wave and so explained to him about riling. He attacked the next side-on wave with a lovely rail that also sent him shooting along the face of the wave and yelling out that this was fun. The kids loved this session and both felt they were getting the hang of it. Rob was certainly paddling a boat that was way too big for him which made his ability to handle it even more remarkable. He finally came unstuck on a small wave in about six inches of water and was left stuck sideways before I could wade across and get him upright. Kevin and James then went out and practised wet exits and re-entries which gave him no problem at all. After an hour and a half, the boats came ashore and another snorkel was in order.



Debbie and Robert at Te Muri  
(photo - K. Dunsford)

The pack-up beckoned and everything was stacked ready for loading or carrying. Lunch was eaten in the sun out of the wind and some thought given to the logistics of our return. Kevin and the boys carried packs back across the creek while I packed the boats. The boys then made two trips with packs and filled in half an hour with the ball at the top of the track. We paddled back into the brisk northeasterly and even hosed down the gear at Sullivans before driving up to collect them. The hour it took to get to Orewa in the late Sunday traffic was a minor nuisance quickly forgotten in the warm glow of another great weekend.

**Debbie Dunsford**

[Watch out for next month's mega-feature - Colin Quilter on sails and other curiosities!.....]

## Trip reports

**Foodies Delight, Rangitoto 16/17 April 2005**

**Lindsay Sandes**

With his usual flair, our own Gordon Ramsey of the seas - Morgan Lewis, promoted an evening on Rangitoto to watch sunsets and sunrises, share good food and wine with fellow kayakers.

This was a trip especially geared for club members to snatch a late afternoon, overnight at the Scout bach and return to Auckland mid morning or for members to overnight and take a leisurely day to return home. Either way, Morgan's foodie trips are geared for all members regardless of kayaking ability and also a great trip for budding leaders to cut their teeth on.

Conditions were calm with milky smooth waters on the paddle over. Such was the expectation of some members that they circumnavigated Waiheke to attend (Brian), some left home on Friday night (Kevin) - with 9 of us gathering to feast on antipastos normally found at Whites (Hilton on the Wharf restaurant).



(photo - Sandes)

Out rolled Puhoi creamy blue cheeses, Puhoi garlic feta dip, Kapiti Awa blues, Colby, Edam, Kapiti cheddars, all manner of farm house and smooth pates, snow peas and fresh baby carrots, crisps, salamis, home made Greek salads with delicious dressing, sun dried tomatoes - washed down with aromatic reds & whites - merlots, cab savs, pinots, sauvignon blancs and a few Monteiths were present as well.

As the sun set our leader ensured lively dialogue, topped the wines up and set the candles on a windless night. Into the evening and fully sated, most of us decided against cooking our mains - eye fillet, lamb chops, sausages, topped with salads, followed by steamed pudding desserts and instead opted for fresh coffee from the bodum, topped up with a dash of brandy.

At a reasonable hour we slipped off to bed on a balmy Auckland night and awoke to mild conditions, a great sun rise to sip fresh coffee, enjoy breakfast and head home. A few remained to climb to the summit and enjoy a day of paddling.

The under utilised scout hut on Rangī is a valuable asset available to ACC members and is highly recommended for overnight trips, especially new trip leaders. Close proximity to Auckland with the ferry available if Toyota strikes (bugger) make this a must do on any kayaker's diary of events.

Fellow paddlers attending: Morgan, Lindsay, Ryan, Stephanie, Clare, Paul, David, Brian and Kevin.

### Rona rues rudder at Rawhiti

Rona Patterson

Then it happened, my rudder line snapped

Following the disappointment of having to cancel the Easter trip to Rawhiti, we finally made it over the ANZAC weekend. Awesome! Some of us drove up on the Friday, determined to have a holiday no matter what the weather turned out to be. On my arrival I met up with John Stairmand who was about to set off for Cape Brett and Piercy Island. By the time he arrived back at camp (approx four hours) Pam and Wayne Fitzsimons and Jodi Yeats had arrived. A little while later non-paddling Brian arrived, closely followed by Hala Akkad.

Gerard Fagan joined us before 7am on Saturday morning and after careful assessment of the day's weather forecast and that of successive days, we deemed this to be the day for Cape Brett. In absolute perfect conditions we set off. The water was mirror calm as far as Deep Water Cove. From here on the water became a little unsettled, with a little wind. As we neared our destination we were to experience all kinds of water conditions. I followed Gerard through a narrow channel between the mainland and a small island. This was like being on a fast flowing river, which didn't appear to know which direction it should flow. We then crossed to join our friends who had taken a different path and were heading for the hole in the rock.

I don't believe we could have taken this trip on any better day, as we just lined up and went through the hole with no trouble. Yes, there was a rise and fall of water, and yes, there was a strong flow through, but we all emerged on the other side with huge smiles on

our faces. This would have to be the highlight of all my paddling. (At the time it occurred to me to turn around and go through from the other side, but the thought of being hit by a large tourist boat did not appeal)

When I first considered this trip, I thought only the experienced men would do the Hole in the Rock, with others doing something tamer. I would never have thought it was possible for all comers. The following day 30 knot winds were predicted and no-one was game to go back.



Piercy Island  
(photo - Howe)

On our return the wind had got up and we faced huge changes in the water conditions so we headed for the coastline seeking shelter as soon as possible. The coastline was very rugged and it was the very keen eyes of Wayne and Gerard who found a tiny inlet where we had lunch. It was during this relaxing time that we saw some of the competitors in the inaugural Cape Brett Challenge which had commenced at 9 am from the campground where we were based. This was a *real* challenge! These men were doubled over, almost down to a crawl while they struggled to climb the very narrow track. What we were doing was rather tame in comparison. We later made another stop before heading back to base.

Soon after our arrival back at the camp, Margaret Law came in from her solo journey to the Cape. She had missed our departure by 30 minutes. Margaret's arrival was followed by a large group of paddlers who had arrived at Rawhiti earlier in the day and had paddled around Urupukapuka. By evening Helen Orchard, Paul de Vos, David Ward, John and Christine Fryer, Bruce Sommerville and Giselle Clements had arrived. From Whangarei were Warwick, Bill, Louise, Colleen, Bill and another man whose name I have forgotten but who had his very grand home made canoe with him. In all we had 22 people join us. This evening was rounded off with drinks, nibbles, and Easter Eggs outside my tent.

Sunday morning commenced with hot cross buns for breakfast and a meeting to discuss the weather and suggested trips. (The Easter goodies were intended for the aborted Easter trip)



With winds expected to get up to 30 knots all paddlers opted for a morning paddle around Urupukapuka, to depart at 8.30 am and return for lunch. A hike in the afternoon was planned. What an awesome island, with so many rocks, caves and water patterns. This was the very best weekend I had ever had! That was until the group decided to land on Waewaetorea Island to discuss taking in more islands. With the wind getting stronger by the minute, and the fact that I had said I would be back for lunch, I opted to continue around Urupukapuka in the company of John and Christine.

We crossed back over the Waewaetorea Passage to continue on our journey. Shortly Motukiekie Island reared up in front of us, so we decided to circumnavigate it. Then it happened, my rudder line snapped. I turned to head into the beach on the western side of Urupukapuka which was not too far off, but wind and current would not allow this. No matter how hard I struggled to veer to the right, I was pulled into the channel heading back to the Cape. (I believe now that my rudder was probably locked on an angle which prevented me turning). Then Christine put a line on me and tried also to get into the bay, but this was not possible, so she very wisely crossed back to Waewaetorea Island.

This is where three heads and pairs of hands tried to fix my rudder line. Once this was done it was possible to turn right but not left. Now I was beginning to become alarmed, but there was quite a bit of traffic in the channel so we flagged down the first craft which came by. They were willing to tow me but not to have me on board. I have heard dreadful stories of kayaks being towed by large motor boats, so I refused.

I now called Coastguard who asked me to stand by and they would call me back. When they had not called me back in 30 minutes, I sent Christine and John home as the winds continued to rise. About fifteen minutes later a little motor boat arrived - Christine and John had asked it to see if they could help. The man was willing to help but his boat was tiny and five people and a dog were already on board, they could not have fitted me in. I then called Coastguard back, this time speaking to a lady. Luckily the discussion was heard by Kelvin on board 'Trieste' who said he would collect me. Even though I was safely on an island and it was not raining, it was a huge relief to hear that call. Soon after 'Trieste' was calling me and although I was answering his call, it was obvious it was not being received. I then lay down in the long grass (for warmth - I was freezing) and looked at my VHF wondering what it was that I was doing wrong. I then remembered that Coastguard answered with an 85/86 call sign and I had called on 85, so I called on 86. This worked and I was in contact with 'Trieste' once more.

Following discussions of my exact location, I was informed they would be about three quarters of an hour. Once they neared, they called me to see if I could paddle out to them. As I had already tried unsuccessfully, they moved further in. I was asked to pull the kayak out as far as possible while a little row boat came out for me. Adam greeted me with a cheery 'hello' and sent me back to the beach while he got the dinghy to shore, then told me get into the transom and to hold the tow line of the kayak while he rowed back. Once on board I was asked if I was cold, and if I was, to go below to warm up. Then the kayak was loaded on the stern and securely tied down, before a very pleasant ride back to camp.

I cannot speak highly enough of Adam and Kelvin aboard 'Trieste'. They were completely professional, non-censorial, and very pleasant. I would like to recommend that all our club members join the Coastguard and get a VHF radio.

I have heard that accidents are made up of several small things, and so it was:

- I did not pull my rudder up once the line was broken, believing it was useless.
- the knot tied in the rudder line was on the wrong side of the pedal which stopped the rudder from turning left .
- I was calling Coastguard on the wrong frequency.

What I did right was

- have Coastguard membership.
- have my VHF fully charged.
- have warm clothing in my hatch for emergencies.

Once all paddlers were back in camp and showered, happy hour was held in the marquee which had been left by the runners. The gathering was completely BYO: chair, glass, drink, and food, and the day was rounded off in perfect style.

Rawhiti is a very beautiful spot with countless opportunities for exploring on land and sea. I do hope to return some time with much more time to spare. Thank you to all who made this trip such an enjoyable one.

## 'If I was a monkey' - lifestyle file

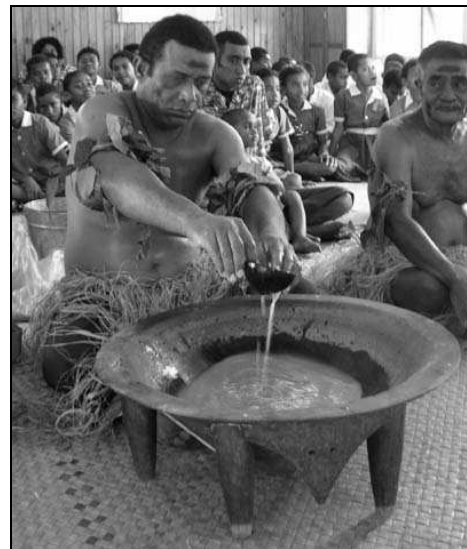
**Peter Sommerhalder**

'If I was a monkey, I would like to live here.' These were Emilie's words, standing next to me on an island off the coast of Ellington Wharf in Fiji, just a few hours after her arrival from France. We had lush green vegetation and coconut palms around us. Through the branches of the 'jungle' we could see glimpses of a white sandy beach and the dark blue waters of the Pacific behind it. Fijian builders were busy finishing a new house at the bottom of a large hill. This will be the residence of the owner of Safari Lodge, a water sport adventure company where Su and I are based for one year. There are other houses and small lodges on the island. But it is very still, hot, and very much like a dream come true to be here.

It all started just over three years ago, when Su, Ian Calhaem and a group of about 6 paddlers took up an invitation to go sea kayaking in Fiji. Safari Lodge is situated at the northern most point of the main island Viti Levu, two and a half hours drive from Nadi International Airport. A seven day sea kayaking trip led the paddlers to several villages, where they shared accommodation with the locals and got invited to the traditional kava ceremonies, a welcome given to guests of the village. Some of the smaller children were slightly afraid of visitors with white skin and grey hair, as this is not a tourist area as yet. Returning to base, the paddlers gave Warren, Safari Lodge's owner, their impressions and a lively dialog started and is still ongoing today. Ian and Su have been back to Fiji since, guiding tours and training local Fijians as kayaking guides. I had the opportunity of two holiday trips prior to this visit. The above mentioned island, Nananui-I-Ra, is well known to windsurfers who have been coming here for 15 years. Sea kayaking got added about three years ago, and now guests arrive to do kite boarding. We also offer other activities like snorkelling, diving and fishing. And no, there are no monkeys living in Fiji.

I have been away from the base for the last three days, guiding a small group of paddlers. We launched two double sea kayaks about twenty-five kilometres away from here and glided down a tidal stream through huge mangroves which formed a roof over our heads. With me were Oscar, our Fijian kayaking guide, and Brett and Karen from Melbourne. Oscar and I were in the rear of each kayak, getting our guests used to paddle with feathered paddles. We crossed Viti Levu Bay. Local women were standing waist deep in the sea fishing with hand lines. The scary thing is, that they were up to 800 metres away from the shore. At low tide the bay has many shallow areas, and Fijians can predict weather conditions. Today was perfectly calm and hot, over 30 deg C but

comfortable on the water. Getting sunburned is of concern, but it does not happen as quickly as in New Zealand. We always make sure that we carry sufficient drinking water and sunblock. Late afternoon we landed on a sandy beach at the village Namuiamada. Immediately we were surrounded by children of all ages helping to carry our kayaks and gear. Two young women escorted us to a house which had been vacated for tonight's village guests. Oscar, who lives with his family in this village, showed us around, explaining trees and plants, and how a bure, the traditional Fijian house with thatched roof, is being built. The village is now connected to electricity. So the odd fridge/freezer, radio and TV are appearing. We still got a bit of a surprise seeing a new satellite dish fitted to the side of one house, accessing sky cable TV. Modern technology seems to advance in giant leaps, skipping video tapes and going straight to DVD players. But the attraction here is sharing traditional village life with locals not influenced by much tourism.



Oscar then led us into the Chief's house. We were dressed in sulus (sarongs) and clean teeshirts. We sat cross legged on woven mats on the floor, facing the Chief and men from the village, with the kava bowl between us. Oscar addresses the Chief in Fijian on our behalf and handed over the sevusevu or gift of kava roots to him. The Chief replies and eventually gives instructions to mix the kava. Water is squeezed through a cloth bag filled with the powder from the kava root. A muddy looking liquid gradually fills the bowl. Kava is served in a coconut shell first to the Chief and then to each guest in order of their importance. Clapping of hands at set intervals is part of the ceremony. We can request "full tide" or "low tide". The drink does not taste very nice. Even the locals don't especially like it, yet kava drinking is their past-time most evenings and sometimes during work breaks. After two rounds of drinks, the Chief declares the formal part of the ceremony over. We can stretch our legs, mix and mingle with the Fijians. More men and

woman have joined by now, including children. Conversation in English gets going, complemented by more kava drinking. Meanwhile some of the women have prepared our dinner. This is laid out on a printed long cloth on the floor mats in the Chief's house. Again we are sitting cross legged on the floor. Some traditional Fijian veges, fish and curry are complemented with chicken and more food prepared by our staff at Safari Lodge. During the meal and the previous kava session we were allowed to take photos. After the meal we join the kava drinking Fijians again, while the women who prepared the food, and their families have their evening meal. Eventually we retire back to "our" house where we sleep on foam mattresses, covered with sheets. It is still very warm during the night. A heavy burst of rain landing on the tin roof keeps us awake for a time. The thunderstorm caused a power cut, sinking the whole village into darkness. This caused me some difficulties finding the way back from the outhouse toilet despite my headlamp. Unfortunately a pole holding up a washing line had slipped earlier, leaving the line hanging at neck level across the path I tried to follow. Obviously I bumped into it in the dark, waking up a sleeping dog who growled at me. Breakfast was prepared and served again in the Chiefs house, and we got ready for our second days paddling. After crossing Viti Levu Bay in brilliant sunshine and no wind we stopped on a small island, where nobody else disturbed our lunch break and short siesta.



On we paddled along some other islands and arrived at the beach with the jungle, as described earlier. Meanwhile the sky got overcast and heavy rain drops began to fall. We put on fins, mask and snorkel and glided over the shallow reef to the edge where it drops sharply down. An amazing range of corals and coloured fish were right close to us. We could hear the drumming sound of the rain on the water surface. I felt so cosy in the warm sea. This night our food was sent over by boat from Safari Lodge. We spent a leisurely

evening camped in the new house. The third day we continued with the circumnavigation of Nanau-i-Ra Island. Another sandy beach invited us for a morning swim with only very few other holiday guests in the area. After the lunch stop still on the island we had to cross the main channel between the island and the mainland. A short brisk paddle into strong headwinds, where our two guests could practice the newly acquired paddling skills, lead us back to Ellington Wharf, our base. A quick shower and cold fruit juice and the guests were ready to ride in a taxi back into the real world.

Since this trip I had a variety of small duties, like picking up staff for work in our van, go shopping on the local market and being the busybody lending a hand where needed. Slowly I get adjusted to Fijian time and customs.

## Museum exhibition review

**'Intrepid Kiwis', National Maritime Museum, Auckland.**

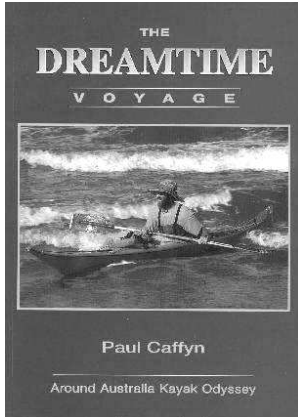
**Reviewed by Kerry Howe**

It's a great shame that 'Intrepid Kiwis' is the city's best kept secret! The Maritime Museum has put on a fine display of the adventures of some of our bolder citizens, and then not told anybody. But it's on until October, so don't miss it!

Among the Kiwis featured are such notables as sailor David Lewis, trans-Tasman rower Colin Quincey, trans-Atlantic winning rowers Rob Hamill and Phil Stubbs, and many more intrepid sea dogs who have undertaken mind-boggling maritime journeys. Are we a nation of masochistic, sea-sodden fools?

Being completely unbiased, the stars of the exhibition are the sea kayakers. **Paul Caffyn** gets considerable exhibition space with well designed pictorial panels summarising all his major voyages. His battered old Nordkapp *Isadora* in which he circumnavigated New Zealand is on display, as are a few other bits and pieces, such as one of his lifejackets, stove, a diary he kept, some maps, and his tent ripped by a bear in Alaska. The other sea kayakers getting a prominent space are **Graham Charles, Mark Jones, and Marcus Waters** who sea kayaked along the Antarctic Peninsula. One of their Polar Bear sea kayaks is on display. Both Paul and the 3 lads each have a continuous video - the only adventurers to be so displayed in the exhibition. Paul's video was made by CTV Ltd in 1991 and features sections of his Alaskan journey, complete with bear shots, and more sea ice than you can shake a stick at. This is rare footage and

I'm not sure if it was ever given any prominence in New Zealand. The 3 Antarctic voyagers also have their video, *Colder than Ice*. It has been shown in New Zealand in recent years. Take the time to view both videos, though you'll have to sit on the floor. No seating provided!



It is a real disappointment that there is a rather miserable and very incomplete display of books about or by the various adventurers. None of Paul's books were actually available when I visited, nor were any of David Lewis's, though you could buy the *Colder than Ice* video/DVD, plus the *Frozen Coast* book

(reviewed in the ACC Newsletter - February 2005). Nor is there even a brochure for this exhibition. It's a great exhibition, so why don't they proudly and actively promote it!

There was, apparently, a grand opening, and Paul Caffyn was an honoured guest, but nobody from the Museum bothered to tell any of the sea kayaking fraternity in Auckland. Our Club would have turned out in force had we known. May the Maritime Museum get its PR act into action in future.

#### **Response by Larry Robbins CEO National Maritime Museum**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Kerry Howe's review of our exhibition **Intrepid Kiwis**, which we are pleased he enjoyed.

I am sorry that you feel that we are deficient in some areas. You raise some points which I'd be pleased to address.

We do not have a bookshop per se. You are right, it is a 'very incomplete' display of books, but by design. We sell a small number of books from our tickets desk which complement our exhibitions; we take a populist approach about what we think will sell to the general public. We leave it to specialist bookshops to stock a complete range of books on specialist subjects such as kayaking.

Unfortunately producing a brochure is an extremely expensive and time consuming process which is beyond our resources for an 8 month exhibition. Such

items do not sell well and it is extremely difficult to find sponsors for such a project.

I have to take issue with the comments on promotion. We *are* proud of the exhibition and we *are* actively promoting it! In addition to regular museum advertising, advertisements for the exhibition have appeared in at least 6 publications around Auckland and it also features in our radio advertising. Posters have been distributed and there is a large banner in a prominent position in front of the museum. This is all incredibly expensive. The NZ National Maritime Museum is a privately funded museum. A generous Auckland City sponsorship provides only about 30% of our \$2 million annual budget along with a modicum of grant funding (less than 0.5% of our budget in total) from some of the other local authorities. The rest we find ourselves. We have to cut our suit to match our cloth. We would like to do more!

We supplement our advertising to the local region and NZ with our publicity activities. Articles featuring aspects of the exhibition have been published in 14 newspapers and magazines nationally (including local variants). It is also covered on our website ([www.nzmaritime.org](http://www.nzmaritime.org)), in events listing information sent out to the media and our own publications and newsletters.

The opening function serves the purpose of announcing the exhibition as well as being a forum to thank those who have contributed to the exhibition. It is not a public event. We were not aware that Paul Caffyn would be attending until the actual morning of the event. Paul returned south the next day.

We spoke to many kayaking enthusiasts whilst seeking information and leads for the exhibition. To some extent in the specialist areas we rely on word of mouth. It seems to have worked, at least to some degree since Kerry Howe came to see what it was all about and then wrote about it and we now look forward to club members attending in droves!

## New extended marine forecasts

New Zealand marine weather forecasts issued by the MetService, which hitherto have only covered 36 hours ahead at most, have been extended to include a five day outlook. This is great news for sea kayakers. Most of us know how to get long range forecasts for up to a week or more out of our computers, but once we are on the water on a trip we are dependent on the marine forecasts only, which are broadcast on AM/FM broadcast bands, VHF marine bands, and HF marine bands.

All recreational and coastal forecast areas around New Zealand now contain an extended outlook for five days. It's a bit general, because five days out is too uncertain to offer highly specific details, but significant wind, weather, sea, and swell events are briefly anticipated.

The new extended range marine weather forecasts are also available from MetPhone and MetFax, the [www.metservice.com](http://www.metservice.com) and [www.metnet.co.nz](http://www.metnet.co.nz) web sites, and Teletext.

These outlooks are funded by the New Zealand Government through the Ministry of Transport in order to enhance safety at sea.

I'm writing this on a Monday. Here's the current marine forecast for the Auckland Recreational Marine Area. Note the new 'Outlook' section which takes us out 5 days.

**Warning:** Wind warning Nil

**Situation:** A weak front is slow-moving over the lower North Island. On Tuesday, a low is expected to deepen northeast of the North Island as a ridge builds over the South Island.

**Forecast:** Valid to midnight Tuesday: Manukau and Waitemata Harbours, Hauraki Gulf and Bream Head to Cape Colville: Northerly 10 knots tending northeast this evening. Becoming variable 10 knots late Tuesday. Sea slight. Cloudy periods, with fair visibility in a few showers, becoming poor visibility in periods of rain on Tuesday.

**Outlook:** Wednesday: Easterly 10 to 20 knots becoming southeast 20 to 30 knots at night. Showers. Thursday: Southeast 20 to 30 knots. Showers. Friday: Southeast ease 10 to 20 knots. Showers.

Today and tomorrow (Monday and Tuesday) look OK, Wednesday could be a bit dodgy, and it would not be wise to be at sea on Thursday!

**KH**

## Sea kayak insurance

### Life after an Albatross

#### Ryan Whittle

Your location is a factor that may affect the premium. Companies were also interested in mode of transport (roof rack or trailer); storage location (inside/outside).

Quotes are for a \$4000 kayak for personal use - not for commercial or competition use.

#### AMI

Home/Contents Policy covers watercraft up to \$500. Separate fully comprehensive boat policy covers damage in transit or use anywhere in NZ. Covers property or personal damage to 3rd party, fire and theft. Cost \$80.55/annum when other policies held with company. Cost \$100/annum when no other policies held with company.

#### State

Watercraft up to \$3000 covered under Contents policy. Separate fully comprehensive boat policy covers damage in transit or use anywhere in NZ. Covers property or personal damage to 3rd party, fire and theft. Will not give separate boat policy without another policy as well e.g. home and contents, car. Cost \$142.62/annum.

#### Tower

Home/Contents Policy covers watercraft up to \$1000. Separate fully comprehensive boat policy, covers damage in transit or use anywhere in NZ. Covers property or personal damage to 3rd party, fire and theft. Cost \$115.40/annum.

#### AMP

Advise to go to company that you have other policies with, and arrange the kayak as an extra to them. As a one off, they are unable to provide a competitive quote. Would be happy to cover the kayak in conjunction with e.g. home contents.

#### More information

One paddler tried to claim after having his boat stolen from his roof rack but was declined because it was not secure. AMI pointed out that the kayak must be appropriately secured to the roof rack and defined appropriately secured as being a length of chain and padlock. They also stated that a boat dislodging from the roof rack through not being tied on securely would also not be covered.

#### Conclusions

Talk to your existing insurance company. They will be able to offer a better deal as a package than another company insuring it alone.

A kayak worth less than \$3000 would not cost anything with State so consider this when comparing quotes for home and contents.

Because the insurance company takes into consideration the geographical location, the type of use, how it is transported, and where it is stored, it would be sensible to contact your insurance company with those details for an accurate quote.

Try asking if it can be included under another policy. For example, a customer with a good history has a chance of inclusion under a home and contents policy as the insurance company can demonstrate a degree of flexibility.

No-one would cover a damaged kayak retrospectively.

### Council Projects that involve the Auckland Canoe Club

Those of you who were able to attend the AGM would have learnt of the two Auckland City Council projects that affect the Club activities. For those who were unable to attend that meeting here is a brief outline...

There are two separate projects that are currently underway at Okahu Bay, and although closely connected they are actually separate.

#### The Orakei Marina

This is to be constructed by the Royal Akarana Yacht Club, managed by the Orakei Marina Development Trust. The Auckland Canoe Club put a submission to the City Council in April 2003 supporting the construction subject to several conditions. In March of this year the Council finally gave the resource consent for the Marina to be built. We have received the consent details and much of what the Club asked for was included.

However, since construction started it appears that various changes are being made or contemplated that are not in accordance with the Consent. For example, changes to the extent of the rock wall surrounding the Marina, availability of parking etc.

The Committee has written to the City Council and also to the Auckland Regional Council seeking clarification on a number of these issues. (Auckland City Council controls things on land, whilst the Regional Council has control over anything below high water mark). We will keep you informed of developments through this Newsletter.

#### The Landing

This is the area from and including Ferg's shop to the Royal Akarana Yacht Club. Current buildings include Fergs, our storage building, and the Sailing Club building. The proposal is to replace all of these with a new purpose built Club Room building adjacent to the western side of the Sailing Club, and then clear the existing buildings to provide open spaces, parking and room for kayak and small boat preparation.

The ramp will be upgraded and a new floating jetty constructed opposite our current storage building. The size of the present hard stand will be reduced and consideration is being given to fencing the dangerous haul-out area.

The planning for this development is in the very early design phase but already the plans have been discussed with current stake holders (the Canoe Club, Fergs, Outrigger Club and Sailing Club, etc.) In a couple of combined meetings, and at a private meeting which Roger Lomas and I attended at the Council offices.

1. We considered what our ideal situation would be:
  - Lockable Kayak Storage facilities with easy access to the water (Current storage is for about 30 kayaks plus wet equipment, but we could use more)
  - Separate storage for Club equipment and documentation
  - Washdown facilities
  - Club Meeting room available for one evening per month
  - Club committee room available for one evening per month
  - Access to kitchen facilities for meetings
  - Changing rooms with hot shower (maybe coin in the slot)
  - Shelter from wind chill during winter (northerly aspect)
  - Notice Board
  - Temporary storage during construction phase if needed
2. Provision for loading and unloading kayaks:
  - Proposed development plans, and those for the Marina Development show considerable parking for cars with boat trailers.
  - For a kayaker, the car is also the trailer and as such needs to be able to have close access to a suitable loading and unloading point.
3. Parking for kayak vehicles (cf provision for boat trailers)

The plans will be made public on open days to be held on 4 and 11 June upstairs at the Akarana Yacht Club building.

I encourage everyone who has not seen the plans to go along and then let the Committee know what you think. We will ensure that your ideas are conveyed to the right people in Council.

**Ian Calhaem**

## Toy department

I love my digital camera and take it everywhere on sea kayak trips. I keep it in a bomb proof Pelican case inside my hatches, and use it only on land. I would love to be able to take photographs safely at sea and have long aspired to a digital camera with a waterproof housing - but the housings are so expensive, and so few models have housings available. These housing anyway seem rather large and clunky.

But I've just seen a new toy! It's a Pentax Optio WP (waterproof) camera - a tiny, tiny thing with a huge 5 megapixels. It is rated waterproof for 30 minutes at 1.5 metres, so would be perfect to carry in a PDF pocket at sea. Just whip it out to catch those dolphins!

The best price I have seen is NZ \$599 (incl GST).

For best prices for all electronic gear, such as digital cameras make sure you check out <http://www.pricespys.co.nz>

It's amazing how prices can vary hundreds of dollars for the same item! However, note that many traders now charge an additional percentage for use of a credit card.

How about some of you photographers writing something for the Newsletter? And I'm always on the lookout for photographs for the Newsletter!

KH

## Pool training

We are currently conducting water confidence, rolling and self-assisted rescue training in small boats in the Glen Innes Pool, 122 Elstree Ave 7:30-8:45 Tuesday nights. The cost is \$10 per session. If you intend coming please contact Ken Marsh 09 8177357 or 0275 45 11 74, [Kmarsh@hortresearch.co.nz](mailto:Kmarsh@hortresearch.co.nz). This enables us to bring enough equipment and to confirm the booking.



## Tip of the month

On sea kayak trips, instead of taking toilet paper, which is bulky and sometimes hard to keep dry, try Travel Wipes. Buy 50 of them for a couple of dollars at a supermarket. They are pre-moistened towelettes that come in a small resealable pack. You can also give your whole body a refreshing wash with 3 or 4 of them. A marvellous product!

KH

## June events calendar summary

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

**14 June - Club Committee meeting, Marine Rescue Centre**

**18 June - A Night of Carnival, Costumes, Masks and Frolicking on the Rangitoto deck.**

**21 June - Club Winter Lecture: Mike Randall kayaks Fiji**

**25-26 June - Vine House Working Bee**

## Scheduled Club trips

### 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.

Meet at Omana Regional park 8.30am for a 9.00am departure. Vehicles can be left in the Regional Park for a small fee which is payable to the Park Ranger.

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

### 18 June - A Night of Carnival, Costumes, Masks and Frolicking on the Rangitoto deck.



Club social night, meet at Okahu Bay 3.00pm for a 3.30pm departure. Paddle across to Rangitoto Island, stay the night at the old scout bach. A night for imagination, paper masks are compulsory, BYO. 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)

### 25-26 June Vine House Working Bee

There is interior work to be done and a few more steps to complete. Come join our band of shiny, happy people. We will work in the day and then mid-winter feast at dark. Bring \$10 for fabulous food (cooked by Morgan). Note the cost is a little more but the menu will be very mid winter Christmasy!

Please ring Stephanie to register your interest. Morgan will need to know numbers for catering, so it will help us if you ring the week before. **Stephanie** ph 09 8345 769

## 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. All skill levels are catered for. Novice paddlers will have an experienced paddler look after them.

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.

## Auckland Canoe Club Winter Lectures

Our popular winter series gets underway on Tuesday 21 June at our new Tamaki Drive venue. Come along to see and hear a true South Seas saga as Mike Randall recounts a 600km sea kayak journey around Vanua Levu in the Fiji Islands.



Ann and Sandy at the end of the month long Vanua Levu circumnavigation

Meet at 7pm in the Marine Rescue Centre, which is at Mechanics Bay near the Mikano Restaurant just off Tamaki Drive. All welcome, so bring along some friends. A \$2 door charge covers your supper and helps with a gift for our guest. Need more info? Contact **Ian and Allison Calhaem** 579- 0512

## Club Committee Meeting

The next Auckland Canoe Club Committee Meeting will be held at the Marine Rescue Centre at 7:30pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2005. These meetings are open to all interested club members, but in particular members are encouraged to let a committee member know of any item of business that they would like discussed. (contact [IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz](mailto:IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz) or secretary [Rosie.thom@shieffangland.co.nz](mailto:Rosie.thom@shieffangland.co.nz) )

## MERC Winter Lectures

The programme for the MERC Winter Lectures at Long Bay is now out. While many lectures may be of interest to sea kayakers, perhaps the notable one, featuring sea kayaking and mountaineering near the bottom of South America, is on 17 June, 7.30pm - '**Oceans of Fury - Mountains of Wrath. Sea Kayaking & Mountaineering. The 2003 Expedition to the Darwin Cordillera**' by Mark Jones. Adults \$6.

## Tree Planting Bay of Islands

Tree planters are wanted on 11 June for Motukawanui Island (big Cavalli Island) and on 25 June for Waiwaitoria Island (next to Urapukapuka Island). Both trips are weather dependent.

If the weather is good ask Rod to give you the DoC Kerikeri phone number and book the 12 bunk hut on Motukawanui. The planting is in the adjacent bay.

The departure point for Waiwaitoria Island is near Rawhiti so the motor camp is an ideal place to stay. If you can make it contact Rod Brown in Kerikeri on (09) 407-4292 or email [summerhouse@xtra.co.nz](mailto:summerhouse@xtra.co.nz)

**Vincent Maire**

## Looking ahead to the big New Year Club expedition!

### January 2006

**Vincent Maire** is already thinking about the January 2006 club expedition. At this stage the plan is to explore the mighty Kaipara Harbour. There are good tides during the first week of the year so current thinking is to start on 1 January and kayak from near Batley across to Poutu where we will stay for two nights. After that it will be north to Kellys Beach for a night, then east to Tinopai for a night and after that up to Pahi for the last night. Other options (including non-Kaipara) considered. If anyone has a favourite spot on this harbour please let Vincent know at [Vincent.Maire@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Vincent.Maire@xtra.co.nz)

## President's State of the Club address

### Club Merchandise

**Winter is approaching! Need an extra polyprop top?**

**How about one  
of our navy blue, polyprop tops with club logo on each  
sleeve, at the  
"special" price of \$30?  
All sizes in stock.**

**We still have a very limited stock of  
Jubilee Polar Vests for \$25,  
Suit only the smallest paddlers.....**

**But don't feel left out!  
We also have a range of Auckland Canoe Club T-  
shirts to fit all, for only  
\$20 each.**

**Contact Alison Calhaem 579 0512 to arrange your  
order.**



Dear All,

The Auckland Canoe Club is now poised to move forward into the next 50 years. Those of you with a numerical bent will have realized that the AGM this month was the 50<sup>th</sup> Club AGM and as such marked the formal end of the Club Jubilee.

The members elected a number of new faces to the Executive Committee and some of the old ones have accepted new roles. We are all here to guide the Club forward ensuring that it provides the activities and support that you require. However, to do so we in turn require your support and encouragement.

The members of the Auckland Canoe Club collectively hold a tremendous wealth of knowledge about anything to do with kayaking. Please let the Committee know how we can support you to share some of that knowledge with our newer and younger members.

It is all too easy for an experienced kayaker to say to the novice "jump in the kayak and I will show you how to paddle". But the poor novice is thinking "How do I get into the kayak without falling in?" Actual paddling is far from their minds!

I openly admit that I have a lot to learn and I am continually learning from other Club members. I have only been kayaking for 46 years, a mere beginner compared to some of our members. I can share some of my experiences but I am eager to learn from others.

We are fortunate to have our publicity officer, Roger Lomas, to organize the Winter Lectures. These will be starting again this month (see the details elsewhere in this newsletter). If any members have experiences to share please let one of the committee members know.

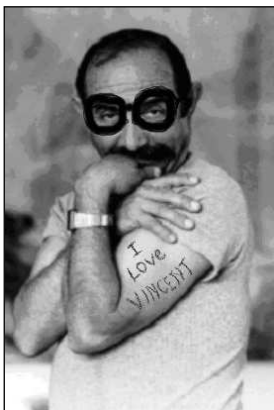
Remember, the winter months often provide the best weather for kayaking - calm seas, predictable winds, and let's face it, Auckland never really gets very cold even in winter.

If paddling at night, then you **MUST** carry a light on each kayak and have it handy to use when needed. It is no good stored in a hatch!

Happy paddling,

**Ian Calhaem**

## URGU doesn't speak...



**URGU is** on holiday this month. He emailed this photo of himself in some dingy nightclub in western France....

## Poet's Corner

The Noises to Great Barrier  
A grey and cloudy morn  
One trusty wooden Sea Bear  
Had been in many a storm.  
Her skipper Master Quilter  
Oft scorned the stick and rag  
That people stuck on kayaks  
'Just too many snags'.

'I'll use a sail when one is made  
That goes into the wind  
Until then I'll stick to blades  
I've spoke, and that's the end.'

'But then - perhaps' - thought Colin  
So out with pad and pen  
'I'll design the perfect foil  
For there and back again'.  
He did it all in secret  
Just in case it failed  
But after trial and error  
He seemed to have it nailed.

Setting off towards the sun  
No albatross he saw  
This not so ancient mariner  
Sailed for the distant shore.  
He ended up just as he hoped  
In Port Tryphena fair  
The swells, the troughs, the surfing  
Maybe a few raised hairs.

In local kayak annals  
This must surely be a first  
Confirming what we've always known  
'The win to they who durst.'  
Another observation  
Before the final curtain  
Of all the mysteries in this world  
Only change is certain.

My fleecy hat is risen  
To this remarkable event  
I'd call it bloody brilliant  
This verse a compliment.

**Mike Randall**

## Auckland Canoe Club - information

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

**Clubrooms:**  
Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

**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:

<b>Patron:</b>	<b>George Gerrard</b>	<b>2692042</b>
<b>President:</b>	<b>Ian Calhaem</b>	<b>579 0512</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Brian Strid</b>	<b>09 238 8084</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Rosie Thom</b>	<b>3768636</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Gerrard Fagan</b>	<b>8329720</b>
<b>Trips:</b>	<b>Philip Noble</b>	<b>575 3493</b>
<b>Publicity:</b>	<b>Roger Lomas</b>	<b>579 8799</b>
<b>Safety/ Training:</b>	<b>Mike Randall</b>	<b>5281377</b>
<b>Storage/ Club Kayaks:</b>	<b>Gavan Baker</b>	<b>5285188</b>
<b>Assist:</b>	<b>Roger Lomas</b>	<b>579 8799</b>
<b>Vine House:</b>	<b>Trevor Arthur</b>	<b>8177357</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Lindsay Sandes</b>	<b>522 3344</b>
	<b>David Ward</b>	<b>4453639</b>
<b>Newsletter:</b>	<b>Kerry Howe</b>	

[krmhowe@xtra.co.nz](mailto:krmhowe@xtra.co.nz)

### Club trip/event policies

Visit the Club website for details of Safety and other important 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.

To:

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

**Pic of the month**



Kids can do anything: Robert in command, Te Muri  
(photo - K. Dunsford)