

Newsletter



July 2005

Highlights in this stunning issue

Mega-Feature - Colin Quilter's Sailing and Sinking

- Learn to sail into oblivion
- Learn to roll till you get giddy

Plus:

Trip reports galore
Upcoming events galore
Sea kayak winter reading
Winter Lecture
Ebb and Flow

And much more too!

Editorial

The days are certainly short now! I went for a (secret!) island solo mid-week overnigher and spent 12 dark hours in the sleeping bag. There was nobody there - marvelous! The bird life was prolific. My foray coincided with those massive 5 metre swells that recently hit the north east coast of the North Island. Even in the sheltered Hauraki Gulf I saw surf where I had never seen it before. The Gulf truly is an adventure playground and all year round Paradise. Enjoy!

This month's **MEGA-FEATURE** is by **Colin Quilter**. Ever since his account in the Newsletter of his direct one day sail to Great Barrier Island there has been a demand to know what his sailing rig was like. Now he reveals all. It looks a fearsome device. Use with caution! His detailed sail plan forms the first section of his **MEGA-FEATURE**. His second featured piece is a superb lesson in rolling. You can even practice on the lounge carpet. For those who haven't really attempted serious rolling practice in years, now is your big chance, without getting wet.

There's a lot of trip activity going on. This issue has reports of recent theme trips (curry, and poetry) to the bach at Rangitoto, as well as some Manukau meanderings. There is also an account of a summer trip from Greenhithe in the upper Waitemata Harbour to Opito Bay on the northeastern Coromandel, by Joe Scott-Woods. His traveling companion was Colin Moore who edits the *Wilderness* magazine.

There are lots of upcoming club activities during the dog months of winter. Get out there and join in!

This month the Newsletter also features suggestions for winter reading. Some club members offer of selection of their favourite sea kayak expedition accounts. Read and be inspired!

As ever, **Roger Lomas** has his finger on the club pulse. He Ebbs and Flows more effectively than the Waitemata Harbour.

And the excitement will continue - next month's **MEGA-FEATURE** is all about using GPS for sea kayaking - tips for nerdy gear freaks and electronic toy lovers! Yes, former Club President **Matt Crozier** returns in the guise of an IT guru. Charge up your nickel metal hydrides....

Kerry Howe

Guest editorial - Colin Quilter

Twenty years ago I was a retired sailor, washed up in the suburbs without a yacht. I built my first kayak, a plywood Sea Bear, not because I wanted to go paddling but because I liked working with my hands and a kayak was a boat small enough to construct in little time and for not much money. I figured that once afloat if I didn't like it, I could just sell it and build something else.

There were few sea kayaks in those days. I had never seen one on the harbour. I paddled for months alone before I met another kayaker in the Rangitoto Channel. Through him I made contact with a small group of diehards in the Hauraki Kayak Group. They had the experience I lacked, and I learned a lot by following them around the inner Gulf.

Those day trips were fine. They were fun, but they didn't fully engage me. I was attracted but not committed. That happened when, in my second summer of paddling, I organised a week-long trip along the coast. By "organised" I mean I invited five people who were much more experienced than I was, on the grounds that if I got myself into serious trouble they would probably get me out of it. The journey convinced me that a week spent travelling along the coast is more valuable than any number of 'paddling skills' courses or day trips closer to home. I opened my senses to wind and waves and weather, I learned to trust my own judgement, and I discovered that most bad situations can be got out of with some common sense and persistence.

If you haven't taken a long kayak trip, then resolve to do it - soon. You'll end up bone-tired, 5kg lighter, sunburned, more confident and vastly happier than when you set out, and you will restore a mental equilibrium that is hard to find in the rush of daily life. There is almost no sadness afflicting humans that isn't mended by a week of paddling and eating and laughing and sleeping and paddling some more. I can't figure out why people don't take the cure more often. Go on, find your diary, choose a week next summer and write it in now. With ink, not pencil. What have you got to lose?

You are probably wondering (as is the Editor) what all this has to do with the articles on sailing and self-rescue which follow. I'm not sure that I know. When you paddle too long in the sun without a hat your brain gets overheated, and ideas just tumble out in a tangle. Then when the long-suffering editor asks for articles on a particular theme, he gets well, sail plans and Eskimo rolling. What can he do with them? How can they be linked? What's the theme? Let's try: **Sailing and sinking!**

Sailing and sinking

Sailing: Colin's rig

In the May Newsletter, I gave an account of a two-day trip to Great Barrier Island by sail and paddle. This article describes my kayak sail and its handling. Before I begin, you should know the good and bad points of this particular sail.

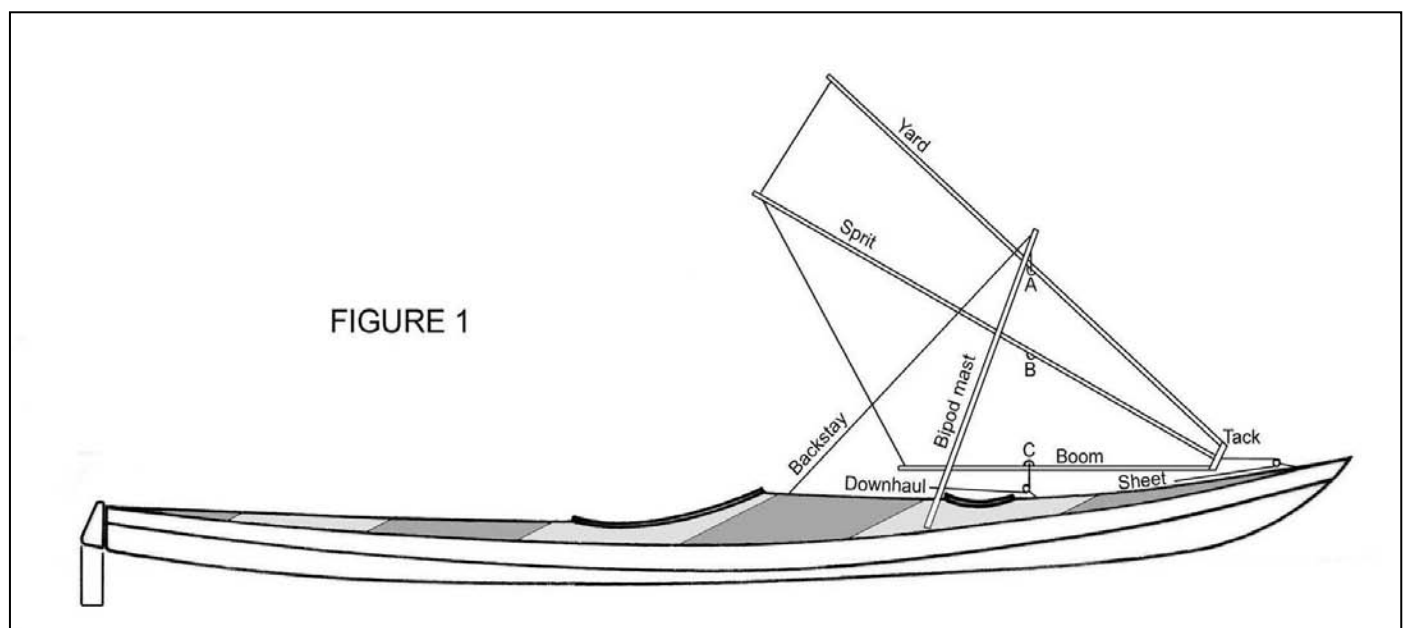
The good:

- It works over an arc of 180 degrees relative to the wind, i.e. from a beam reach on one tack to a beam reach on the other.
- It works in as little as 5 knots of wind (reaching), and I haven't yet discovered its heavy wind limit, (maybe 25 knots when reefed).
- It pulls like a mule. It doesn't heel the boat much. It works well running downwind because the sail is held out by spars, (unlike modern triangular jibs and genoas which perform poorly on that course).
- It is easily reefed.
- It doesn't interfere with paddling.
- It stows neatly on the foredeck of the kayak.
- It cost me about \$130 for materials.

The bad:

- It is big and scary (see Figure 3). Despite my best efforts to simplify it, it is complicated. It violates the KISS principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid!).
- It takes about 5 minutes to hoist or stow.
- It cannot be tacked or gybed; (you have to lower the sail, turn the boat downwind, and re-hoist the sail on the other tack).
- It blocks forward vision.
- It is sensitive to trim and sheeting and needs careful handling; if you don't know anything about sailing then you will need to know something about swimming.
- You can't sail in company with other kayakers because you have little control over your speed. The group will split. This sail is best suited to long solo trips.
- My kayak is a Sea Bear which has generous beam and stability. If you are tempted to try this sail on a fast, narrow, light boat like an Albatross or X-factor, then please let me know and I'll come along to watch the fun.
- Finally, and perhaps most importantly: this sail will pull you into trouble very, very quickly. You can be 20km offshore after just 2 hours sailing. What happens when a front comes through or the wind changes direction? The sail tempts you to **sail into** a situation you can't **paddle out of**.

If that hasn't put you off, here are the details:



Sailplan

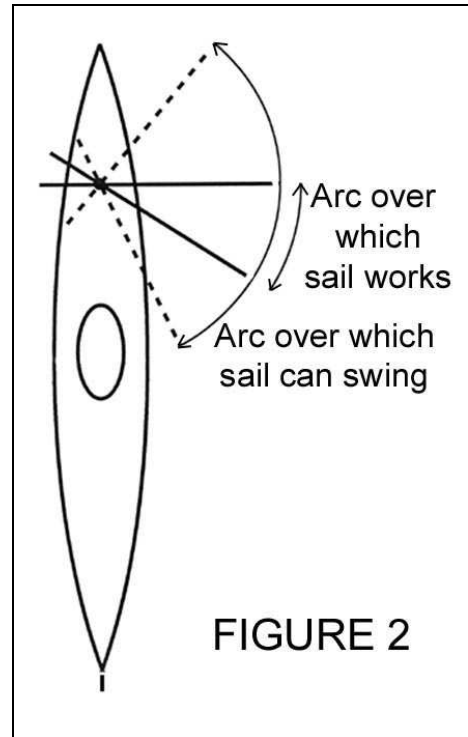
The sail is shown in Figure 1. It is based on a design by the Australian paddler Andrew Eddy, (www.nswseakayaker.asn.au/mag/44/sailrigs.html).

However his sail is about half the size of this one, is hoisted on a conventional mast, and is sheeted differently. The sail is a lateen, related to the ones used for centuries on Arab dhows. The sail hangs from a yard, and has a boom attached to its foot. The boom is shortened to avoid interfering with the paddle. One corner of the sail is held out by a middle spar which I'll call a sprit. The three spars are held together at the apex (tack) of the sail. The spars pivot at the tack; they all fold together like a fan to furl and stow the sail. The yard hangs from the mast at point A, and the boom is pulled downwards by a downhaul attached at point C. The sail is stretched flat between them. The downhaul runs through an eye on the deck, then back to a cleat near the cockpit. The sail rotates around the axis A-C, (not around the mast as a normal sail does). Figure 2 shows the arc over which the sail swings when the wind is from the left (port) side.

In a normal sail the angle of the sail to the wind would be controlled by a rope (sheet) attached to the rear end of the boom and running to a cleat or to the sailor's hand. However a sheet of that type would foul the paddle. This sail is controlled by a sheet which is attached instead to the tack of the sail. It runs forward to a pulley (block) at the bow, then back along the deck to a cleat near the cockpit. The sheet is also used to fasten the front end of the sail down to the bow when it's rolled up and stowed.

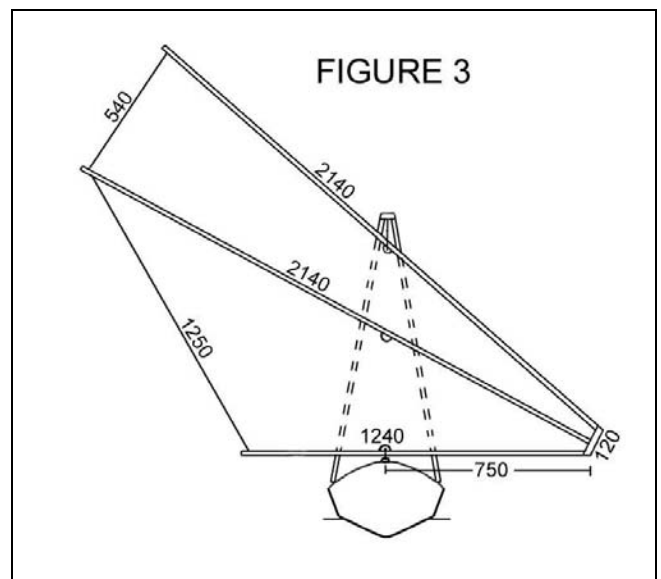
Reefing the sail (reducing its area in strong winds) is simple. The yard is unhooked from the masthead, and the sail is hung from the sprit (at point B). The yard then folds down and lies on top of the sprit, so the top panel of the sail falls into folds and becomes inactive. The folds lie quietly, they don't need to be laced up or tied in any way. The mast is a bipod, with two legs. The legs pivot where they are attached to the edges of the deck.

The mast folds forwards to stow lying on the deck. It also folds backwards so the paddler can reach the masthead to attach or detach the sail. When sailing it is raked forward as shown, restrained against the pull of the downhaul by a backstay which is looped over a cleat near the cockpit. In an emergency a one-handed backward pull on the backstay loop will jerk it off the cleat, and the mast and sail will collapse onto the foredeck.



In Figure 1 the sail is shown lying on the fore and aft plane of the kayak. In reality it can never sit like that, because it does not pass between the two legs of the bipod mast. It always sits more or less *across* the kayak, in front of the mast, as in Figures 2 and 3.

Dimensions



Dimensions (mm) are shown on Figure 3. They refer to the sail itself including the pockets which hold all three spars, (thus the spars will be slightly longer than the sail dimensions shown). It is important that the yard and sprit (which are the same length) are no longer than the distance from the front edge of the cockpit to the bow of the kayak, otherwise they will overhang the bow when the sail is stowed on deck. The only other important dimension is the position of the axis of rotation A - C, (I determined it by making a model sail out of paper and barbecue sticks). It runs at right angles to the boom, 750mm from the tack. If the axis of rotation is too close to the tack the sheet will carry a heavier load; if it is too far from the tack the sail will not weathercock into the wind and will become unmanageable.

The full sail area is 1.34 square metres; the reefed area is 0.72 square metres. The sail is made from spinnaker cloth. All spars and the masts are from 25mm thin-walled aluminium tube.

Handling the sail

When stowed, the mast lies folded forward on the foredeck with the folded sail (in a sleeve-like sail cover) lying on top of it. Hoisting the sail takes about 5 minutes. The kayak is left to drift beam-on to the wind with rudder raised. The mast is hinged back towards the cockpit to attach the sail, then both are pulled up into the working position using the downhaul. With the sheet eased the sail weathercocks into the wind. It will hang quietly there even in a strong wind. Lower the rudder, pull the sheet in, and you're off!

Sinking: Colin's guide to Eskimo rolling in your living room

In February after the Rangitoto - St Heliers swim it was good to see Mike and Jim practising self-rescue just offshore, and among those of us on the beach consuming cold soft drink and melted chocolate biscuits the talk turned to Eskimo rolls and how to acquire them. I had something to contribute on that topic because I had taught myself to Eskimo roll while seated on my living room floor, and I know a little about how the brain instructs muscles to produce complex movements such as an Eskimo roll. This article follows on from that discussion.

Failed first attempts

Many years ago I attended a rolling class in a swimming pool. With help from the instructor I rolled successfully a few times, and went home confident

that the problem was solved. A month later, in a practice session in the harbour, everything went wrong and I failed repeatedly. I realised then that my success in the pool had been based on brute strength overcoming poor technique. In the harbour, upside-down, disoriented, eyes shut, air running low, and sinuses filling with salt water, my brain was too confused to generate the correct sequence of movements. I am recounting this because it may be that others have had a similar experience.

How the brain controls complex movements

The breakthrough for me occurred some years later when I learned more about how the human brain generates instructions to muscles for complex movement sequences such as an Eskimo roll. The decision to roll is generated in the cerebral cortex, the thin crust of grey matter which forms the outer surface of the hemispheres. But a number of other brain centres are involved in generating the detailed sequence of motor commands which instruct the muscles. These centres, which I will call "skilled movement centres" include supplementary motor areas of the cortex, the basal ganglia and the cerebellum. Taken together, they contain a databank of movement sequences, one sequence for every skilled movement you have learned in your lifetime. For example you

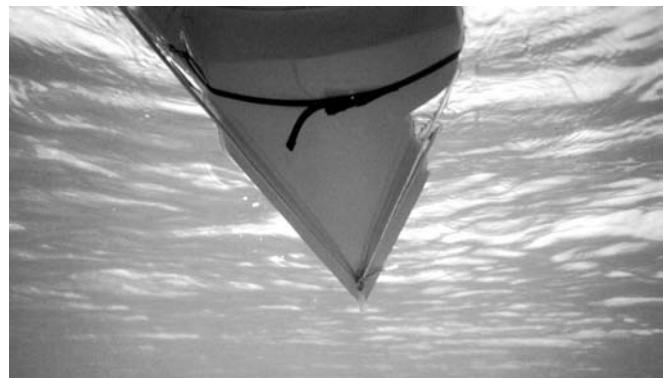


Figure 1. Inverted in the clear waters of the Moko Hinau Islands

don't have to think consciously about the exact sequence of muscle contractions necessary to open a door, swing a tennis racket, or shake hands. You just think "open the door" and the skilled movement centres automatically generate a complex program of instructions which will extend your arm, grip the door knob, rotate it, and pull the door open. Our goal is to add "Eskimo roll" to the skilled movement centres' databank.

How do the centres learn these programs? By repetition of the movement sequence over and over again. You practise it thirty or fifty or a hundred times, and the program gets implanted. (Think about how you learn to play a musical instrument). You cannot implant the program just by thinking about it. You must move your limbs deliberately in the correct sequence, over

and over again. Then once the program is learned by the skilled movement centres, even if you are disoriented, confused, or short of air they will output the correct sequence of instructions.

Learning to roll on the living room floor

Now I knew why my lesson in the swimming pool had failed: not enough repetition to implant the sequence in my skilled movement centres. I knew exactly what I had to do. From the city library I borrowed Derek Hutchinson's book about how to Eskimo roll. I chose the simplest and most powerful roll, the Pawlata. I broke it down into four separate movements, which I named "Reach", "Sweep", "Lean back", and "Pull." I took half of a split paddle and I sat on the living room floor with my eyes closed, pretending that I was upside-down in the cockpit of my kayak. Then I repeated the sequence of movements over and over again, chanting "Reach, Sweep, Lean back, Pull". (It's best to use half a split paddle because if you swing a whole paddle you will take out the living room lights). Then I put some music on and did the sequence some more. Then I did mental arithmetic (the seven-times table backwards) while doing it some more. Soon I could think about why the sky is coloured blue or how mass is related to the speed of light and still perform the sequence. I reckoned my skilled movement centres had memorized it.

The next weekend, upside-down 100 metres off Bastion Point, I put my learning to the test. Reach, Sweep, Lean back, Pull - and to my surprise and delight I was upright. In fact I came up so fast that I nearly overshot and capsized the other way. The final training came on a club trip to the Moko Hinau Islands. Knowing the islands' reputation for underwater scenery I took a face mask, wore my wetsuit, and spent the day repeatedly rolling to look, and take photographs, underwater. I must have rolled fifty times during the day. I tried to see how little effort I could use and still come upright. By afternoon I felt completely relaxed. I could stay inverted until I was almost out of breath because I knew the roll would always work.



Figure 2. Photographed at the Moko Hinau Islands while hanging upside down in my kayak; a big kingfish cruises past.

The Pawlata Roll

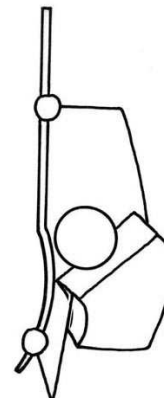
This is the version I learned. It's not a textbook account, but it works for me. The description in normal font is a living room tutorial; italics relate to a real roll at sea. The notes are for a right-handed paddler who will rotate the kayak to the left, (left-handers should reverse all instructions). The cartoons show a bird's eye view of the paddler sitting on the floor, (legs omitted for clarity).

Step 1: the set-up

Sit on the floor with the half-paddle across your lap, blade to the left. Imagine you are hanging upside down beneath your inverted kayak.

At sea you will have to brace your knees against the underside of the deck to stay in the boat. You might need to glue closed-cell foam pads there to lock your knees in place. A roll is impossible without good knee braces.

Step 2: Reach

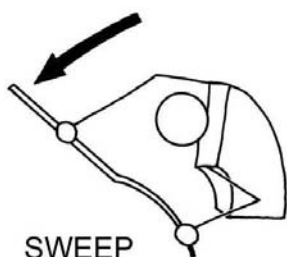


REACH

Swing the paddle blade around so it sits against your left hip, edge upwards, convex surface against your leg. Your left hand is cupped around the lower edge of the blade near its tip, knuckles on the carpet. The shaft runs parallel to the floor and alongside your left leg. Your right hand grips the shaft some distance (perhaps 20cm) from the blade. To do this you will need to twist your torso to the left and bend forward. You are looking at the floor alongside your left knee.

The aim here is to "reach" for the surface of the water with the distant paddle blade. You want to push the distant blade up onto the surface of the water so that it rests there with concave surface facing downwards. You can slap it a few times on the surface to feel that it's in the right place. The shaft will be lying on the surface along the left side of the kayak. You will be twisted to the left, face looking upwards towards the water surface. Your left hand is above the surface, gripping the top edge of the near blade beside the canoe.

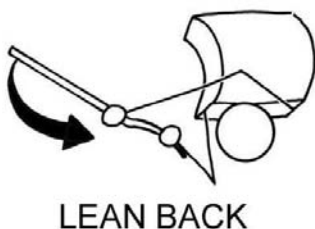
Step 3: Sweep



Keep your left hand and the blade more or less where it is. Using your right hand, sweep the shaft outwards, away from your leg, keeping it as close to the carpet as you can. This feels very unnatural. You have to bend and twist your torso even more. Go on, it's good for you. As you sweep further you won't be able to bend your torso enough, and the shaft will start to rise up from the carpet. Let it come. Now the shaft is sticking out at right angles to your legs, and the end of the blade is digging into your hip. Your right shoulder is touching your chin.

As you sweep, the distant blade slides across the surface, away from the side of the kayak, then starts to slice obliquely down into the water.

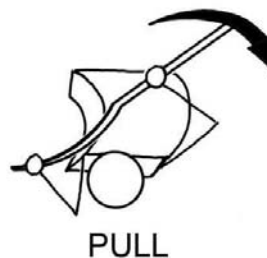
Step 4: Lean back



This is the hardest bit to remember, and also the most important. Lean back. Imagine the canoe backrest pressing into your back. Lean back further. You are looking at the ceiling. Notice that your right hand is lifting higher above the floor, bringing the paddle shaft with it.

The distant blade is travelling deeper below the surface, and the kayak is starting to rotate to the left.

Step 5: Pull



This is easy, just pull the shaft across in front of your face with your right hand. As it comes across your left hand will start to rise up off the carpet alongside your left hip. Let it come. Now your right hand is moving towards your right hip, and the shaft is lying across your lap. The end.

The kayak is rotating faster as the blade drags deeper. Your torso rotates up into the air. Your head is tilted backwards; you are looking at the sky. Five seconds have elapsed since you capsized. It sure beats stuffing around with a paddle float!

Some additional points

- When practising at sea use a face mask or nose clip. Otherwise when you are inverted air will escape from your facial sinuses via your nostrils, and the sinuses fill with sea water. Hours later about half a cupful of sea water will pour out of your nose when you least expect it. This happened to me once at St Lukes Shopping Centre; it was embarrassing.
- After a capsize, don't hurry. The roll is going to work. Take your time to move the paddle into the starting position. Relax. Haste destroys a good roll. (This is not true for white-water paddlers in a rapid who must roll quickly, from either side, and without changing their grip on the paddle. They need more advanced skills than sea kayakers).
- The account I have given here is as simple as I can make it. Elements such as the "hip flick" and lifting one knee to speed rotation of the kayak are omitted. Depending on your style, you may find them important. The instructions above are the bare minimum to get you upright, and you can add your own refinements later. Good luck!

Trip reports

Curry and spice, shared with all people nice

Sandra Toppin

Saturday 14 May, a dozen or so paddlers assembled at Okahu Bay, despite the weather forecast. The paddling was leisurely, the wind and rain stayed away and Rangitoto's shelter was transformed to both sleepout and busy kitchen, not to mention the lounge bar. The curries were delicious, even if too mild for some. They were varied and plentiful from India, Thailand, Indonesia and even Japan! The judging was tough, and with the absence of a truly hot curry, we had to agree on our overall favourite. The prize went to Judith for her Indonesian chicken curry. The wine and conversation flowed under a starlit sky.

In the morning while other paddlers and rowers arrived, some walked or ran to the top, others slept in or had curry for breakfast. In all our own ways we enjoyed a fine morning on a fine island before returning to Okahu Bay before the rain and wind arrived.

Thanks to all participants for creating such divine curries and thanks to Morgan for organising a fabulous trip.

Poetry Weekend on Rangitoto, 28 May

Mike Randall

We wondered, only as a crowd
Of paddlers can that float on by,
What lay in store on Rangi Isle
Whereon we seven blokes
(No chicks showed up to our chagrin)
Took up the call of Morgan
To gather for a while
And speak our verse.

Banjo P and Dylan T
Whose works we heard that night
Kept company with Dennis G
Plus poet Ryan (off site)
Bushman Pete declaimed his rhymes
Of pig hunting and campfire bliss
While Colin's memory served him fair
Reciting many a poem
Dredged up from yore.

Ken up and spoke of good Pam Ayres
With corker style and eloquence
Trev Brian and Morgan added their
Most bonzer stuff
That made it such a grouse weekend
And on that note, enough.

Meanders on the Manukau

Colin Quilter

Ten years ago I'd never floated on the Manukau Harbour. Now it's one of my favourite places. Here are two recent club trips to explain why.

On 20 March about 17 of us turned up at Cornwallis Wharf for a paddle out to the Heads. For this trip I always choose a day when low tide occurs at noon; that way we have the ebb tide to assist us on the outward trip, and the flood tide pushing us home. With 2 or 3 knots of tide in our favour, it's an easy paddle. Off the tip of the Cornwallis Peninsula we usually follow a ribbon of rough water where the fast-moving current runs against the wind, but today it was glassy calm. We chatted and paddled at a gentle pace, while the landmarks on shore passed swiftly by.



Scramble up South Head
(photo- Crozier)

Although I've never wanted to run this trip in windy SW weather I think it would actually be okay, because one crosses the harbour and soon gains the shelter of the hills on the southern shore. From there we followed the shoreline to a little sandy cove beneath South Head. It's here that those who haven't done this trip before begin to wonder whether they've joined a canoe club, or a tramping club.

Fifteen minutes of puffing up the steep hillside brought us to a grassy shelf where we stopped for lunch. The view across the channel to Whatipu was superb. I wanted to stay longer, but there's always someone who is impatient to climb the hill. Usually it's Rona; today it was Ann Giles who pushed us onto our feet again and up to the summit. As we crossed the fields to the southwest the view across the harbour entrance and the bar opened further; it's hard to avoid the cowpats if your eyes are on the horizon. The steep descent back to the shoreline was fun, as always. Rona's Leap was leapt with varying degrees of elegance, in a cloud of dust and sand kicked up by our passing.



Drift wood at South Head?
(photo - Quilter)

Then it was back to the boats and across the channel to Whatipu. We landed without major incident at Wongawonga Bay. Although this little beach looks sheltered, the surge can be deceptive. Many paddlers have taken an involuntary swim there over the years. From the beach it looked a long way back to Cornwallis, but with the flood tide behind us the return trip passed quickly; another great day at the Heads.

On 11 June eight of us met an hour before high water on the beach at the foot of Goodall St in Hillsborough. This is a good spot to start a trip in the inner harbour. The day was overcast and hazy, but absolutely windless. We crossed the channel to the south coast near Ambury Park, then paddled southwest towards the tip of Puketutu Island. There's a minor channel which skirts the Ambury shoreline and although I had warned the others that we would probably be bumping the bottom with our paddles over much of this section, in fact we found the channel by accident and had plenty of water on both the outward and return trips. The little shelly beach on Puketutu was a pleasant stop, as always. It faces north and is sheltered from the wind, so it's a nice destination on cold days. After lunch it was back into the boats, and an easy return to

Hillsborough, meeting our second ship of the day in the channel. Could one wish for a more pleasant trip, close to home, in the middle of winter?

Greenhithe to Opito Bay 14-19 January 2005

Joe Scott-Woods

It was an emotional moment rounding Tokarahu Point and entering Opito Bay. The sun hot on our right cheeks as Colin Moore and I tried to see if there was a welcoming party on the beach. Eight and a half hours paddling from near the tip of Coromandel Peninsula was enough for me and more than enough from Colin. 'I need some red meat (after pasta nights), a cold beer and a glass of red wine', Colin told Pat on the phone when we launched at Whangapoua beach that last day.

At midday on the previous Saturday Colin and I floated our laden kayaks at full tide off Greenhithe beach. The ebb favoured us down harbour. Bungy jumpers under the harbour bridge gave me a focal point, then Devonport wharf. The small sandy beach was a welcome comfort stop amid children playing under the shower and in the waves. Eager to reach Home Bay on Motutapu we concentrated our tiring arms through a sloppy sea, passed Drunks bay and Emu Point to the familiar camp behind a rusting boiler on the stony beach.

A welcome surprise. Two ladies ran down to help carry our heavy kayaks to the grassy site. 'They're very heavy', I warned them. Easy done with many hands. Their brothers had loaned them kayaks for this their first wee expedition.

Just fly sheets for our shelter. A cooling breeze, a satisfying meal well prepared by Colin, a warm cuppa while watching the yachts at anchor before easily sleeping.

Fine and sunny Sunday. Eastward ho to the far end of Waiheke Island we go. The Motuihe Channel was noisily busy with launches and yachts heading back to moorings at the end of their holiday. At Piemellon Bay we beached and sought shade to eat tinned salmon, bread roll, cheese, dates, kiwifruit and an apple. Best of all was the cuppa brewed on Colin's thermette.

Not far from Gannett Rock off the north eastern corner of Waiheke we spied a small rocky cove suitable for a stopover. Private land but there was no caretaker to approach for permission to stay. Our bed was spongy grass by the high tide mark. Our roof was a star studded sky with satellites slowly crossing it.

An early exit, aiming NE by compass across the Firth of Thames on a mirror calm sea. Peaceful. A splash disturbed my day dreaming. It was a mutton bird come to say hello. Fleets of gannets skimmed the surface as they searched for schools of small fish. Paddle dipping like a metronome hour after hour until the 'illusiv islands' (Colin's words) were reached. Here Colin hooked and landed a kahawai for the night's meal. The water was alive with fish chasing fish and birds diving. A shingle beach joining two islands was welcome after the long warm slog. A brew up in the shade of volcanic rock and a mixture of tasty tucker revived us. Two men were tending a mussel farm in the lee of the island, attaching the small mussels enmeshed in a long stocking to a rope and lowering it into the water between buoys. The mesh keeps marine growth off the shells as they grow.

High water enabled us to kayak up a busy creek next to Papaaroha campsite. We beached by the camp store while children swam and swung from a rope suspended over the water. A tap on the shoulder from a canoe club pal, Roger Lomas, was a surprise. He was in camp. We had a lot to talk about. Our open fly sheet was a novelty among the lavish family tents. Colin did a good job with the fish, and rice, plus a shared bottle of wine. I happily washed the dishes and served coffee. This routine of Colin (evening meal), me (coffees am and pm plus cleaning dishes) worked agreeably.



a nasty sou'westerly
(photo - Scott-Woods)

Tuesday's launch was late due to Colin's date with his publisher. He filed a monthly leader article for *Wilderness* over the phone while sitting outside an empty caravan away from distractions. The sky was grey. Wind 20 knots from SW. Into the Firth and head northwards with a tide unfavourable. Aiming for Fantail Bay our progress was frustratingly slow. A sheltered nook up a stream behind rocks gave us a lengthy breather while we hoped for calmer conditions. Wind and seas increased! I lost a water bottle from the deck while re-launching. Water seeped through my spray skirt as waves washed over the semi-submerged kayak. Kept out from surf close to the shore. Wind

pushing us, one to two metre white crests bearing down. I glanced to my left where Colin rode a wave and leaned into it to break. Over he tipped into the foaming sea. Acting swiftly Colin righted his craft preventing his camera being water damaged. Nuts and raisins swilling about in the cockpit clogged his stirrup pump. Re-entering the kayak was out of the question. We were some 50 metres from a boulder beach.

'Grab my stern and I'll pull you closer,' I shouted. This was painful for Colin's shoulders and arms. 'You look after yourself, Joe.' 'I'm OK,' I said, 'I'll get you to shore.' Colin feared the worst as he struggled to haul his heavy craft over the slippery stones. The Kevlar kayak proved 'tuff'. A relief to assess the damage. Some cuts to Colin's body and a few chips to the hull. I beached where the stones were smaller then helped an aching and shaken man to carry his kayak to a grassy bank where we could dry out, calm down and talk through the incident. Nestled on spongy grass with a warm wind onshore we sheltered as best we could. Colin's kayak turned on its side made a good break. I pulled the hood of my sleeping bag overhead. Quite cosy.



bed of stones
(photo - Scott-Woods)

Wind easing, bright and sunny, but the sea will command respect today. It was a favourable current towards Cape Colville. Carefully placing each paddle stroke while listening for breaking waves behind us. Ready to steady the kayak as it was lifted and thrust forward or sideways. Kept our distance from the headlands to avoid fierce downdrafts. Skipped passed Port Jackson, surfing at times. The relief to relax our taught muscles coming into Fletcher Bay was huge. We headed for the shade to stretch out. Plenty of fresh water, a nourishing lunch, an inspection of the new DoC eco loos - very flash - five litres of water each for overnight stowed aboard.

We sneaked through a gap of turbulent sea where the currents collide. Under towering cliffs. In the hazy distance is Great Barrier Island. Southward bound by

spectacular pinnacles, Sugar Loaf Rock, Poley Bay, Shag Bay, Stony Bay, and Port Charles. Dramatic scenery. Sun's getting lower. Rauporoa Bay looked the best bet for the night. More rounded stones and trick exiting to avoid more damage when the body is stiff from sitting. A large brown billy goat stood atop a rock looking at the unwelcome visitors. He and his harem left us to dine in peace. Native bush all along this part of the coast.

Colin bedded down amongst tall grasses. I elected to smooth out an area of stones to the shape of hips and shoulders. Ground sheet and thermarest mattress made the bed just perfect. Colin was amused. I slept soundly to be awoken by tui and bellbirds trying to out sing each other.

Check the map. Aim for Whangapoua and review how we feel. Whether to put in another night outdoors, or head for family, friends, and a roast meal? Ideal kayaking weather. Wind 10 knots from NE, pleasant one metre swell, some could. Passed little Bay, Kennedy Bay, and deserted coves. No dolphins to lift our spirits. Spied large caves that sons Ian, Brendan and I explored a few years ago.

Whangapoua Beach at last, after passing close to the famous blow hole in an ancient volcanic plug. After 2pm. Hot and in need of nourishment. Better after a brew and fresh water. Too early to seek shelter nearby, we elect to head for Opito.



Whangapoua
(photo - Scott-Woods)

Lose another bottle in the surf, a camel back water bladder has to be the answer. I make a mental note for the next outing. Matarangi sandspit on our right takes ages to pass by. It's 4.5kilometres long. Rings Beach and the familiar old gold mining village of Kuaotunu.

A kilometre offshore we moved through a burgundy coloured barrier of algal bloom. From the cliffs of the Black Jack scenic reserve a herd of goats watched our slow progress eastward. Yes, we were tired, the tide and breeze in our face unhelpful. Certainly not the

time and place for me to be a cheerful companion, I found out. I kept my distance while crossing Otama Bay until finally rounding Tokarahu point where we closed the gap to enter Opito Bay together. Familiar faces helped us out of our cockpits after eight and a half hours. Quite a glow inside from achieving our goal. Perhaps we can kayak to Colin's bach at Taupo Bay next summer?

Thanks to welcoming party of Rachael (beer in hand), Pat ('dinner's ready'), Ian (for washing our gear), and neighbours Hector and Anne Smith (for their praise).

Sea kayak expedition books

If you can't get out there and do it, due to 30 knot winds, short days, and general winter blues, you can still get vicarious pleasure reading about others doing it. Some time ago I sent out a request to a number of club members asking them to list their favourite sea kayak expedition books. Here are the replies I have received so far:

Brian Strid

Chris Duff, *On Celtic Tides. One Man's Journey Round Ireland by Sea Kayak*. It is such beautiful mix of descriptions of terrifying paddling conditions, his own personal philosophies and a voyage through the histories on the Irish shore as he paddled around Ireland. His *Southern Exposure. A Solo Sea Kayaking Journey Around New Zealand's South Island* is not as enjoyable as his Irish book.

Victoria Jason, *Kabloona in the Yellow Kayak. One Woman's Journey Through the Northwest Passage* is another one I devoured. And then I learned she died while I was reading it.

Eric Stiller, *Keep Australia on Your Left* is a very readable story of personal dynamics by a self pitying unlovable whiner in a Klepper double. They were going to circumnavigate Australia, rubbished Paul Caffyn for having a shore crew and then did more sailing than paddling, had takeaways regularly, and got as far as Darwin (from Sydney). But I still enjoyed the book.

Kathryn Lasky, *Jem's Island* is a children's book I really enjoyed about an eleven year old's first overnight kayak trip with his father in the same kayak his father and uncle had paddled a thousand miles from Skagway Alaska to Seattle Washington twenty years before. It's about anticipation, dreams materialised, fears allayed and skills learned.

Ronald McKie, *The Heroes* is a great read. Secret raids on Singapore, using Kleppers, in WW2. A thrilling and heroic war story that I first read about twenty years ago then had a new appreciation once I had done my own sea-kayaking and reread it.

Mike Randall

I did enjoy Paul Caffyn, *The Dreamtime Voyage. Around Australia Kayak Odyssey*. It gave me a lot of encouragement.

Just finished Peter Heller, *Hell and High Water*, down the Tsangpo River. Excellent.

Paul Hayward

Gary and Joanie McGuffin, *Where Rivers Run. A 6,000 Mile Exploration of Canada by Canoe*.

Kerry Howe

All Paul Caffyn's books, but in particular *Obscured by Waves. South Island Canoe Odyssey*, and *The Dreamtime Voyage. Around Australia Kayak Odyssey*.

Victoria Jason, *Kabloona in the Yellow Kayak. One Woman's Journey Through the Northwest Passage*.

Don Starkell, *Paddle to the Arctic*. Starkell accompanied Jason on the first half of her trip - they had a spectacularly difficult relationship. Starkell also wrote *Paddle to the Amazon*.

Chris Duff, *On Celtic Tides. One Man's Journey Around Ireland by Sea Kayak*, and *Southern Exposure. A Solo Sea Kayaking Journey Around New Zealand's South Island*.

Kevin Dunsford

Paul Caffyn, *The Dreamtime Voyage*

Victoria Jason, *Kabloona in a Yellow Kayak*

Gary and Joannie McGuffin, *Where Rivers Run - A 6,000 mile exploration of Canada by Canoe*

Eric Stiller, *Keep Australia on your Left*

Don Starkel, *Paddle to the Amazon*, and *Paddle to the Arctic*

Brian Wilson, *Dances with Waves - Circumnavigation of Ireland*

If you've got some favourites, please send them to me.

KH

URGU goes AWOL



There is no news from **URGU** this month. He was last seen launching his kayak on the shores of Normandy, bound for the UK. A gendarme reported that he left behind a trail of mussel vomit, and that he was vowing to paddle home to New Zealand to see some old friend called 'Vincent'. 'E ez very strange,' said the gendarme, 'and gude reddanz...'

Roger's ebb and flow

Who said pigs can't fly? The recent article by **Colin Quilter** about sailing his Sea Bear out to Great Barrier Island left many sea kayakers gob smacked. Yes indeed, because something truly remarkable had taken place. For only the third known time a Sea bear had actually exceeded the 10kph mark. A much younger **Steve Davy** who was rumoured to be trialing a new Sanford Seafood mussel tonic first achieved the feat some years ago. The moment was memorable for those present on the day. With frenzied paddle blades flashing, rivets rattling and a huge bow wave rolling down the Bear's chines the craft rose onto the plane and surfed for a short while. The great skimming sea swine started to emit a high-pitched squealing noise. The awestruck onlookers thought that this was caused by Steve's knees trembling but it was later diagnosed as excessive rudder flutter resonating down the control lines. The only other known occasion occurred early one Saturday morning when a well-known Mt Eden Chef was sedately paddling up the harbour past the port area. As he ducked under the bow of a large container ship at the wharf the vessel emitted a loud blast on the horn to announce its departure. It was one of those magic moments that should have been immortalised on film. Those who were nearby swear that the scampering Sea Bear had a giant rooster tail plume of water as it hydroplaned off into the distance.

The committee has decided to upgrade some more of the club hire fleet. The two Barracuda Beachcombers purchased earlier this year have proved very popular. The old club Squall and Contour will now be sold off and replaced with two brand new singles. Our club double fleet has also proved popular particularly with family members who were able to take their children and non-paddling partners out on the harbour for a cruise in safety. **Brian Strid** recounted a recent occasion when both doubles were out together performing this duty. After **Debbie Dunsford's** delightful 'Paddling with Children' article in last month's Newsletter we will hopefully see more happy family

paddle outings. The club has PFDs for the little ones in the locker.

An early morning kayaker was groping his way up the harbour in thick fog recently when he saw a strange apparition appear on the wharf that he was approaching. It was a massive semi trailer type vehicle with lots of flashing lights and a large mechanical arm reaching out from one side. It certainly warranted a closer inspection and our inquisitive kayaker inched in for a closer look. The large vehicle started to move slowly down the side of a shipping container emitting a low-pitched humming sound. As it emerged from the other end of the container, the wording on the mobile behemoth became clear in the swirling vapours - NZ Custom Service container X-ray scanning vehicle. Secure with this knowledge our sea going sleuth paddled off into the fog accompanied by a strange green atmospheric glow.

The restaurant built out over the water next to the Kelly Tarlton complex has applied for resource consent to expand. The new plan includes further over the water seating areas, which will feature glass floors. This will enable diners to look down and see what the fish are having for lunch and kayakers passing by might even be able to peer up and see what the diners had for breakfast. Bon appetite.

If you are looking for some good winter reading, purchase a copy of **Kerry Howe's Coastal Sea Kayaking in New Zealand**. It is crammed full of useful information applicable to our area. Kerry has tried and perfected many new ideas that will make kayaking and camping more enjoyable. It is not a big book, (144 pages) but it delivers practical helpful ways of getting around niggly problems and pit falls that we can all relate to. A great read for both novice and experienced kayakers.

Our winter guest speaker series got off to a great start at our new venue at the Marine Rescue Centre last month. These winter shows have consistently been the most popular events on the clubs calendar for the last eight years. They generally focus on sea kayaking and often showcase club members and their coastal journeys. We have two more shows scheduled for this series. **Ryan Whittle** will be at the door to greet you and lighten your pocket of a mere \$2. **Allison Calhaem** will be busy inside with an array of club merchandise (caps tee-shirts etc) which you can purchase, and also making sure that there is a hot cuppa ready for you when you arrive. Getting there early guarantees a good seat and you will have time for a chat with fellow club mates before the show starts.

Paddling around the harbour last month the roving eye noticed a new block of apartments at the Viaduct Basin that is perfect for the well-healed kayaker. It has

its own private boat dock, which is reached via a short canal. The canal has a set of lock gates, traffic lights and a lifting bridge.

A hardy pod of 7 kayakers fronted up at Okahu Bay for a dawn paddle to mark the Winter Solstice. Four Barracudas, two Albatross and a solitary Sea Bear - Well done lads.

It was a bunch of bearded and hairy-legged bards who turned up for the poetry evening on Rangitoto recently. **Morgan Lewis** seemed somewhat miffed at the feminine absence. A couple of weeks later Morgan was all smiles when an all female troupe fronted up for his Carnival Costume night out on the Island. It was reported that young Morgan swept the ladies off their feet with his dancing prowess. Later, much later it was reported that satisfied snoring permeated from Morgan's bunk complete with mutterings, which sounded like, 'eat your heart out Norm Hewitt' - O Bliss.

Roger Lomas

July events summary

10 July Tiri Tiri Matangi

10 July Waitemata Harbour Wander

15 -17 July Kavorting on Karapiro

20 July Colin Quilter Winter Lecture

24 July Explore Whangamarino Swamp

August events summary

5-7 August Whangapoua Harbour

7 August Motuihe Island

21 August Tawharanui Peninsula

If anyone is keen to take a group to their favourite destination, contact Philip Noble to schedule this into the calendar and /or to publish in the Newsletter plus Yahoo groups.

Scheduled Club trips

July:

10 July Tiri Tiri (Weather dependant. Intermediate to experienced paddlers)

Meet at Army Bay. +/- 1hr paddle to Tiri and 2 hrs on island. Paddle round and back to Army Bay early afternoon.

Contact **Bruce Somerville** 443 5364 to express interest, and for start time and final details

10 July Waitemata Harbour Wander

Meet at St Heliers Bay 9am (on the water 9:20am) The trip destination will be dictated by the prevailing wind. We will paddle into the wind until lunch break, then come back down wind to St Heliers. Maximum distance 20km.

The trip is unlikely to be cancelled. If the weather is too rough we can adjourn to Okahu bay for some surfing. Leader **Gerard Fagan** 832 9720

15 -17 July Kavorting on Karapiro

Stay at Lake Karapiro Camping & Pursuits Centre
601 Maungatautari Road
RD2, Cambridge
Phone: 07 827 4178

Chalets sleep 8 in single bunks, have their own showers and toilet, and there are two communal kitchens. Located in the Lake Karapiro Domain on the shores of Lake Karapiro 5 minutes from Cambridge. Costs are \$12 per person per night for adults, \$9 for kids.

It has been newly groomed for campers, with 60 level sites with power and plenty of tenting spots. A huge

communal hall caters for functions etc. There is a classy new amenities block which offers prime facilities both in the ablutions and cooking fields, dam views from both the kitchen and decks, there is a boat slipway, and there are the Chalets.

You can have look at the place at <http://www.waipadc.govt.nz/karapiro.htm>

Meet there on the Friday night. Guaranteed warm and dry or your money back*. Return home on Sunday.

Paddle up the lake on Saturday. There is a clear creek coming into the lake at the southern end which offers some great rock faces and atmosphere if you are willing to paddle upstream for a while. Ram skiffs as they attempt to overtake. Get airtime on the water ski jump. Access to the base of the dam is available if you want to paddle downstream towards Cambridge.

This is not a venue normally visited by the club and offers somewhere new.

Call **Morgan Lewis** on 6204005(H) 0210374872(M) or email morganl@xtra.co.nz

or

Ryan Whittle on 41926729(H) 6390438(W) or email ryan@delphic.co.nz

- Conditions apply - Warm and dry refers to indoor heated areas. You must be under 18 years of age to qualify for a refund.

24 July Explore the Whangamarino Swamp

We will meet at the Mercer boat ramp at 0830 where we will juggle cars and boats to leave some cars there and take the rest with all the kayaks through Te Kauwhata to the outlet of Lake Waikare.

From there we paddle down a drainage canal into the Pungarehu Stream and hence into the Whangamarino River, onto the Waikato River and finish at Mercer an easy three or four hours later.

There will be eel nets, Koi Carp and Catfish, Pussy Willow and Crack Willow. Depending on water levels we could be following a well defined stream, or wondering where it is.

Bring lunch and we will find a place to stop. Contact **Brian Strid** (09) 2388084.

August:

5-7 August - Whangapoua Harbour (Coromandel)

Staying on a Dairy Farm that is on the Whangapoua Harbour. Farm house and bunk room can sleep an additional 7 -8 people and there is plenty of room to pitch a tent, especially for those who like to wake to views of the harbour. Kayaking from the farm is very tidal so we would probably paddle from the farm on the Sunday (high tide around 8:40am). There are plenty of other fantastic locations to paddle, tramp, cycle around this area.

Contact Martin or Alissa at home on 07 866 4454 or Alissa on 021 608 448 or email agood@paradise.net.nz

7 August Sunday Motuihe Island

Meet at St Heliers Bay ramp and paddle via Browns Island to Motuihe. Return the same way or detour via Rangitoto. 20 - 25 km.

Contact **Philip Noble** 5753493

21 August Sunday Tawharanui Peninsula

Meet at reserve entrance and paddle round to Anchor Bay and return.

Contact **Bruce Somerville** 43 5364 to express interest, and for start time and final details.

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.

20 July Winter Lecture

Colin Quilter's Wild Places with Familiar Faces

The winter lecture series continues with this month's guest speaker back by popular demand. **Colin Quilter** has a new show for us, which will feature Auckland's rugged and beautiful West Coast. Many club members have visited this area on Colin's trips which include the now legendary cruise out to the Mighty Manukau Heads. Colin was also part of a group of daredevils who paddled out to and stood on the Manukau Bar not far from where the Orpheus foundered with the loss of 189 lives. He later led a group of intrepid explorers out across the bar and up the coast to Muriwai. Also in the show will be a visit to the remote Moko Hinau Islands and Colin's summer expedition from Gisborne to East Cape. It will be a memorable night with many club members making their debut on the big screen. Arrive early for a red carpet gala entry. You might just be one of the stars.

Meet at the Marine Rescue Centre Tamaki Drive at 7pm on Wednesday 20 July.

Door Charge \$2.00 covers your supper and helps with a gift for our guest. Bring along some friends and this is also a good chance for new members to get acquainted.

Need more info? **Roger Lomas** 579-8799

Longer range Club trip plans

23 - 28 October Great Barrier Island Exploration and Adventure Week.

Start the new summer off where sea and sun, clouds and sky meet. No crowded motorways, traffic queues, parking hassles - pack your gear for 5 days of adventure on Great Barrier Island.

The Island has a wide range of accommodation options from Doc huts, backpackers, budget and mid-priced very special hideaways such as self catering properties to choose from. There are many outdoor activities to enjoy, from Kayaking, Mountain biking, scuba diving, tramping or if you just wish to chill out there are the hot springs on the road to Whangaparapara.

More details will be published in due course, please note that the trip may not necessarily be only sea kayaking. For more information, contact **Morgan Lewis** on 6204005 or email morganl@xtra.co.nz

Club sea kayaks for sale!!!!!!!!!!!!



Contour

\$1100

Length 4.7 m

Width 64 cm

Good Condition



Squall

\$1000

Length 5.0 m

Width 56 cm

Fair Condition

Contact **Gavin Baker** to view: 528-5188

Club sea kayaks - new hire rates

Single kayaks

- Daily rate - \$20.00
- Coffee at Kohi - \$10.00
- Tuesday Night Paddle - \$10.00
- Club Training Sessions - \$10.00 e.g. Mike Randall's Saturday skills sessions.

Double kayaks

- Daily rate - \$30.00
- Coffee at Kohi - \$15.00
- Tuesday night paddle - \$15.00
- Club Training Sessions - \$15.00

Trip to paradise anyone?

Anyone interested in paddling in Fiji?

I intend going on a 5-7 day paddle round some islands to the north of Fiji's main island Viti Levu sometime in August or early September this year. I will be going with the company that Sue and Peter Sommerhalder are with and would like to get a group together from the Club. If interested please contact **David Ward** ASAP as a booking will need to be made.

Contact details are: phone 09 445 3639, mobile 021 0717376, email david-ward@clear.net.nz

President's State of the Club address



Mid Winter! That invokes many and varied reactions... Winter is half over, summer is approaching, days are getting longer, and mornings are not so dark. But kayaking goes on.... Various members have been active this month, even if some trips have suffered because of adverse weather conditions. The new committee is getting organized and finding their feet. Remember that all of us need your help. The committee is a willing team able to put your ideas into practice so please let us know what you would like the club to do. We have many different types of members and a variety of needs.

The trips officer, **Philip Noble** requires your ideas to plan and organize a selection of trips ranging from novice to advanced. He does not however actually organize these trips - that task is shared by many of our members. These people are facilitators, not leaders. When someone has an idea let Philip know and he will be able to assist you to plan it and if required will put you in touch with another member who can assist you.

Roger Lomas, our publicity officer is always on the look out for speakers for the winter series of talks. He has been very successful so far in recruiting our speakers, but I am sure that there are people out there with fascinating stories to share. **Mike Randall** has been busy encouraging members to learn water skills. The comment was made during the America's Cup - 'Experience is what you gain immediately after you needed it.' Mike is trying to let you gain the needed skills before you need them.

Those of you who use the Club storage will have noticed that everything has been tied up, the floor swept and even the storage bays have new numbers. Thanks go to **Gavin Baker** and **Roger Lomas** for this work. Please assist them in making sure that the storage stays clean and tidy. It is also important to let someone know if you use club equipment and find that it needs repair - better still, if you are able to, fix it! After all this is your equipment, it belongs to each of you.

Vine House is a treasure that deserves greater exposure. Nestled in a hidden corner of the Mahurangi it is an ideal place to relax and enjoy the scenery. This area, so close to Auckland, is still relatively unknown and is therefore virtually unspoilt. **Trevor Arthur** was instrumental in the original approach to the Regional Council and has taken responsibility this year to look after our interests. However, as you might have already noticed, **Stephanie** finds it hard to stay away and organized a midwinter party (sorry... working bee).

The Newsletter editor, **Kerry Howe**, is always keen to receive your copy. Trip reports, ideas for activities, etc. The earlier that you can get this information to Kerry, the easier it is for him.

Final thanks go to **Andrew** our Webmaster. I hope to be able to report next month on the various electronic communications that are now available to members. These are currently under review and the Committee is considering various options.

Happy paddling,

Ian Calhaem

Kayak Auction Kayak Auction Kayak Auction

31 July 11.00am Sunday

**7a Westech Place
Kelston**

**Outdoor Discoveries
Outdoor Discoveries**

**kayaks, paddles, sprayskirts, jackets, clothes,
helmets, books, accessories**

**Catalogue available Thursday prior.
Viewing Friday 9-9, Saturday 9-5,
Sunday from 9.00am**

**Buying/selling? Contact Outdoor Discoveries
09 813 3399, or 0800 WWWODNZ.**

**For catalogue request and general
inquiries:**

auction@kayakshop.co.nz

Strange tales of the gods

Newsletter readers may recall the pics of the month back in the April issue - they were of a very strange craft, named Zeus, anchored in the Okura estuary.

Clive Hookham reports that owner and builder of Zeus, Gary Moulton, has finally had his unseaworthy and environmentally questionable craft taken away by police and the ARC for 'disposal'. It marks the end of decades of legal battles to have his 'hippie' maritime lifestyle moved on from wherever he 'anchored' - in the Coromandel, Firth of Thames, Waiheke Island, and finally Okura.



stern view of the 30 metre vessel Zeus
(photo - Hookham)

THE CANVAS COMPANY MOVES

AFTER NEARLY 30 YEARS, WE WILL BE
CLOSING THE DOORS OF OUR HOBSON ST
SHOP ON
FRIDAY, 3 JUNE.

WE WILL RE-OPEN AT OUR NEW SHOP ON K'
ROAD TUESDAY, 7 JUNE
WHERE IT WILL BE BUSINESS AS USUAL.

THE NEW ADDRESS IS 518 K' ROAD
(PONSONBY END) NEAR R & R SPORT.

THERE IS A
LARGE WILSON'S PAY AND DISPLAY CARPARK
RIGHT BESIDE US.
OUR PHONE AND FAX
NUMBERS WILL REMAIN THE SAME.

ALSO, COMING
SOON. WWW.CANVASCOMPANY.CO.NZ!
YES, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SHOP FROM
THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS OVER THE
YEARS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU
IN THE NEW SHOP!

CHEERS

BRENDAN AND KATHY

Poet's Corner

Now that winter's really here
Don't put away your boat
Like they do in Europe
And other parts remote
Just get out on the water
Even if it's cold
I don't want these excuses
Feels cold, been sold, too old.

I know you could fly to Fiji
To the warm and balmy airs
Where Sue and Pete are sojourning
To soothe away their cares.
But you'd miss the Waitemata
With its funky clapotis
The mixed up chop and Westerlies
That is what you'd miss.

You can wrap up warm and cosy
Wear some polyprop if you like
It'll always come in handy
When you head off on your bike.

If it's blowing half a gale
And you'd rather stay in bed
Go to the beach with a wetsuit on
Do some rolls instead.
Or try a bit of surfing
Staying safely near the shore
I know it's kind of scary
But one wave and you're out for more.

Apart from these extreme pursuits
In Auckland region fair
There're heaps of windless sunny days
With trips galore to share.

But the nicest thing in winter
After playing in the sea
Is sitting dreaming all done up
Drinking cups of tea
Somewhere on a lonely beach
With nobody around
Apart from the birds for company
You'll hardly hear a sound.

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

Email event reminders, send blank email to:
Auckland-canoe-club-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Officers:

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

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



Is this sea kayaking? Rosemary at Rona's Leap
(photo - Quilter)