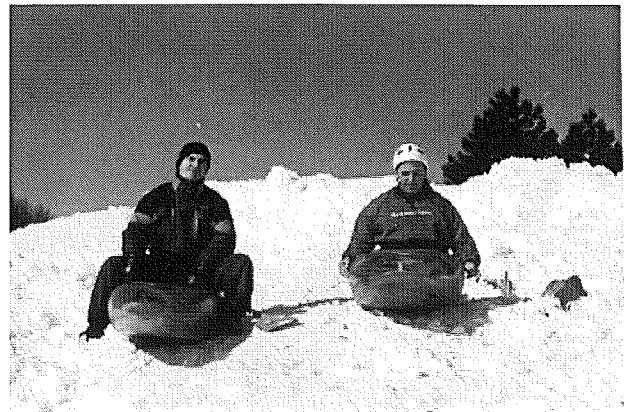


June 2006

Contents

Club information	2
Editorial	3
The Odyssey - part six	3
Winter Lecture Series	5
Waitemata Wander	6
Poets Corner	6
Cambridge-Hamilton Race	7
President's Report	8
Scheduled Club Trips	8
Ebb and Flow	9
President's AGM Report	10

Kayaking, something for everyone



Auckland Canoe Club - information

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 9271 Newmarket, Auckland

Clubrooms:

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

Website:

<http://www.aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz>

Email event reminders, send blank email to:

subscribe@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz

Officers:

Patron:	George Gerard	269 2042
President:	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
Vice-President:	Brian Strid	09 238 8084
Secretary:	Alissa Good	815-2266
Treasurer:	Gerard Fagan	832 9720
Trips:	Philip Noble	575 3493
Publicity:	Roger Lomas	579 8799
Safety/ training:	Mike Randall	528 1377
Storage/kayaks	Gavin Baker	528 5188
Assist:	Roger Lomas	579 8799
Merchandising:	Alison Calhaem	579-0512
Vine House:	Trevor Arthur	817 7357
Newsletter:	Peter Sommerhalder	631-5344
Webmaster:	Claire Vial	

Email addresses

Patron@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
President@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
VicePresident@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
Secretary@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
Treasurer@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
Trips@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
Publicity@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
Safety@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
Storage@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
Merchandise@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
House@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
Newsletter@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz
Webmaster@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz

Club trip/event policies

Visit the Club website for details of safety and other important policies.

Contacting trip/event organiser.

You must notify the trip organiser in advance of your intention to go on a trip. Organisers need to know numbers and to be able to contact you if the plan changes.

You must also discuss with the organiser 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 call the trip leader. The Newstalk ZB Cancellation Service is no longer being used.

Club Banking Details

Bank: BNZ
Branch: Newmarket
Account: 02-0100-0023453-000
Name: Auckland Canoe Club

IMPORTANT

If you are depositing money to the Club Account please ensure that you include YOUR name so that the Treasurer knows who deposited the money.

Internet Banking

All major banks have set up Auckland Canoe Club as a registered payee for internet banking. This means that you can pay to

"Auckland Canoe Club"

without having to enter the account number.
Check with your bank

Editorial

There are moments on these cold winter days when I wish I was back working in warm, sunny Fiji. However I admit we have had some long spells of good winter weather over the last two months, and the shortest day is just a few days away. Most of us were keen to keep paddling, cycling or whatever, besides chopping firewood.

Some changes have occurred since the Club's AGM and I became editor of the newsletter. It will take me a little while to come to grips on the computer side of this new "occupation".

I have big shoes to fill, as our clubs newsletter has been a splendid publication for many years. Besides the practical production, I will strive to listen and learn from our club members.

Please keep the stories flowing and share your experiences with us.

Good paddling,

Peter Sommerhalder

For Sale:

Winter is approaching! Need an extra polyprop? How about one of our navy blue, polyprop tops with club logo on each sleeve, at the special price of \$20? All sizes in stock

We still have very limited stock of Jubilee Polar Vests for \$20, 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.

Then add a fine orange cap with a blue Club logo for only \$20.

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

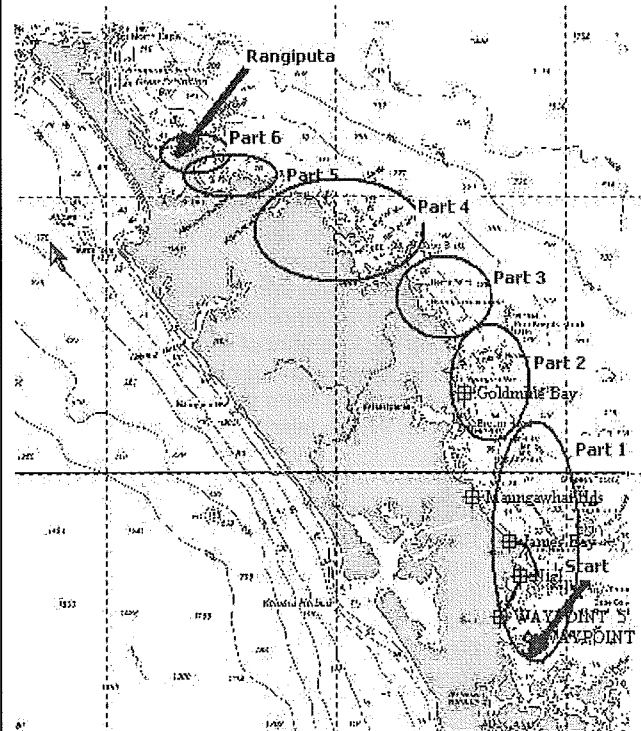
Trip Reports

The Odyssey

Kayak Trip North February 2003

Part Six - Kari me to Paradise

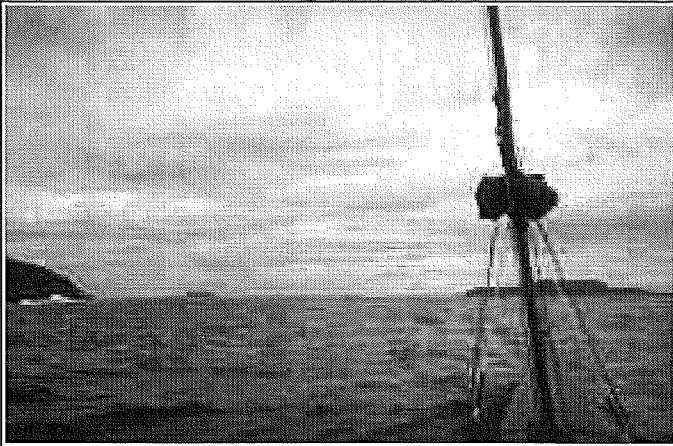
Kevin Dunsford



In the morning I considered carrying the kayak and all the gear down the boulders and loading it near the tide, but for some reason decided to load it at the top of the beach and drag the loaded kayak over drift wood to the launch spot. Ten minutes later I was glad I had trusted my instinct because a massive swell engulfed half of the boulder beach in an instant, followed by a couple of other swells. The kayak would certainly have been smashed, and I would have lost quite a bit of gear if it had been down there.

At Matai Bay, half way around to Cape Karikari, there seemed to be a few tents but there was no sign of any boats at all. I continued past Black Point then had a hard slog into the usual cape-head-wind to the Cape itself.

The Cape has two points, one facing SE, then a section of flat cliffs then the point facing NE around which I did a U turn to head SW on the other side. I looked back and could see the Cape Karikari light house, with its bunker-like, flat white wall facing me. I took a photo of it high up there on the headland and another of the islands lying to the NW of the Cape. Looking north I thought I could see, far off in the distance, the top of New Zealand, but at the time I was not sure.



Just before Cape Karikari.

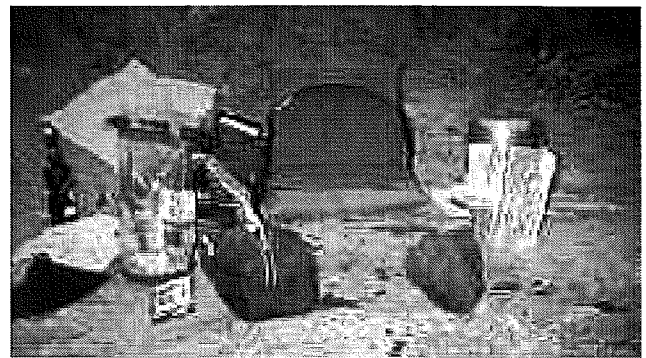
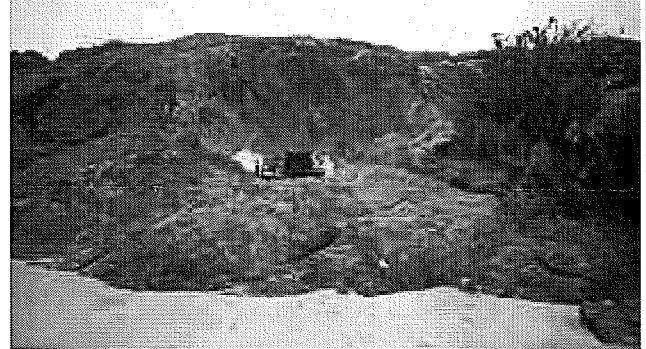
At the Cape there was only a 1m swell and a bit of chop, but on the north western side there was a considerably larger one, coming now from the North, 45° behind me, which, along with the wind made travelling quite difficult. The Albatross, because of its very rounded bottom, tends to skew in these conditions. I must say that its performance in most other conditions amply compensates though, except for its tendency to nose dive in surf. The wind increased and the swells were occasionally breaking. Every now and again I would hear a crash from behind and looking around would see the foamy remains of a swell that could no longer hold itself up. I thought of what I read in one of Paul's books about a swell having his name on it, and I was sure there was one out there with my name on it too. I pulled in to the lee of Whale Island to make some decisions.

My marine chart ended at Cape Karikari and in my map pouch I had some 1:50,000 topos for the remainder of the journey, including one covering the northern side of Karikari Peninsula. On the map I could see Karikari Beach, Puwheke hill at 192m then Puwheke Beach before the Rangau Harbour and Rangiputa where I wanted to go to. The total distance was about 18km. Looking up from the map at the land, I could see a big curved beach, a hill and another beach but it all looked further away! It is hard to tell distances in the afternoon so I got out the GPS to check on the bearing to the hill but it just did not make sense. I must read up in the GPS manual on navigating using GPS bearings tonight, I thought. I could go, but because it looked a long way away I thought it best to look for somewhere to have lunch first and see if the conditions improved. I found a great little sheltered bay not far from the lighthouse. On entering the bay there was an isosceles-shaped triangular rock 7m across and 5m high sticking out of the water. All up one side and down the other side there were pied shags, standing to attention, like soldiers on a castle wall. You won't find the name on any map, but I christened that bay, Shag Bay. Behind the rock, out from the cliff was their tree, which had in better years been a pohutakawa.



Pied shags, standing to attention, like soldiers on a castle

After lunch, the conditions were no better, so I camped there the night, and oh what a night it was. I pitched the tent on a grassy level about 10m up the hill above the beach. My dinner spot was on a flat rock ledge just above high tide, at one end of the white sand beach. I knew I could top up on the wine at Rangiputa the next day so we decided to have a party, the shags and I. Every now and again a massive crab would gate-crash. It is many years since I have seen crabs of this size and it would scuttle off quickly when it saw the hunter-gatherer look on my face.

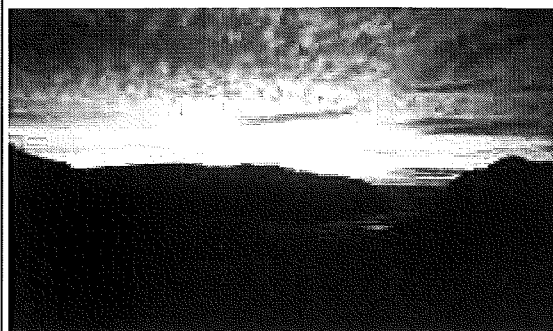


"We decided to have a party, the shags and I".

At dusk the sky to the west coloured pink, then red, then deepened, putting on a multi-coloured performance that was so spectacular that I used up all the rest of my film in the two disposable cameras. I'm sure the shags were utterly disgusted with their guest's performance that night and I am glad I didn't have to drive home



Sunset began by being spectacular...



And got even better with the wine!

Heading out from the bay next morning, in a more sombre mood, I rounded Taumatara Point and realised I had made a massive miscalculation the day before. Now I could see two duplicate scenes, but one closer than the other, both with a big curved beach, a hill and another beach. The one I was looking at yesterday was not on Karikari Peninsula at all. It was way beyond today's destination of Rangiputa. The hill I had seen was actually Mount Camel at Houhora Heads and the beaches, the curved East Beach and the smaller Kowhai Beach to the north. The GPS was again telling the truth. Oh GPS I will never doubt you again. The beaches on Karikari were hidden until I got beyond the point. I discovered how having large scale topo maps can lead to errors and resolved that, for future trips, the normal 1:100,000 of marine charts gives a good overview of ground to be covered.

Heading along Karikari Beach the bird and small fish life was prolific. Not only were there goes-over birds and goes-under birds but large groups of penguins. Normally I had only seen them in pairs or small groups. Maybe they are feeding up large before migrating. Dropping the line I lost the first fish that took the lure, the really big one, which felt like a kingi, but managed to land the just plain big one, a kahawai. The problem with solo travelling and fishing from a kayak is that I can only eat one big fish a day, so I pulled in the line and just imagined catching the rest. It would have been like giving lollies to kids! Going around Motuara Rocks and heading south into Rangaunu Harbour it felt like I was going the wrong way. My internal gyro was now conditioned to travelling north. I felt like I could keep going for months if not forever. I did not have a care in the world, except that my 14 days were up! Bugger!

And Beyond...

Landing at Rangiputa, I chatted to an Auckland guy staying at the motel. He told me that his wife, he and their small child had stayed two nights and wanted to stay an extra night or two but, when he asked the lady running the hotel for extra tea bags, she said 'we don't normally do that.' On the door to her shop at the base of the motel was a sign saying they did hot food so I asked for a coffee. 'We don't normally do that' she said. As soon as I realised it was going to be instant, I said 'that's OK, don't worry'. I bought a few things then asked for some water. 'We don't normally do that' she said, then thought about it and said no. No! Along the entire trip everyone I met was really great and helpful, beyond what I had ever expected. Here was someone in the hospitality business who I had spent quite a bit of cash with saying NO. She explained that everyone up here has to buy water because of the drought. So I offered to buy some water from her! Well how could you refuse. She didn't but did say, 'We don't normally do that!' However, she could not bring herself to put a price on the few litres of tap water.

Outside the motel, up on a high pole was a security camera pointing down the road towards the baches, and another pointing up the road toward the hill. 'That's because of the Maori problem' I was told, 'they come over from Matai Bay and pinch stuff'. Later I was talking to a regular (from Auckland) who owned a bach there who was moaning on about the same 'Maori problem', although he did say the camera's had nothing in them.

Traveling up the coast I had seen some real poverty, much more than I had imagined would be there. Also I had seen quite a bit of unashamed excesses of wealth, in the form of massive mansions on beaches and points. It seemed like there is a coastal land-grab in progress and almost every bit of available beach and coast is being bought up, broken-in and domiciled, much of it by people from other countries, people who have already lost their coasts. I guess it is analogous to what happened a hundred and fifty years ago, only that was for farmland.

A mate, Gerry Maire, asked me what I had learnt from the trip and I guess this is it. If we kayakers are not careful I can see a time, in the not too distant future, when a trip up the coast with the freedom to stay almost anywhere will be lost. We need to do something to ensure we don't lose the most precious gift of all, freedom.

END

Kayak Rental Rates Change

To book a kayak enter details in the diary.
Check diary before taking a kayak

KAYAK HIRE RATES

Single kayaks

Daily hire - out am back pm	\$20
Half day - out am back am / out pm back pm	\$10

Double kayaks

Daily hire - out am back pm	\$30
Half day - out am back am / out pm back pm	\$15

Please enter details of hire in register and on envelope.
Put money in envelope and place envelope in honesty box.
No IOU's

Carry or wheel kayaks to water.

No seal launching.

Please wash kayaks before returning to rack.

Report faults / problems on the faults / problems sheets.

Kayaks are not to be used for racing.

Club Winter Lecture Series at the Marine Rescue Centre

Tuesday 27th June.

This will run for the next four months and will be promoted through the club newsletter. To lead off the series this year will be our own intrepid explorer Colin Quilter. During last summer and later in mid autumn, Colin embarked on two voyages along the East Coast of the North Island. The summer voyage from Wellington to Wairoa traversed the wild Wairarapa Coast. Then in Autumn Colin completed the final leg of his East Coast odyssey when he voyaged from Gisborne to Wairoa. Come along to hear Colin recount these two amazing solo kayak journeys which he paddled in his trusty old Sea Bear.

Meet at the Marine Rescue Centre, (city end of Tamaki Drive) at 7pm for a 7-30 start. All welcome so if you would like to bring along some friends, please do.

A \$2 door charge covers your supper and helps with a gift for our guest.

Additional dates:

Tuesday 25 July,
Tuesday 22 August
Tuesday 19 September

Need more info? Contact Roger Lomas 579-8799

Waitemata Wander Sunday 28 May 2006

At 9.00 am six kayaks were lined up on St Heliers beach ready to tackle whatever the wind would allow. Gerard led off at 9.30am into a head wind with Rosemary, Paul, Coral, Charles and Rona close behind.

First stop for one paddler was at Cheltenham to visit the loo. Second stop was around the corner at Narrow Neck beach for ice-creams and a break. Around the next corner was Takapuna where we were to stop for lunch. However, we had not expected surf!!! So we paddled to the far end of the beach in the hope of finding a sheltered place to land. This end was certainly the quietest place along the beach, but gave a little bit of a test and a few exciting moments.

There was no trouble getting off the beach for the homeward trip which was quick and exciting. While I managed a few good rides, they could not have been as exciting as the rides Gerard had. His hoops of glee could be heard all the way home. Not only did he have a fun trip home, he had caught his dinner on the outward trip.

The threatened rain did not arrive and temperatures were warm.

Thanks to Gerard, pleasant company and good weather, we had a wonderful outing.

Following our unexpected and exciting landing at Takapuna beach some of us have decided to go back to another day on an incoming tide, dressed in wet suits and practice both launching and landing in surf.

Rona Patterson

Poet's Corner

*The AGM has come and gone
It happens once a year
Ten per cent of members came
There wasn't any beer.*

*Nominations for the posts
To keep the Club afloat
Were quickly passed without a hitch
We do not wish to gloat.*

*Our President's report was read
The praises flowed like honey
We positively glowed with pride
And then we moved to money.*

*The bottom line was healthy
A lot of dosh in fact
Enough to buy us each some blades
To sharpen up our act.*

*Membership is growing
Two fifty souls about
The question put to all of us
How do we get us out?*

*The trouble is we don't quite know
What things we really crave
More trips more camps more jolly times
Just like the olden days?*

*"Let's buy a bus" one member cried
His tongue stuck in his cheek
Just the thing to keep us
From paddling each week.*

*To end this rhyme kia ora
A vote of thanks, a cheer
To all you marvelous paddlers
No there wasn't any beer.*

*Mike Randall
P.O. Box 25-131, St Heliers, Auckland
Email:kohiholiday@xtra.co.nz
Ph: 09 528 1377*



Waiting to start in Cambridge

Cambridge-Hamilton Race 2006

The 29th Annual Cambridge-Hamilton Kayak Race and Cruise was held on Sunday 7th May in glorious autumn weather.

A record number of participants (287) in 256 kayaks, sit-on tops, surf skis and outriggers raced or cruised either 26km from Cambridge or 11km from The Narrows to Hamilton.

The youngest was 2 year-old Zachary Moir of Morrinsville, who sat in the front of his Dad's single Minnow. They cruised from The Narrows. Mum Rebecca, also participated, paddling a Sprite.

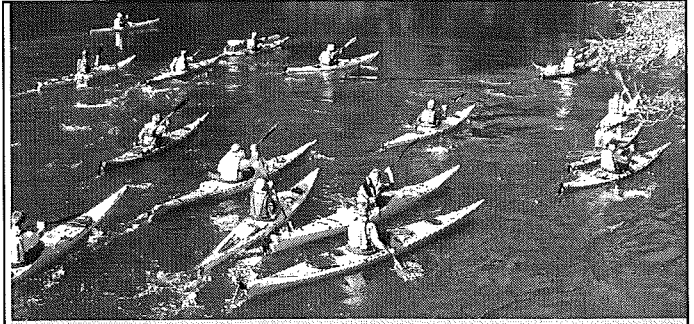
Energetic father Peter Van Lith of New Plymouth paddled three of his five children, Talitha, Daniel and Ariana, aged 4, 6 and 8 the full distance from Cambridge-Hamilton in an Eco Niizh in the respectable time of 1:59:44.



The oldest competitor was 80 year old Charles Hoy of Hamilton paddling a Seabear double together with Rex Barlow. Their time of 2:17:08 gave them 3rd place in the Composite Sea Kayak Double Masters Division.



Charles Hoy (front left) waits for prize giving and his 3rd place trophy.



Some of the 59 single plastic sea kayaks take off

Next year is the 30th anniversary of the race. Two sponsors have already promised Sea Kayaks as spot prizes. Challenge Kayaks have again offered a Sequel and Johnson Outdoors Watercraft a Necky Sea Kayak. Safari Lodge will again sponsor seakayaking adventures in Fiji.

All the previous sponsors I have spoken to so far are willing to come aboard again and there are a number of new exciting Companies not necessarily involved with kayaking who have offered to be part of the event.

While still in the planning stages, I'm expecting there will be activities on the Saturday, prior to the race on the Sunday, so keep the **5th and 6th May** free next year.

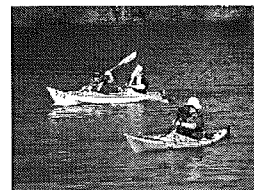
Many thanks go to my loyal and generous sponsors without whom I wouldn't have a race. They are:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Challenge Plastics | Johnson Outdoors Watercraft |
| Safari Lodge - Fiji | Paddling Perfection |
| Sunspot Kayak Shop | Canoe and Kayak—All stores |
| Day Two | Outdoor Discoveries |
| Akarana Kayaks | Wilderness Magazine |
| Party DJ | Back of Beyond |
| Q Kayaks | NZ Kayak Buyers Guide |
| NZ Outside Magazine | Pacific Action Sails |
| GB Tool Designs | Ruahine Kayaks |
| Ampro | Ultimate Surf Products |
| Canoe Sports NZ | Diversified Products |
| NZ Pump Company | Little Gripper Wetshoes |
| Trek'N'Travel | |

So, mark the dates now somewhere you can find them, or send us an email so you get our Newsletters. We look forward to seeing you at the event next year.



Terry Newsome receives his Fijian sea kayaking prize from Peter Sommerhalder



Brian Strid powers towards the finish line.

Left ACC Club members Ted and Eddie Hughes and Ralph Stuetgen finish the race



President's Report June 2006

It is with great pleasure that I welcome our new Committee Members for the 2006/07 year who were elected at the recent AGM. Whilst there are a number of familiar faces, there are also some new ones – always a good sign of a vibrant and progressive organisation!

My report to the AGM is published in this newsletter. At the AGM the meeting discussed at length how to attract more leaders, and the sort of events that members would like to attend.

If any members have bright ideas for trips, and most importantly would like to be involved in organising a trip, then please let one of the Committee know.

A trip organiser is just that – an organiser but not necessarily the “leader”. There are many members in the Club very willing and able to assist a member to organise a trip. We all had to start somewhere, so there is no need to feel that a lack of experience precludes you from getting involved.

The Club has re-negotiated the insurance for the Club equipment to bring the cover up to current valuation, but we do need to restrict the hire of Club Kayaks. They must not be used for racing events.

Hoping to see many of you on the water,

Ian.



It is cold in Auckland, but we haven't had to resort to paddling in snow just yet. More photos on:

www.coqoletoinfo.it/sport/kayak/kayak.htm

Scheduled Club Trips

Sun 25 June-Kawau Island (circumnavigation)

Starting at **Martins Bay** we will paddle around the island, deciding on the day which direction is best after listening to the marine weather forecast. This trip is for paddlers who can cover **30km** and still have some energy left to surf the last couple of km's. There are good sized kahawai to be caught around Kawau, so bring your trawling gear and catch your dinner.

Phone Gerard Fagan 832 9720
Mob 021 0715 917

Sun 2 July Paddle to Whitford

Starting at Cockle Bay, a very pleasant paddle using the incoming tide to paddle all the way up to Whitford village for lunch. Return with the ebb tide.

Meet at Cockle Bay at 9.00am for a 9.30 start. A very social paddle through some great scenery and suitable for novices.

Phone Kevin Sargent on 536 6308

Auckland Provincial Canoe Committee 2006 Calendar

July

16th Bridges Classic 16 & 8km

Start time: 11.00am Taikata Rd Extension, Te Atatu

Contact: Phill Exeter 834-8393

Hosts: Waitemata Canoe & Multisport Club

August

14th Manukau Race 16km

Start time: 1pm Manukau Canoe Club, Avenue Road East, Otahuhu

Contact: Adrian Davis 576-0996

Hosts: Manukau Canoe Club

August

27th Pipes & Pylons - Whau River

Start time: 9.30am, West End Rowing Club Timothy Place, Avondale

Contact: Phill Exeter 834-8393

Hosts: Waitemata Canoe & Multisport Club

For Sale

ALBATROSS (Kevlar), yellow and red. Kept in excellent condition. Always under cover and washed after being in the sea. I have owned this boat for eight years. Includes a drink system available for the front deck.

5.5 metres long. 60 centimetres width. I regularly go camping. Tent, wheels, food etc, etc.

This boat was built by Grant Stone.

\$1800.00

Contact Kevin Woolcott
Kevin@tennislife.co.nz or 021782854.
Hm 5286805

Boating Fishing & Outdoors NZ 2006

Excitement is mounting for the Boating Fishing & Outdoors NZ Expo, planned for Fathers Day weekend - 1 2 & 3 September 2006.

Remember the days when the hugely successful boat show was held at the Waikato Events Centre, Claudelands, Hamilton, and offered all aspects of the three most essential elements, Boating Fishing & Outdoors. The original team which founded that successful event have joined together again to bring you this new vibrant event.

At this point of time, over 120 companies have shown their support and will be attending and displaying all the very latest boating, fishing & outdoors products.

As a result of the support received from companies throughout New Zealand and Australia, the event will be sold out well ahead of its opening.

The organizers are consistently looking for new opportunities to expand and cope with the demand for trade sites.

If you are interested in boating fishing or outdoors leisure, it is an event that is not to be missed.

Dad, this is one day of the year that you can tell your family it is "your day". So take advantage of this and come along to Boating Fishing & Outdoors NZ. Held at the Waikato Events Centre, Claudelands, Hamilton on the 1 - 3 September 2006.

If you wish to know more about this exciting Expo, then visit the website on www.boatingfishingoutdoors.co.nz.

The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

It was a full house at the A.G.M. last month and the Presidents report received a well deserved show of appreciation. Ian Calhaem's first year at the head of the committee table has been a very busy one. He has invested a huge amount of time and effort getting the clubs affairs back on an even keel, whilst also somehow finding time to assist new committee members to get up to speed with their various departments.

Some sharp management and regular hands on involvement has seen a dramatic turnaround in the financial returns from our gear locker and the club hire fleet. Gear officer Gavin Baker has a couple of spare kayak storage spaces at the moment so be quick if you want one.

Welcome back to Peter Sommerhalder and Alissa Good who re-join the committee as newsletter editor and secretary respectively. Claire Vaile and Erica Law have also been elected to join the regulars at the coal face.

The North Shore was all abuzz when word leaked out that sedate, mild mannered club member Ryan Whittle had incurred a speeding ticket. The dastardly deed took place last month and inquiries revealed that Mr Whittle was apparently freewheeling his new Nissan down Onewa Rd in an effort to thwart higher fuel running costs.

Fergs Kayaks have just opened their new High Performance Kayak Department above the existing ground floor shop. Alan Ferguson will run the new venture assisted by his younger brother Stephen. The new facility, which occupies the old multi hull clubrooms, is open to all and includes a sunny coffee lounge area that is well worth a visit.

Some very early morning kayakers ventured over to Tiri recently to take in the Dawn Chorus. Departure from Army Bay at the end of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula was at 4:30am. The crossing was completed in less than an hour under cloud diffused moonlight. Arriving just before dawn the trio of club kayakers enjoyed coffee and the chorus before departing an hour or so later. Seven sea kayakers were overnighing up at the Tiri lighthouse lodge, oblivious to the early birds who were back at Army Bay by 8:30. Fellow paddlers were David Lomas and Wolfgang Pohl.

**Auckland Canoe Club Inc.
Annual General Meeting**

16th May 2006

President's Annual Report

I take this opportunity to publicly thank all the enthusiastic club members who have contributed to make the year so successful.

A number of issues were discovered that needed attention, but I am pleased to report that these have all been dealt with.

When the Treasurer and the Gear Officer examined the equipment it was found that the insurance cover was inadequate. Our Treasurer has negotiated a new insurance policy, increasing the cover to the replacement cost and extending the cover whilst kayaks are on the water, (except whilst racing).

Our Secretary, Rosie Thom, worked very hard to ensure that the Club Records were updated at the Registrar of Incorporated Societies, and the Newsletter editor, Kerry Howe, established a new design for the Club publication. Both these people left the Committee during the year but not before making considerable progress in their respective areas.

Three other members are stepping down, David Ward who is planning to be overseas this year, and Lindsay Sandes who has work pressure at a new job. I thank both of these members for their contributions to the Club. Our safety officer, Mike, the poet, Randall is also encouraging new participation for safety and skills training, although he has confided in me that he does intend to continue his Saturday morning frolics in the waves at Kohimarama.

This year has seen the start of a new phase in electronic communications started by Matt Crosier several years ago. You will be aware that electronic payments are now possible in and out of the Club Bank account. The other area which is proceeding well is the development of the Club's Internet presence.

You will be aware of the Club website, www.AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz, but the Club has also registered www.AucklandKayakClub.org which is pointing to the same web site. Shortly our webmaster, Claire Vial will have finished the development and testing of a number of exciting new features. The Club Calendar will be moved from the existing Yahoo site to our own, but we will also have a forum where members can discuss issues, a searchable document storage where members will be able to search by keywords for articles in the newsletters or other reference material, a photo gallery where members will be able to put their prize photographs of trips and lastly but not least, a club on-line shop where you will be able to view merchandise and order on line.

Membership in the 2005/06 year stood at 263 (272 last year) with 87 families, 169 single memberships and 7 life members.

In terms of people this represents a total membership of 317 people.

Vine House continues to provide a wonderful venue for a relaxing weekend, and I would encourage those to see what Trevor Arthur and Stephanie Seager have achieved with assistance from other club members. The time is coming when the ARC will formally take over the bookings, but we will continue to retain special access rights.

Those who make use of the Club kayaks will appreciate the hard work put in by Gavin Baker. He has organised the storage shed and negotiated the rental space to maximise our return. The equipment is well maintained and serves our new members well so that they are able to make informed decisions about their own purchases after trying out the various Club kayaks. You will have seen references in a recent Newsletter of the procedure that the Committee has introduced to ensure your safety when hiring a kayak – let us know where you intend to go! If you find something that need attention, let a Committee member know, or better still, if you have the skill – fix it! I know of at least one member who has done this.

Most of you will associate the name of Roger Lomas with the Winter Lecture Series, but he is also the ghost who supports Gavin with the gear and organises many of the repairs. When a repair was brought to the attention of the Committee it was often Roger who quietly confirmed that it had already been done.

Roger was also the person providing the on shore support for events such as the Swim escorts. He was aptly assisted by other members such as Philip, Gavin and Alison at various times throughout the year.

The Swim escorts were again an outstanding success and provided the Club with a considerable source of revenue, enabling us to keep the Subscription at its low rate.

Philip Noble our trips officer has worked very hard to ensure that a wide variety of trips were available for all levels of experience. I do take this opportunity to encourage more people to volunteer their services to organise trips. I am sure that Philip will be available to assist you and put you in touch with other members who can support you.

One of the prime reasons that the Club exists is to support and encourage safe kayaking. Our quietly spoken but loquacious poet, Mike Randall has been encouraging all members, old and new to participate on Saturday mornings in various skills activities. Mike has recruited a new member to take this role in 2006, but I am certain that he will continue to encourage all of us to up skill and continue our learning.

My thanks go to our treasurer who has worked so hard this year learning how the Club Accounts were organised and managing our funds. He was able to bring recommendations to the Committee to ensure that the building fund continues to grow and that normal day to day Club activities are funded by those participating in them. Kayak hire and storage pays for the rental and fleet replacement, General subscriptions supplemented by the Swim Escort pays for the general club expenses and the Newsletter. He will give you the details in his report.

Last year the AGM appointed a small sub committee to liaise with the City Council over the development of the Landing. This is developing well and I can report that all our suggestions have been incorporated into the Phase Two plan. A meeting is scheduled for mid 2006 to develop the detailed plans for the Community Club Rooms and storage facilities.

Finally I wish to thank all Committee members for the support given to me during the year, and in particular Brian Strid who as Vice President has supported me in my tasks. Together a lot has been achieved by this Committee and I am confident that 2006 will bring even greater development of the Auckland Canoe Club.

Thank you.

Ian Calhaem
President.