


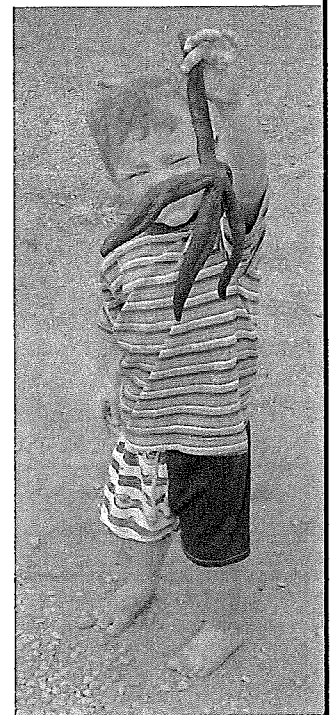
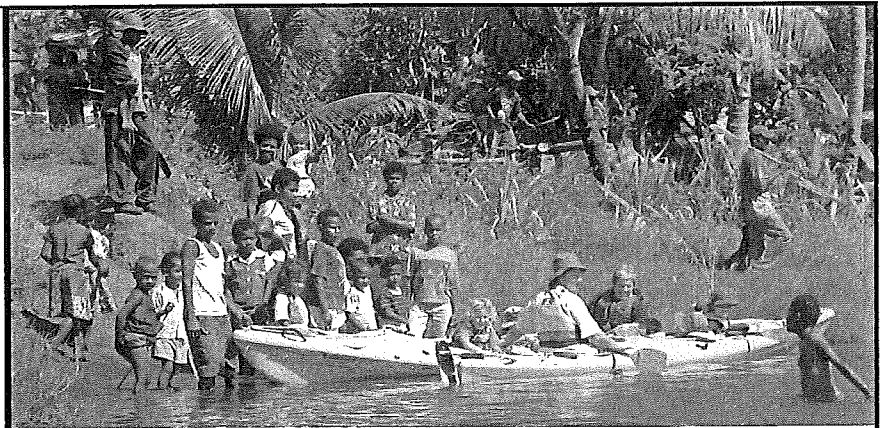
AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB



July 2006

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Kayaking with kids

Top - Envious locals watch the four Lewis children and their extended family start a day of paddling on the Barotu River and Viti Levu Bay.

Above - "Hear no Evil, Speak no Evil, See no Evil". A piece of bamboo makes a handy lunch break seat at Verata Point where the Barotu River enters Viti Levu Bay.

Right - Giles Lewis with the large navy blue starfish his sister found beside their kayak.

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

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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

"Think outside the square" is a saying to encourage one's performance and enjoyment in work and life. Most kayakers follow this advice almost naturally. Spend an evening on a climbing wall, or park your car in a mountain biking park, or go tree planting, and almost certainly you will find fellow paddlers there. Even on a visit to the occasional art exhibition or concert you will meet friends who share your love of the outdoors. In this issue we reflect briefly on Mahe Drysdale, world champion sculler. I am sure you will enjoy his comments about an unique competition he had the chance to participate in.

Peter Sommerhalder"

Scheduled Club Trips July / August

Sun 16 July - Lunch on Waiheke

Let's try to do this one again and hope for good weather!

A great opportunity to beat the ferry tours to Oneroa for lunch.

Paddle from Omana boat ramp across a great stretch of water to Blackpool Beach, then a short walk up to Oneroa to explore the beach, shops and your pick of cafés & restaurants for lunch. Bring dry clothes for the café scene.

Phone Philip Noble on 575 3493

Sun 23 July – Orewa to Te Muri Beach

A very pleasant paddle past Hatfields, Waiwera, Wenderholm to the very private beach of Te Muri Beach. Bring your lunch and enjoy the company of others

Phone Will Hendon on 486 6215 for meeting point and departure

28 to 30 July - Weekend at Opito Bay

Graeme Bruce will kindly open his Bach to us for the weekend. Great paddling, and remember your fishing gear and Dolphin torch for the cave paddling.

Limited spaces so phone him ASAP. Please remember \$10.00 per night to help with the cost of upkeep for this gem.

Phone Graeme at (07) 332 311

29 July - Motutapu circumnavigation

Meet at St Heliers at 8:30 am. We will paddle straight to Gardeners Gap to catch high tide at 10 am, then continue north to Billy Goat Point. Rounding the top of the island we will head south to our .

Phone Philip Noble on 575 3493

Sun 6 Aug Lunch on Motukaraka Island.

Meet at the Glendowie Boat Club at 9.30 for a 10.00am departure to paddle past the Howick Eastern Beaches to Motukaka.

Phone Philip Noble on 575 3493

Sun 13 August - Waitemata Wander

Ideal for novice and experienced paddlers. Meet St Heliers 9am. The trip destination will be dictated by the prevailing wind and tide directions. Paddling into the wind till lunch stop, then cruising back downwind to St Heliers. You can ask the more experienced paddlers to help with any questions you have about sea kayaking.

Phone Gerard Fagan 832 9720 Mob 021 0715 917.

Sunday 27th August. Paddle Ponui Island

Meet at Kawakawa Wharf / Ramp and if the wind is West, north or east we will paddle the island. If the wind is South or South West we will head towards Maraetai in the lee of the land.

Phone Gerard Fagan 832 9720 Mob 021 0715 917 for departure time and details



Welcome

The Committee extends a warm welcome to the following returning member.

Patricia Shaw

Regular Club Trips July / August

Vine House - last weekend of every month

Working bees for the rest of the year will be held on the last weekend of every month. We are now mainly doing interior work i.e. sanding and painting. There are always lovely people that come along, so I promise you good company. We now have beds for 10, so I promise you a good night's sleep. Bring \$5 for Saturday night's dinner and you will eat well too!

As always, be aware of the tides and bring a canoe trolley if you have one. Bring also a pillow case and sleeping bag

Phone: *Stephanie 09 8345 769*

Tuesday Evening Paddles

A small group of informal paddlers usually meets at the Okahu Bay ramp at about 5:30pm on Tuesday nights.

Saturday Morning Paddles

If you are in to good coffee, good company and usually a leisurely paddle then these are the trips for you. A small but growing group meet about 9:00am on Saturday mornings to paddle to one of the beaches, St Heliers, Kohimarama or Mission Bay for a coffee.

Saturday Morning Rock and Roll

Every Second Saturday morning our Safety Officer, Mike Randall, organises a session to assist you to get comfortable in your kayak whilst up side down, and to generally learn or improve your paddling skills.

The details are emailed out a few days before the weekend.



**Deadline for next issue
FIRST Tuesday of the month**

Whakapapa Releases

The recreational releases from Whakapapa are fast approaching.

The releases are planned for:

- . Saturday the 8th July
- . Saturday 12th August

Recreational releases from Whakapapa Intake require at least 16 cumecs of natural flow. To reach 16 cumecs a fresh must occur in the river. If the expected 16 cumecs is not reached on the planned day of the event, then it is deferred to the following day (Sunday). If there is still insufficient flow, then the event is cancelled.

The flow is to commence at 9.00am, for not less than eight hours. .

There are four critical steps that the Genesis Energy operator must carry out for each Whakapapa Release. These are: 8:30am Friday Morning

Decide whether the river will be flowing at 16 cumecs or more the following day.

Phone Mike Birch from NZRCA, to tell him that the flow is likely, or unlikely to occur the following day. He will then notify all the NZRCA members and update their website www.rivers.org.nz

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

Inform the Environmental Team of the decision so they can notify council if the flow is a no-go.

8:30am Saturday Morning

Either release flow (Hooray!) or if no recreational release on Saturday then repeat steps 1-3 to determine if a Sunday release is likely and notify NZRCA.

Mike Birch

President@rivers.org.nz

Alan Bell

P O Box 30-201, Lower Hutt, NZ

22 Harbourview Road, Lower Hutt, NZ

Phone: Day 04 570-0232 Mobile 027 444 777 9

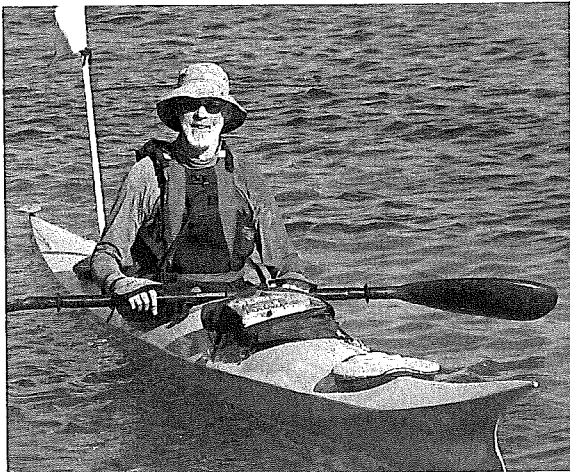
A/h Tel 04 5666-334

Trip Reports

Calm before storm

Colin Quilter

A cold, crisp Sunday morning in mid-June. Thirteen of us gathered at Bucklands Beach



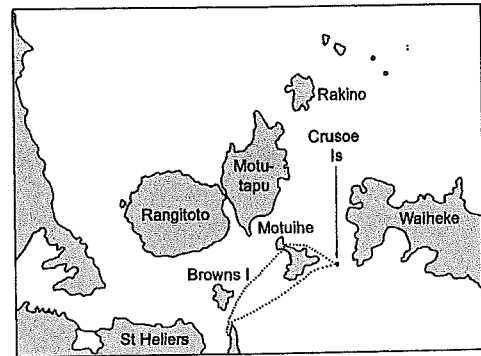
Philip at Crusoe Island

for a trip out to Crusoe Island, a rocky islet in the channel between Motuihe and Waiheke. What made this trip different was firstly the destination (Crusoe Island is not often visited, indeed many kayakers don't even know of its existence); and secondly the weather forecast, (which contained a wind warning related to a rapidly-approaching cold front). However there seemed a good chance that the northerlies would not reach full strength until night-fall, so we decided to go ahead with our trip as planned.

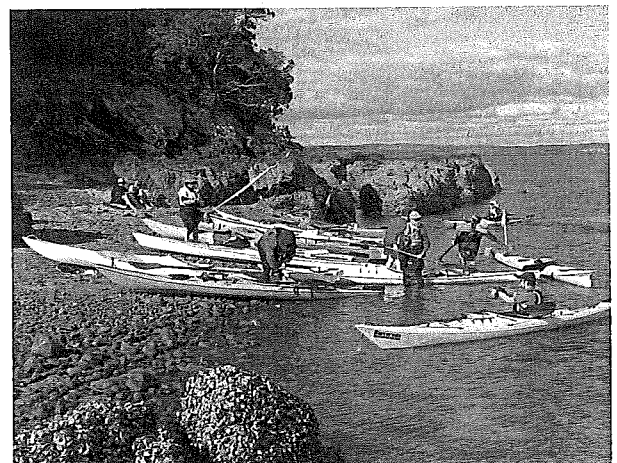
The out-going tide carried us past Musick Point with little effort. Low tide was due about 1pm, so we expected to have the ebb tide in our favour for the outward trip and the flood tide helping us to return. That's a significant advantage in the Tamaki River, and even more so near Crusoe Island where the tidal stream runs fast enough to create overfalls at spring tides.

Across the stretch of open water northeast of Musick Point our group spread out, but it was easy to keep track of everyone from the sound of conversations floating across the water. As we passed along the southeastern shore of Motuihe those who were towing fishing lures began to have some success; it was a good day for fishermen but a bad day for kahawai.

We planned to stop for lunch on Crusoe Island, but by the time we had landed on the little pebble beach on its western side the wind was beginning to rise



slightly. It seemed prudent to move on to a position from where we could blow home down-wind if the wind became strong. So after a short break we paddled northwest along the seaward face of Motuihe. Many of us then carried our kayaks across the narrow neck of the island; I always think that a short portage adds to the interest of a trip. A few paddled right around the north end, and we all gathered for lunch in a sheltered spot near the Motuihe Wharf.



Just room for 13 kayaks

While we were eating, Will Hendon was unwise enough to mention that he is a design engineer by profession. We spent an enjoyable half-hour blaming him personally for the early failure of our washing machines and electric kettles, the impossibility of dismantling many modern appliances in order to repair them, and the cheap materials from which so many are constructed. Will took all this in good part, and I hope he will come away on future club trips so we can continue the conversation.

The trip home was relaxed. The weather remained calm and sunny, and the wind never became more than a breeze. By evening the Wind Warning had been upgraded to a Storm Warning, and by dawn next day Tiritiri Island was recording gusts in excess of 70 knots, while Bean Rock was over 50. So it just shows that with sensible precautions a thoroughly enjoyable day can be squeezed in ahead of a thoroughly disagreeable forecast.

Around Kawau Island

During May and June of this year New Zealand suffered a lot of rain, wind and pretty awful weather, so it was a delight to wake up on 24th June to perfect weather. Even better was the promise that Sunday 25th June would be an equally perfect day. So there was no surprise that eight men and four women crawled out of bed before the birds and traveled through the dark to assemble at 8am at Martins Bay to join Gerard on his Round Kawau Trip.

Following discussion as to which way we should go to take advantage of wind and tide, it was decided to go in a clockwise direction. A 15 knot wind was coming from a NE direction and was expected to drop later in the day.

With three degree temperatures we left Martins Bay dressed up in poly-pro, paddle jackets, gloves, hats and sun-glasses. This was to be the best (easiest) part of the morning's paddle as we paddled across the white caps in front of us, and passing Motuora, Moturekareka and Motuketekete on our right and paddled in between rocks to land on Beehive Island for a short break and leg-stretch.

From here we crossed over to Kawau Island and paddled along looking for a nice sandy beach to land on for morning tea. This was not quite as easy as we might have expected because the surf was hitting all the beaches along this stretch prior to Kawau Point. It was during this early part of the trip that I began to realize that just because the weather forecast was for a perfect day, the trip was not to be all plain sailing. The first wave to hit me went right up my sleeve, and this was shortly followed with another which went right down the front of my clothes. From then on I was hit by many waves and was absolutely saturated within a short period of time. Gerard was classing the swell at 1 ½ metres.

An almost suitable place was found for our morning tea stop with Gerard directing two boats in through the surf to land at a time. I was interested to see Will turn his kayak around and go in backwards. He told me later that this allowed him to see what was coming at him. (Makes sense to me, but cannot imagine me trying it. The surf scares me enough without trying to experiment). Here we found just how cold temperatures were. While paddling we were keeping warm, but it was bitterly cold on the beach.

Once fuelled up, we set off around Kawau Point, and this is where the real fun began. Of course the men love these conditions, and their shouts of glee could be heard all along this back and longest stretch of the island. Maybe I need more practice because I only managed to get a few decent surf rides. The water was very disturbed, but also very

interesting. Long stretches of surf were breaking over the many reefs along the back of the island, so we kept well out from the land. Towards the northern most point and with Tawharanui on our right we noticed a long reef stretching from Tawharanui almost over to Kawau with a very long breaking wave. As we all moved close to Kawau in order to avoid being smashed on this reef, we noticed one of our men lining up to rush through. I sat still with my mouth open and was amazed as he negotiated the wave safely. He later said it was nowhere near as good as he had expected. There were no signs of habitation along this long stretch of the island apart from one tiny, lonely bach situated almost on the beach near the northern point.

It was a relief to round the northern most point and find Snells Beach facing us across a huge open space of sea, and we shortly found a sandy bay for lunch. It was here that Gerard cooked his first fish and was the only one of the 12 to have a freshly cooked lunch. We thawed out in the shelter of rocks, but soon had to face the cold conditions on our homeward leg of the journey. The water now was much calmer and there were lots of homes/baches on this side of the island. A lot of them appeared to have their own private jetty. It was a very pleasant (though somewhat cold) paddle along to Bon Accord Harbour and then to land at Mansion House beach. What a delightful place this is and would be a very pleasant place to visit and spend more time. The peacocks (including a white one) were almost tame. It is easy to see why Governor Grey loved this place.

The last leg of our journey was slower than expected and I was wondering what was holding up most of the group. It was our intrepid leader who was busy catching fish – I think another four. Once Martins Bay was in sight, it seemed to take a very long time to actually get across that stretch of water. I landed back at Martins Bay at 4.30pm and had to drive home in the dark, a tired, but very happy person.

This was my first ever visit to Kawau and have to thank Gerard and the other paddlers for a wonderful day in wonderful company. While there have been many club trips to and around this fabulous island, I have always found reasons why I should stay away.

From this fantastic trip I have learned that although this day was the second lovely day in a row, it followed many weeks of dreadful weather, and the consequence of the foul weather was still rolling in from the open sea at the back of the island thus making a much harder paddle than we had expected.

Henley Royal Regatta

When talking with canoeists, I am get irritated when they talk about oars rather than paddles. But there is one guy who changed from paddles to oars and has never looked back since. In fact since facing the "wrong" way in his boat, he has beaten everybody else rowing single sculls in the world. His name is Mahe Drysdale, World Champion and Olympic Rower. Mahe was a member of the Auckland Canoe Club and played canoe polo before becoming a rower. He manages to keep his sponsors and friends informed by email of his progress despite a very busy training and competition schedule. I am sure you will enjoy his story from the Henley Regatta, where he competed in the first week of July.

Well I have left Poland and the Rowing NZ team for a week, to come to compete in the Diamond Sculls at the Henley Royal Regatta. Pretty much the title says a lot about the regatta, it is another world and it is different to any regatta I have ever been to. It is like walking back into a world that existed about 120 years ago. Not surprising I suppose, considering the Diamond Sculls were thought up in 1844 and the current trophy has been contested since 1850.

This regatta is a law unto its self as it existed before the British and World rowing bodies were even thought up. The Stewards (members of the Regatta) run the regatta and have complete jurisdiction over what happens. I am being looked after very well, staying with a lovely family in a very large house up the hill from the river. The gardens are fantastic, half an acre in the middle of Henley you would think to be rare, but I am not so sure after seeing Henley and this regatta.

To try and describe the regatta a few words come to mind: Tradition, Posh, Conservative, English. It runs very differently from your average regatta too. For a start there are only two boats per race and the loser is knocked out. So by the end of today (day 2) three quarters of all the crews entered in the regatta have been knocked out and can go home. Which I think is a good thing as by the time they have had their lunch and tea breaks there isn't a huge amount of time for rowing so the less races the better.

There are a few other differences, the crowds are much larger and better dressed than your average spectator. There is one lane shared by both boats and big solid wooden logs (instead of buoys) to mark the lanes so you drift wide and your pretty much toast. There is no electronic timing, instead the umpire takes the time from following the race and each mark flags drop so the umpire knows

when you go through a mark. There are no commentators, just announcers (most like golf commentators) and they certainly don't have any emotion in their voice. "As they Draw to the finish, Tideway Scullers striking 38, hold a bow ball lead over Henley striking 40." By listening to the guy you think the race is clear cut, but on the water they finish in a photo finish. There are no big screens or TV, just wooden boxes with people pushing boats along to replicate the progress of the race.

The race results are all given by verdict, "Tideway Scullers win by 2 lengths". The fans as well don't shout much just clap and say "jolly good show old chap". This is what makes Henley and will hopefully never change. It is the reason I wanted to come and despite all the stories I still didn't expect the reality to be as the stories suggested. It certainly feels like you are a part of history and if you win you will forever be in the record books. I am really enjoying everything about it. Think it is something every athlete should get an opportunity to experience at some point in their career because it is different and very unique.

So today was the start for me and I faced an English guy who has been on the verge of the squad for years. First things first and it was to the weigh in, yes that's right they weigh everyone and I came in at 15.4, as they do it all in stone here. Why they do it and what that means I have no idea, think its just the way its been done traditionally. The race started well as I jumped to a lengths lead quickly, I kept extending the lead and at the ¼ mile (miles not KM) I was comfortably in front and the rest of the race consisted of the rating (or as they say in Henley the striking) getting lower and lower (finishing around 23). The verdict was "easily" (meaning 5 lengths or more) and 3rd fastest time of the 8 races in the Diamonds. The umpire certainly kept my mind working as the wind and wash made it difficult to stay on my side meaning 3 warnings from the umpire, so certainly something to take into tomorrow's race.

The last great thing about this regatta is the spectators in boats, they literally tie their boats to the booms, therefore they are only about 3-4 metres away from you. This is certainly something you have to get used to as in the usual 2K format the competitor in the lane next to you is at least 6 metres away.

The second days conditions again were lovely, so I decided to have a go at the barrier record (2089 feet). Well, I could not quite match it, but decided to lower the stroke rate for the rest of the distance, holding on to win the race by about one and a half lengths. Apparently it was not the gentlemanly thing to do to win with a verdict of easily. After the race it

is very nice, as your competitor comes and shakes your hand and has a chat, he thanked me for the race and the winning margin.

I pretty much spent the week in amazement about how unique and different Henley is to any other regatta in the world. You need the right badges and to know the right people to be able to go certain places around the regatta. I have had to learn unwritten rules, stand still at the end of the day as the band plays the national anthem. Overall it is very traditional and quaint. Ultimately you will be OK and have a great time as long as you act like a gentleman and practice sportsmanship behaviour. I have been treated very well, been looked after fantastically and enjoyed every part of the whole experience. I certainly think some of the lessons could be taken to other regatta's and sports.

So how did the rowing go? Well I got through to the final fairly unscathed. I was facing Charlie Palmer (last years beaten finalist). At the start I opened up a fairly healthy lead and was always pretty comfortable. The second half the rating came down to the late twenties and Charlie fought all the way. A burst near the finish line made sure I kept my winning verdict of 5 lengths, and an accusation from the umpire that I was "showboating" for the crowd. Bill Barry quickly dispelled that rumour and I think I managed to come away still a gentleman.



The prize giving was a very organised and official affair (would expect nothing less). I became only the 2nd Kiwi to be awarded the Diamond Sculls, possibly the most prestigious and historical prize in world sculling. It is a beautiful wooden box with lots of flaps that fold out to hold the silver plates with the names of the winners since 1850. In the centre of the box are some lovely silver sculls with a wreath of diamonds and emeralds. And a big diamond at the bottom. The Diamond sculls are far too valuable for me to keep for the year so I had about 15 minutes with them to get some photos (had a minder watching my every move while I was holding them). I did however get a nice gold cup called the Pineapple cup which is mine to keep.

Not bad considering every other event only gets medals to keep and beautiful silver cups, that also have to be given back after 15 minutes. The night ended with a little Pimms and Champagne in the pineapple cup, catching up with the many supporters who had kindly come up from London to watch. Well the week is over and has been a very successful and fun week, overall the best regatta I have ever been to.

Very happy to win the Diamonds and get my name in the Henley history books. I am now back focused on Lucerne where the racing is going to be a lot tougher and get to face all the same guys from Poznan again, to see what progress everyone has made towards the worlds.

Winter Lecture Series

Club Winter Lecture Series at the Marine Rescue Centre

**Auckland Canoe Club Winter Lecture Series.
Tuesday 25 July.**

A well known couple on the Auckland kayak scene, **Kevin and Debbie Dunsford**, will be our guest speakers this month. Kevin is an avid coastal explorer who knows how to enjoy the outdoors. Be it kayak fishing, sailing or camping, he is in his element.

Debbie is also a very capable sea kayaker and has a particular fondness for getting the little ones out on the water as well. Debbie will have her own special session about a trip across the Gulf last summer

Meet at the Marine Rescue Centre (City end of Tamaki Drive) at 7pm for a 7:30 start.

A \$2 door charge will cover your supper and helps with a gift for our guests.

Additional dates

Tuesday 22 August

Tuesday 19 September

Need more info?

Phone **Roger Lomas 5798799**

President's Report July 2006

It was great to see the large turn out for the first of our Winter Lectures. These are always popular but Colin's tale of epic proportions certainly provided both entertainment and education for lots of us.

Club members continue to push the boundaries – safely I might add – and this increases their and our kayaking knowledge. On behalf of the Club I thank Colin for pushing those boundaries.

As you will see from this edition of the newsletter our Editor is well underway with the publication, but relies heavily on YOUR contributions. We have a number of Club Members who are regular contributors, but there are many others out there with tales to tell. Even a very brief trip report will serve to encourage others to leave their fireplaces and get out on to the water.

You will also see that this newsletter contains the password for the new Club website. I have to apologise for the delay in switching this on. Our webmaster has been busy and away and I was supposed to be the backup person in her absence. However I too have been extremely busy and unable to give it the attention that was planned. We are attempting to switch on the new site on by the beginning of August – so watch this space...

Hoping to see many of you on the water very soon,

Jan

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 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.

The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

During the post A.G.M. natter, a time was allotted for attendees to air their wants and wishes. Amongst the usual calls for more Club this and that came a rather unusual request. Someone wanted the Club to look at ordering new Club caps with bigger bills. The voice came from the back row and had a very strong South African accent. We all turned to look and confirm that yes indeed it was our balding big beaked trips officer Phillip Noble.

The early morning kayak group certainly knows how to enjoy winter paddling. Even when the weather is murky, they are out on the water at day break getting a good lungful of healthy sea air. An often repeated comment amongst the group is that even on some of the very testing days, they are glad that they got up and made the effort. As a mid winter reward they treated themselves to a long weekend of pampered luxury. Heading north they took up exclusive residence at a magnificent eight bedroom beachside 'bach'. This opulent Oakura lodge came complete with its own chef who took good care of the kayakers. A hearty breakfast, special packed lunches and sumptuous evening banquets with fine wines. All too soon it was time to head back to the big smoke but it would only be a short week before another eagerly awaited early morning weekend kayak. Well done to Tony Hannifin who put together the package for lads.

Ambitious Aussies. A small column in the N.Z. Herald earlier this month announced that two young Australian kayakers were planning to attempt a trans-Tasman kayak crossing. The duo had recently completed a voyage down the Murrey River and were looking for a bigger challenge. They plan to tackle the 2200km crossing later this year in December. A special 9m sea kayak with a sleeping pod is to be used and they estimate the voyage will take around 50 days. Some years ago, back in the eighties, Paul Caffyn and Bob McKerrow made an attempt to paddle from Tasmania to NZ. They were using a big Sisson Southern Light double that had been modified for sleeping and had a water desalinator. Big trouble with Tasmanian authorities and weather stymied their attempts.

Kayakers love to accessorise their craft. Here in Auckland we are blessed with a cluster of interesting shops and outlets which cater for this fetish. They are the marine chandlers to be found down around Beaumont St and its environ at Westhaven. Places like Sailors Corner, Burnsco Marine and Mt Smart Marine. Here a fertile, inventive

mind will run amuck amongst the myriad of gadgets and fittings. It is well worth a look on a rainy day. Just around the corner in Westhaven Drive is the famed Boat Books with probably the best selection of kayak books in town. Down at Okahu Bay our good neighbour Fergs Kayaks still has the biggest selection of kayaks on show in NZ. Being right next to the water has its advantages and the chance to try before you buy is unparalleled. A long time supporter of our club, Fergs will give you a special 10% discount on sea kayaks and gear. You only have to ask for it.

Shock- horror, there was a photograph taken inside the men's ablution block and it was being flashed up on the screen at last months winter lecture series. The ladies in the audience gasped. Rona was getting quite excited and wanted to see more. No there were no naked male members bobbing about. Our guest speaker, Colin Quilter had used the image to depict 'journeys end'. After his epic kayak voyage up the coast from Wellington, a long hot shower was a well earned reward. Journeys end was at the Riverside Motor Camp in Wairoa and what a fabulous ablution block it had. Gleaming stainless steel, gingham curtains everywhere, all neat and tidy with fresh flowers on the vanity. It was no wonder that Rona was getting all excited because if this was the men's, then what was on offer in the ladies? Brave man that he is kayaking the remote coast, climbing up rocky precipices to get all the those wonderful shots, Colin and his camera were just not going there.

Our winter lecture series is a great place to catch up with old paddling mates and also provides a good opportunity for newer members to meld in with the club. Before and after the show refreshments are available and the Marine Rescue Centre is all abuzz with club chatter. Our super supper lady Alison excelled herself last month and even managed to recruit a couple of lads to circulate with food platters. Trips Officer, Philip Noble is a regular at these evenings and is always happy to listen to ideas and offers. We may have given the evening the rather formal title of 'Winter Lectures', but they are really fun friendly interactive gatherings with fellow club mates. This months show is no different, Kevin and Debbie Dunsford will be along to talk about their kayaking adventures. Just remember it is a big friendly club and if you would like to bring along some friends, they are most welcome.

Some flash new kayaks have been seen on the water in the last few months. The lovely latté ladies have splashed out and two new X Factors are now racing

around the bays to coastal cafés with Rosemary Sanson leading the way. Joining the ranks of the Barracuda Boys are Jimmy Thompson and Kevin Woolcott who have upgraded to the deep V bottomed Safaris.

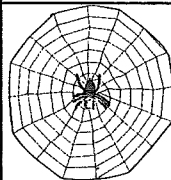
New Newsletter editor Peter Sommerhalder is a man of many hats. After selling their busy Canoe Centre he headed up to Fiji to help Su run a tourism venture. Back in Auckland now with some spare time the newsletter job looked attractive. A call for help at a Napier kayak retail outfit was answered and he was also spotted down in Weber near Dannevirke, helping with drenching sheep and house decorating at his daughters farm. Now with a workload like that we all need to 'get in behind' and help make his newsletter life easier. Trip reports and articles nice and early please.

Celestial Navigation

10 or 12 October - Celestial Navigation

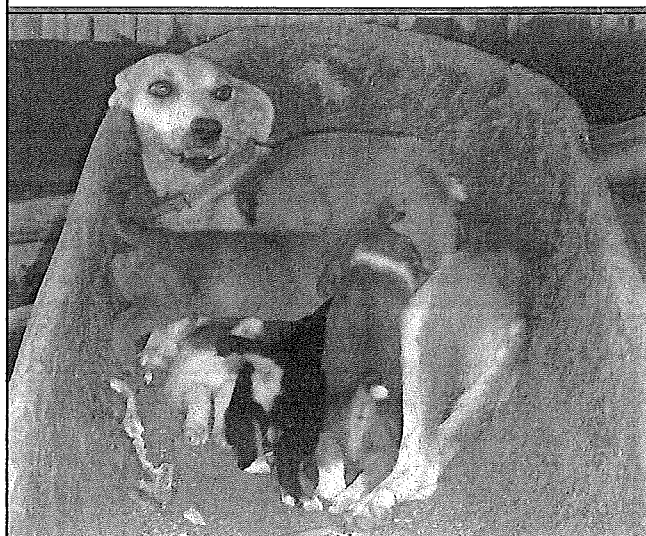
Stardome has scheduled navigation shows for 7:30pm on 10 and 12 October 2006, and apparently we can take bookings for those now if you're interested in attending (people who missed out on the last shows already being referred to these October ones so they could sell quite quickly).

Contact Alison on **ph 579-0512**



Club Website Access

August **WAIRARAPA**



Old dugout canoe - new use.

Poet's Corner

*The glass is low the weather's really nasty
Find a little beach and have a dip.
It doesn't have to be an expedition
It doesn't even have to be a trip*

*The wind is blowing thirty knots and stronger
The waves are huge much bigger than before
It's the time to practise staying upright
I only need to be a short way from the shore*

*The winter's just the time for scary training
To practise all those skills I've learnt to do
Get in the foamy spray and get the feeling
Of being upside down when in the pooh.*

*Those braces and support strokes so endearing
To teachers of the sea kayaking brand
Can be practised fairly safely near the beachfront
Making sure the wind is blowing onto the land.*

*It's much more fun with two or three together
To shout and holler yee-haa surfing in
To skite about the time you did an endo
Every move you make will bring a grin.*

*It's being in my kayak that's important
It doesn't have to be a trip to Oz
It doesn't have to be a trip to anywhere
It's playtime with my precious - just because.*

*To the expert paddlers frequenting our waters
These rhyming couplets may sound rather tame
But the sharing of our skills at many levels
Is the real joy of being in the game.*

*So remember when it's blowing half a gale
And you're tucked up warm and cosy in your bed
The cup of tea is cooling right beside you
Feel free to disregard this stuff you've read.*

Mike Randall

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Kayaking with kids

Kayaking with children can be a lot of fun, or a nightmare if you're unlucky.

Our daughter was 5 months old the first time we took her down the Waikato River in a double kayak. In those days, I wasn't able to buy a buoyancy aid small enough for her so made one, then put her in the local swimming pool to see if it worked. I also made her a parka and waterproof trousers. In the kayak she sat between my knees and the hood on her parka stopped the drips from my paddle wetting her. She promptly went to sleep.

When we had two children we bought an open canoe and put a plastic covered mattress in the bottom. 15 minutes after starting a trip they would both be asleep. Once we reached our destination they would wake, hop out and be ready for their next adventure. When they were older we built a third seat into the canoe and they had to help paddling. By the time they were five, they were big enough to paddle my old slalom kayak and within a few years we found we were the owners of 16 kayaks.

While they were small, we made a rule that as soon as we stopped the car, they put their buoyancy aids on over their clothes while we prepared the kayaks, then changed into kayaking gear when everything was ready. One day we parked at North Shore Canoe Club and someone came to chat. Both children disappeared before we could put on their buoyancy aids. A little while later a man walked towards us carrying a dripping, screaming child. It was our 2 year old son. He had fallen into the quarry and we hadn't realized. The paddler who found him had by chance walked to the Quarry's edge, noticed bubbles coming to the surface and, wondering what had caused them, reached into the water and found him floating below the surface.

He developed a huge fear of water, and even face washing became difficult. However a series of daily swimming lessons fortunately cured it. This proved invaluable when on our next holiday he managed to fall into a swimming pool, Lake Rotorua and the Ohau Channel. Each time I heard a splash, I would look round to see his head popping to the surface with a big smile. Years later, having a cool head proved to be a bonus when he capsized his kayak in the Kaituna River and was held down by the current. He had to make his way downstream for a while before the pressure eased and he could swim to the surface.

We always knew that one day he would paddle Huka Falls. One Saturday we received a phone call. "Guess what I've done" an excited voice said. "You've paddled Huka Falls" I replied. "Yes" he shrieked, "And I'm alive".

Canoe polo, slalom, Down River racing and sea kayaking dominated our lives and as our children grew, they mixed with a wonderful group of kayakers and we were spared the horrors of difficult teenagers as we and all their friends went paddling.

Now, as indulgent grandparents we buy kayaks for the grandchildren and the next generation joins us in this wonderful sport.