



**August 2006**

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*Winter Paddle, Lake Tutira*



## **Auckland Canoe Club Information**

### **Postal Address:**

P.O. Box 9271 Newmarket, Auckland

### **Clubrooms:**

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

### **Website:**

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

### **Email event reminders, send blank email to:**

[subscribe@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz](mailto: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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[Webmaster@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz](mailto: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

*Attending the Tuesday evening club meeting, I had that distinctive feeling of becoming the type of editor who chews the end of the pencil, trying to suck some enlightening information out of it. Now look at the contents of this issue. Thanks to an active team around me, gathering, collecting and writing articles, coaching computer skills and giving heaps of advice, the latest newsletter is ready. Besides entertaining trip reports, there is information which is a must know for all us harbour users. Our president is active in exchanging information to and from City and Harbour Authorities.*

*The Auckland Canoe Club and kayaking as a sport have gained in recognition when dealing with the authorities. We have a voice in planning and safety issues.*

*Spring is around the corner with the welcoming warmer days and longer daylight hours. All encouraging signs to meet on the water.*

*Peter*

## Dates Harbour Swims

### Auckland Central

#### Masters Harbour Swim Series 2006/07

<b>26 Nov</b>	<b>Herne Bay Swim</b> Herne Bay Beach to Curran Street
<b>10 Dec</b>	<b>Chelsea Sugar Swim</b> Curran Street to Chelsea
<b>18 Feb</b>	<b>Eagle Technology Bays Swim</b> St Heliers Bay to Tamaki Yacht Club
<b>11 Mar</b>	<b>Eagle Technology Rangitoto Swim</b> Rangitoto Island to St Heliers Bay

## Scheduled Club Trips August / September

There are a number of Intermediate Paddlers who would like to form a group to paddle on Saturday mornings for a few hours. If you're interested, please phone Philip for details.

### **Sunday 13 August - Waitemata Wander**

Ideal for novice paddlers, but all levels catered for.

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.

**Ph Gerard Fagan 832 9720 Mob 021 0715 917.**

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August - Paddle Whangaparaoa.**

Meet at Long Bay Regional Park for a tide assisted leisurely paddle along the Peninsula to Shakespeare Regional Park for lunch. Return on the flood tide.

**Phone Philip Noble on 575 3493 for details and departure time**

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Saturday 2 September - Non Paddling Day** (Power Boat Race in the Harbour)

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – Any volunteers to coordinate a trip to their favourite destination?

**Phone Philip Noble on 575 3493**

### **Sunday 10 Sept - Waitemata Wander**

Suitable for novice padlers. Meet St Heliers 9am. The trip destination will be dictated by the prevailing wind and tide directions. Paddling into the wind till lunch, then cruising back downwind to St Heliers.

**Ph Gerard Fagan 832 9720 Mob 021 0715 917.**

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September- Lunch on Waiheke**

OK, 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



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.

Suitable for intermediate and advanced paddlers and weather dependant, 18Kms.

**Phone Philip Noble on 575 3493**

### **Sunday 24th Sept – Tamaki Strait (32km)**

Meet at Maraetai. We will paddle across to Waiheke Island, then up to Motuihe Island for lunch. (If the winds are light we can cruise in and out of the bays.) After lunch we head back via Motukaraka Island (or possibly Bucklands Beach)

**Ph Gerard Fagan 832 9720, mob 021 0715 917, for departure time**

## **Regular Events**

### **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.

## **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 \$20.00

Half day - out am back am / out pm back pm \$10.00

#### **Double kayaks**

Daily hire - out am back pm \$30.00

Half day - out am back am / out pm back pm \$15.00

Please enter details of hire in register and on envelope

Put money in envelope & place envelope in honesty box

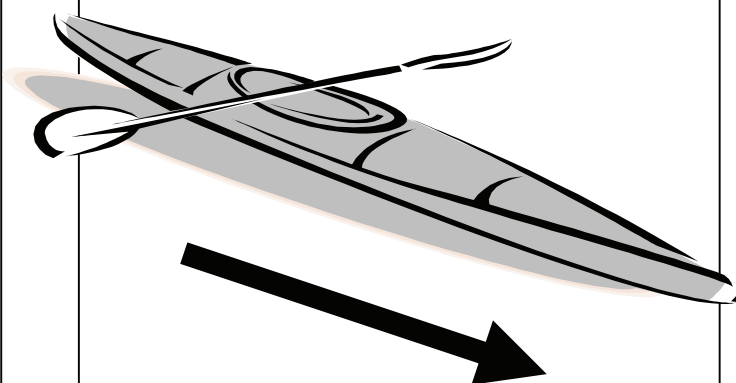
No IOU's

Carry or wheel kayaks to water.

No seal launching

Please wash kayaks before returning to rack

Report faults / problems on the faults / problems sheet



Club kayaks go into the storage shed

Bow first please

Numbers are on the back and rudder does not get damaged

## Trip Reports

### A Tale of Two Tides or Around Rangitoto SLOWLY!

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July dawned bright and sunny in accordance to weather forecasting instructions of “Clear with 5 knot SW building to 10Knots SW by midday with occasional scattered showers,” and a low tide at 11:30am.

Armed with a detailed time table of expected land-falls at pre-determined pit stops, a vast armada of 4 kayaks set off at 08:00 sharp from Okahu Bay for a circumnavigation of Rangitoto - Motutapu. Approximate distance computed by the well tried and trusted piece of string was about 40 odd km and 8 hours give, or take a day or so. The hardy quartett consisted of Mike Scanlan, Barracuda Beach-comber, plus GPS (Great Piece of S.t), a new fangled device invented to check the accuracy of string; Adrian Davis, Coast to Coaster of renown, piloting a battle scarred Cutlass of dubious colour; Rosemary Davis, spouse of the afore mentioned Adrian, and aspirant Coast to Coastess, in the worlds fastest Penguin; all led by Gavin “Sailor” Baker, in the worlds most heavily laden Barracuda Expedition. (Having arrived back at Okahu Bay about half an hour after the group he was supposedly leading, Baker unloaded and weighed the contents of his kayak – 30 b----y kgs of gear! He weighs 105 kgs. No wonder he couldn’t keep up!)

Hardly had the group cleared Okahu Jetty on its clockwise circumnavigation, when an unsuspecting fizz boat cruised by at the regulatory 5 knots heading East for a spot of fishing. Before they knew what had happened Adrian was onto their stern like a rat up a drainpipe. The startled skipper opened up the throttles, but there was no escape and with paddles flailing away like the propeller of a Spitfire, Adrian headed off in the general direction of Bean Rock on an anti-clockwise circumnavigation. It was not to last. Evasive tactics by the fizz boat shook Adrian off, so he reluctantly rejoined the group. Thereafter, however, any boat coming within cooe of the group did so at its peril as it immediately found itself with a Cutlass up its bum.

As cunningly planned by the fiendishly clever trip leader, the out-going tide soon swept the group across to McKenzies Bay where a brief stop was

made to check the accuracy of the navigation and timetable. The piece of string verified that the GPS was working reasonably well, and course was set for Sandy Bay. A fair number of Penguins – of the feathered variety - were encountered, and Adrian made some stealthy approaches to the unsuspecting birds.

“I think I got to within a metre of that one” he announced.

“More like minus 5mm” retorted the leader, as the Penguin dived deep, holding its head.

The breeze grew to the promised 10 knots, the leader unfurled his sail and smirked serenely on towards Sandy Bay, assisted, as cunningly planned, by the still outgoing tide. Smoko at Sandy Bay was partaken about 30 minutes ahead of schedule.

Billy Goat Point was rounded without incident apart from Adrian (AGAIN) attempting to take a shortcut through a non-existent gap. The ghastly crunch of fibreglass meeting oyster covered rock attesting for the battle scarred appearance of the Cutlass. The oddest part was that it didn’t even look like a gap – just a vertical cliff face with a fissure at the bottom. Ah well, c’est la vie. One mans gap is another mans fissure. Hmmm, better not dwell on that!

After a pleasant paddle we landed at Home Bay – the designated lunch stop - about 45 minutes ahead of schedule. Here we were joined by three members of the Motutapu Trust, having a well earned break from their labour of clearing weeds in a long term plan to restore Motutapu to its original bush clad, pest free state. Interesting, dedicated people with whom we happily traded insults for 45 minutes or so. Having drunk Rosemary’s coffee, they resumed their work and we resumed our trip, heading to Emu Point.

The tide had been kind – as cunningly planned!  
BUT--

By this stage the azure blue sky had turned to a rather nasty shade of “Mordor Grey”, and the pleasant zephyr of a breeze had grown to something more. Decisions, decisions, decisions! The original plan (Plan A) had been to sweep across to Browns Island boosted by the full mid tidal stream rushing up the Tamaki, and thence across to the cliffs at Glendowie, and back along the beaches. However it was as windy as. So Plan B was to cross Isling-

ton Bay to Rangitoto Wharf, hang a left (Port) just past the wharf and cross to Okahu Bay. It was about then that the brain seizure kicked in and the leader – may Allah protect him - said “Plan C. Let’s just cut across to Kohi. See the tall buildings over theeeeeeeeere!? Just aim for them.” Where upon said buildings disappeared behind a rain squall. And off the group set, like lambs to the slaughter, like the Springboks to the Wallabies.

You see, dear reader, what the up to now brilliant leader had NOT taken into account was the fact that the tide rushes through Motohuie Channel and thence up the Tamaki and also hangs a right (Starboard) around Emu point and heads to Rangitoto wharf. At the West end of Rangitoto the tide rushes through the Rangitoto Channel and hangs a right (Starboard) up the harbour and a left (Port) around Rangitoto rookery and heads to Rangitoto wharf where - surprise, surprise - it meets the tide coming the other way. Both tidal flows then barrel across to Mission Bay where they part company, one heading West for the harbour and the other heading East for the Tamaki Estuary. WEEEEEEEEEEEEEE! Guess who found themselves in a 20 knot gusting 30 knot westerly paddling against a tide determined to drag as many kayaks as possible down the Tamaki to Otahuhu? You’re right! It was us!

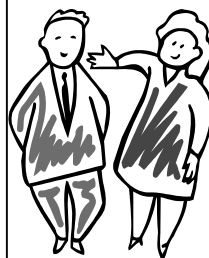
To add to the fun the harbour seemed to be full of yachties racing this way and that taking full advantage of the wind. Adrian was in his element with yacht after yacht being tagged by a Cutlass. But even Adrian started slowing up. At one stage an Etchells racing yacht came past from behind and passed within a couple of feet from Adrian, who politely suggested that they could actually have gone around him rather than over him! The leader had visions of an earlier incident where a Penguin possibly had exactly the same sentiments. Notwithstanding, the leader supported Adrian and was heard muttering about “Our souls and hankers” or something like that! The words were carried away by the gale.

The group struggled manfully, womanfully in Rosemarys case, westwards. The leader falling steadily behind, wondering why the other kayaks skipped over the surface, whereas his Barracuda seemed bogged in a quagmire. Completely forgetting that he had loaded the boat with enough food, water and equipment to mount a serious expedition up Everest. After about an hour of “F-----g, b----y, b-----d kayak! F-----g, b----y, b-----d wind! F-----g, b----y, b-----d waves!” the leader finally cleared Kohi and reached the west bound tide stream. COOOL !

The rest of the group were by this time distant dots on the horizon. Eventually the leader staggered ashore to be greeted by the group, relieved to see that he had come ashore at Okahu Bay and not Valparaiso, as they were beginning to fear.

“All good character building stuff!” says the leader cheerfully.

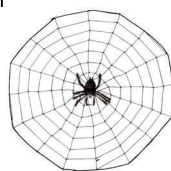
“Isn’t that what they say in the Army, when someone really, really cocks it up?” comes the reply.



**Welcome**

The Committee extends a warm welcome to the following new members...

Al-Khayat and Ghanim Family,  
Munaf, Omar, Mohamad and Mayada



**Club Website Access**

August **WAIRARAPA**

**Outdoor Discoveries Ltd**  
Specialist Sea Kayak Shop  
Westech Place, Kelston,  
Auckland



Sea kayaking courses and instruction  
Stockists of Necky and Quality Kayaks.  
All kayaking equipment and accessories.




7A Westech Pl, Kelston  
e-mail team@odnz.co.nz, www.odnz.co.nz  
ph: 0800 www odnz - 0800 999 636

## President's Report

I had the privilege to attend a meeting this month of the Auckland Recreational and General Harbour User's.

This is attended by many different groups including the Harbour Master (or deputy), Coastguard and Maritime NZ.

A number of issues of relevance to kayakers were raised and I want to share these with you...

- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> September the Auckland PWC are holding a race day on the harbour. This will make the harbour very busy and if you do intend to venture out kayaking you will need to take extra precautions.
- Harbour Movements.
  - o You can obtain a list of scheduled shipping movements on the Ports of Auckland Website [www.poal.co.nz/shipping/ExpectedArrivals.asp](http://www.poal.co.nz/shipping/ExpectedArrivals.asp)
  - o Detailed information can also be obtained via the automatic phone number **309-1382**
- As detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, during September the shipping channel into the Port will be changed. Existing buoys will be moved and new buoys installed. The result is a much longer but narrower shipping channel which has now been dredged to cater for larger vessels. These vessels have only 25 meters clearance on each side of the channel and *can not be manoeuvred out of your way!*
- Maritime NZ has provided the Club with a DVD "Safe Boating" and we will be showing this at the September Winter Lecture Series. It is full of information relevant to our Club.

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



Ports of Auckland

Expected Arrivals and Departures

**Phone 309-3182**

## Shipping Distances

The new shipping channel for vessels entering and leaving the Port of Auckland is much longer but narrower than the previous one. In this area no fishing is allowed and the commercial shipping has total right of way. As part of the implementation of the new channel the authorities will be policing the distances that all boats, including kayakers, have to remain away from the vessels using the channel.

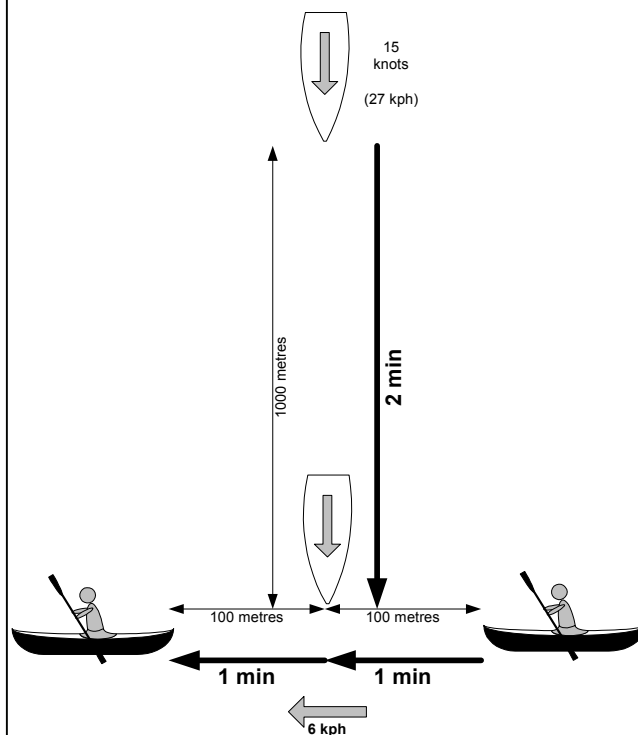
- You must stay 500 metres clear of the bow and 100 metres clear of the side.

### What does this mean to you as a kayaker?

A vessel entering the Port can be moving at 15 knots (27 kph). You might be able to travel at 6 kph in good conditions.

This means that you will take 1 minute to travel 100 metres, or 2 minutes to travel across the path on an approaching vessel.

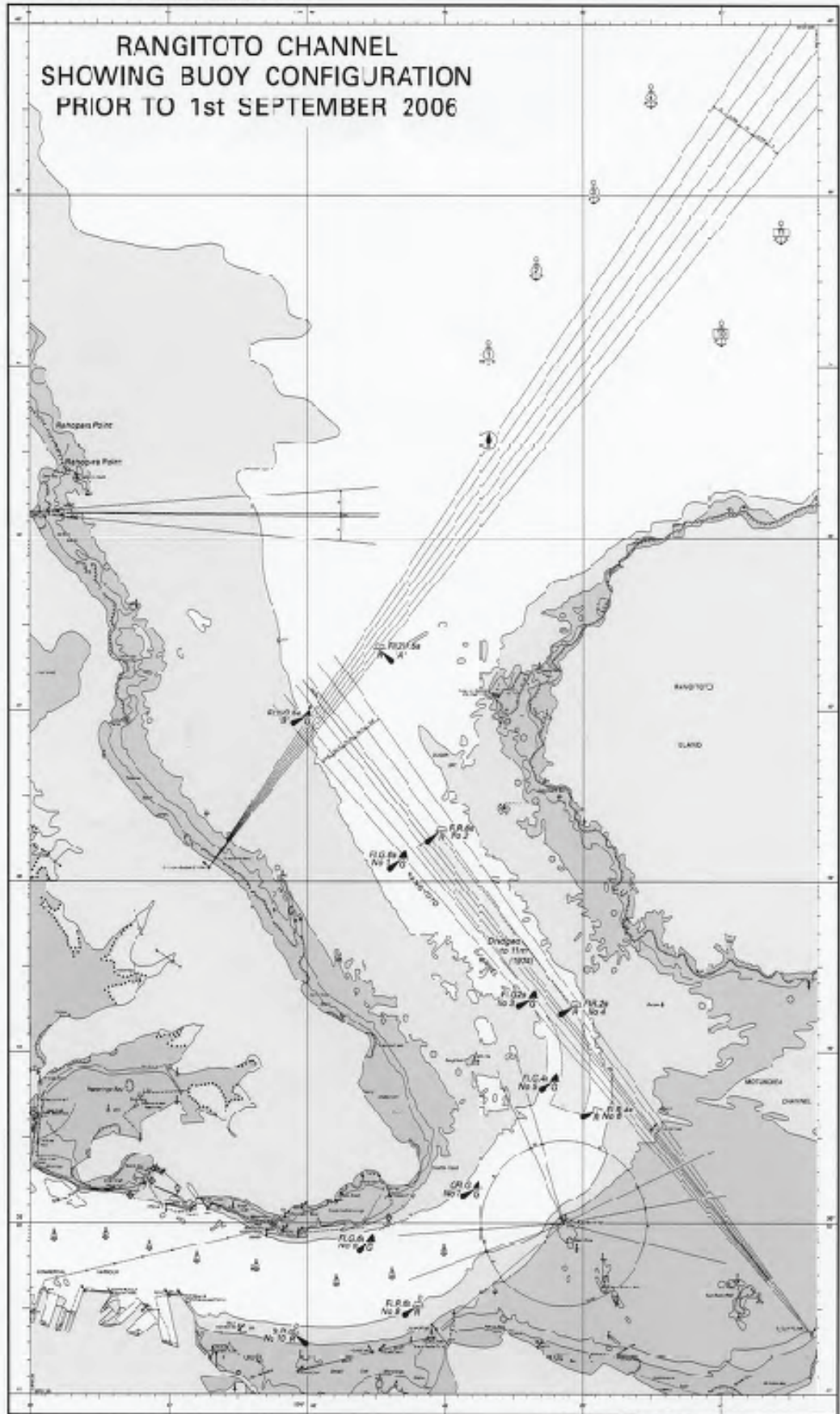
However in that time the approaching vessel, travelling at 27 kph will have travelled 1000 metres. Therefore you need a **MINIMUM** of 1000 metres clear of an approaching vessel before it is safe to consider crossing the channel.





NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

# RANGITOTO CHANNEL SHOWING BUOY CONFIGURATION PRIOR TO 1st SEPTEMBER 2006



NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM D.G.I.F.

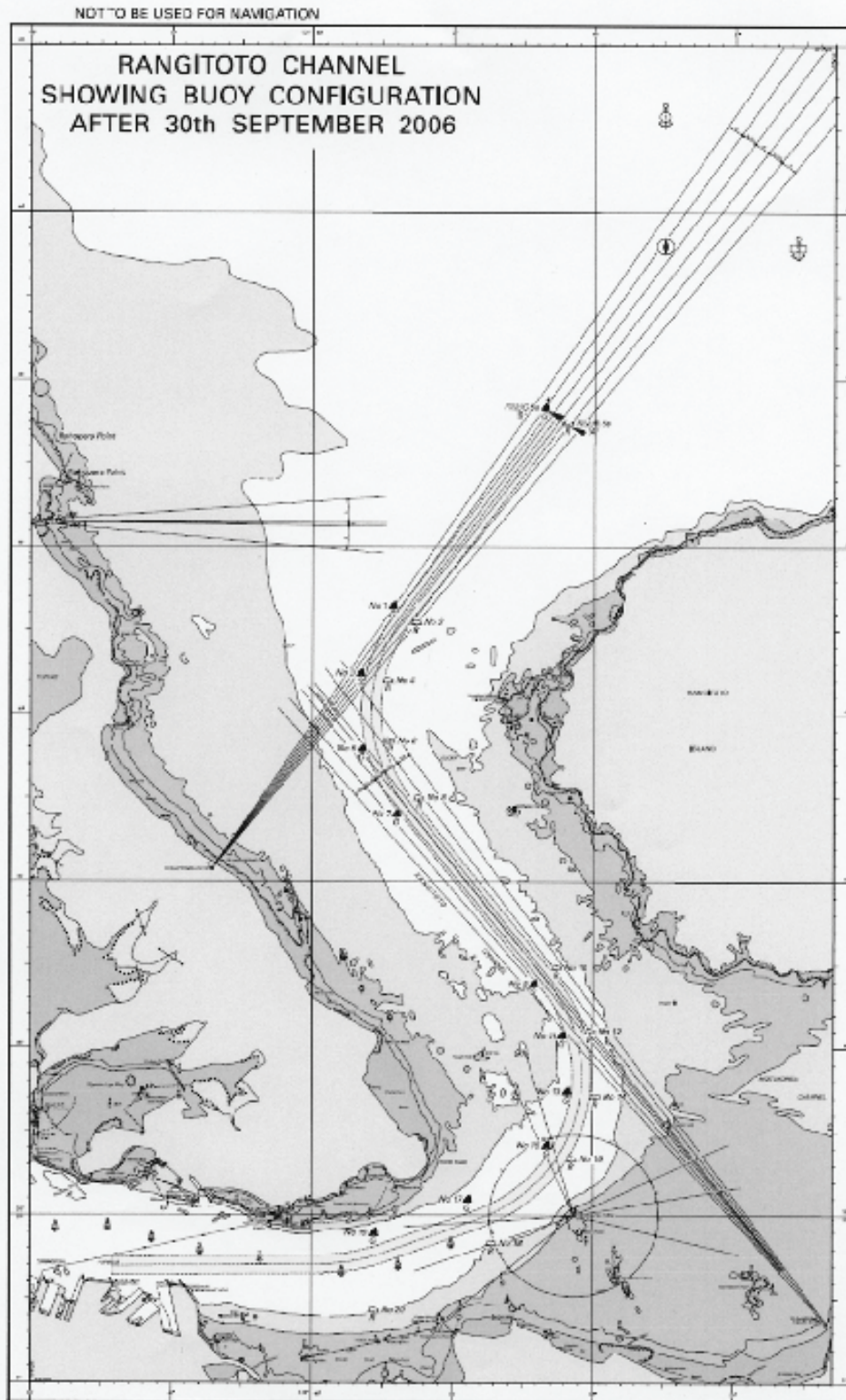




**NOTES**

- These documents have been issued to provide early notification of a major upgrade to the Rangitoto Channel's navigation notices to mariners. It will be issued by the NZ Hydrographic Office in due course, to provide detailed information of the buoy change programme.
- Lifting old buoys and laying new buoys will be carried out from 1st September 2008 to the 30th September 2008.
- Extreme caution must be exercised by all navigators during that period.
- The new pilot station position will be: Lat. 36 44.2' S Long. 174 56.3' E
- The proposed design depth of the new channel is 12.5 metres.
- Note the new positions and names of the Gulf Anchorage.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Marine Services Division of Ports of Auckland or 09 368 3055 ext. 6025.

These documents are not to be used for navigation



NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION  
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM DUNE

Ports of Auckland - Shipping and Cargo Information - Expected Arrivals - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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## Expected Arrivals

<http://www.poa.co.nz/shipping/ExpectedArrivals.asp>

Last Updated: 8/8/2006 21:45 PM

Vessel	Voyage In/Out	Agent	Wharf	Lloyd's No.	Rcv Cutoff	Arrival	Departure	Last Port	Next Port
MAEA	18	CAPE SHIPPING SERVICES LTD	LP& MARINE TERMINAL	9326201		9/8/2006 11:00 AM	9/8/2006 20:00 PM	NEW PLYMOUTH	NEW PLYMOUTH
FORUM PACIFIC	20 21	PACIFIC FORUM LINE (NZ) LTD	JELICOE	8701002	refer to line	9/8/2006 15:00 PM	10/8/2006 10:00 AM	RAROTONGA	
FUJI MARINE	77	NAVIX LINE LTD	CAPTAIN COOK	8417625		10/8/2006 5:30 AM	10/8/2006 19:00 PM		
TENG YUN HE	054S	COSCO (NEW ZEALAND) LTD	FERGUSSON	9223758	9/8/2006 18:30:00 PM	10/8/2006 5:30 AM	11/8/2006 1:00 AM	HONG KONG	LYTTELTON
SPIRIT OF RESOLUTION		PACIFICA SHIPPING LTD	ONEHUNGA	9139127		10/8/2006 11:00 AM	11/8/2006 11:00 AM		
ILLAWARRA CHIEF	7026	CCS - QUADRANT PACIFIC	FREYBERG	9017630	refer to line	11/8/2006 5:00 AM	12/8/2006 23:59 PM	TAURANGA	MELBOURNE
TAURANGA CHIEF	7101	CCS - QUADRANT PACIFIC	FREYBERG	9004504	refer to line	11/8/2006 5:34 AM	13/8/2006 23:04 PM	NEWCASTLE	NAPIER
ANL YARRUNGA	020E 020W	SCALES GEO H LTD	BLEDISLOE	9327566	9/8/2006 17:00:00 PM	11/8/2006 6:00 AM	11/8/2006 18:00 PM	MELBOURNE	
PACIFIC STAR	PT0626	MCKAY SHIPPING LTD	PRINCES	7915096		11/8/2006 6:45 AM	11/8/2006 16:00 PM		
MAERSK DUNCAN	0606	ADSTEAM AGENCY (NZ) LTD	FERGUSSON	9297852	9/8/2006 17:00:00 PM	11/8/2006 11:30 AM	11/8/2006 17:00 PM	BALBOA	MELBOURNE
ETERNAL CLIPPER	002	RUSSELL & COME	CAPTAIN COOK	7816903	refer to line	11/8/2006 14:00 PM	11/8/2006		

## Auckland Canoe Club Winter Lecture Series

### Tuesday, 22 August

**Justin Sanson-Beattie** will be our guest speaker in the final show for this year. A regular contributor to the series over the last nine years, Justin always brings along a display of stunning photography. Be it coastal scenery from the environs of his unique West Coast hideaway, vistas from a bush bashing adventure or candid shots of unsuspecting members on a weekend club outing. They are all part of the show, so come along and enjoy the evening.

Meet at the Marine Rescue Centre at 7pm for a 7:30 start.

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

### Tuesday 19 September

Something a little different for our last meeting in the Winter Series...

Maritime New Zealand has compiled a fascinating presentation entitled "Safe Boating".

The presentation is broken down into a number of modules. These include

- Introduction
- Safe Boating in New Zealand
- Trip planning and Preparation
- Rules and Regulations
- Safe Operation and Seamanship
- Boating Emergencies
- She'll be right mate
- Auckland Regional Council
- Telecom cable zones
- Lake Taupo

Duration 1hr 34 min.

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.

Need more info? **Roger Lomas 5798799**

## SEAKAYAK GUIDING

### Points to consider when leading a trip.

By Gerard Fagan and Peter Sommerhalder

There are some points and rules which must be considered when paddling in a group. Someone, like it or not, should point these out *before* embarking onto the water. Once paddlers are inside their kayaks, waiting to take off, it is too late to get them to listen. And these are the ones who might jeopardise your safety and possibly spoil an otherwise enjoyable trip.

1. Nobody gets on the water until the briefing is complete.
2. Nominate a leader and do an introduction amongst the group. If you agree to paddle "leaderless", still put down rules. Safety is your uppermost concern.
3. Do a running count, so you know how many paddlers have to be counted for at the end of the trip.
4. A Two Minute Form with everybody's name, contact phone number and kayak used, with deck colour, is a must on day or longer trips with large groups.
5. Arrange for people to register before the trip. A form with all participant's details can be prepared beforehand. Should weather conditions dictate a cancellation or change of the trip plans, you have the means of contacting the party.
6. Find out from everyone how well they are prepared for the trip. Ask who brought a first aid kit, pump, tow line, etc. This will bring home the fact that it is not the leader alone who should be bringing safety equipment. It also makes conversation with people who have not met before this trip.
7. Explain whistle signals and paddle signals to be used within the group before launching.
8. Break the distance down into sections to suit the paddlers abilities. Allow stops to stretch legs and have drinks and refreshments. Approximate paddling times are: Novices 1-1.5 hours, Intermediate 1.5-2 hrs, Advanced 2 hours and more. Regular stops allow all participants to cope better and keeps the morale of the group up.

9. Formation paddling. Seakayakers like paddling side by side, which is good for conversations on the move, or in single file. The wash of your partner in front will help you ride along and encourages you not to fall behind.
10. It is very important that the group stays together, cruising at the speed of the slowest paddler. Keep in shouting distance of each other. Large groups can split up in fast and slower pods, each with a leader.
11. Where should the leader be in the pod? Leading from the front? Or leading from the back? Opinions differ in this regard. They have to stay mobile and delegate duties, like assisted rescues. Their role is supervising and delegating. Nominate first paddler and a Tail End Charlie. Swap these duties amongst paddlers on longer outings.
12. Fast paddlers may get restless if the group moves at a moderate speed. Make them to circle the group and come up from behind, let them paddle around the other side of a small island, and zig zag in a down wind situation.
13. Instruct the pod to re-group, for instance before crossing a marina entrance, shipping line, or after crossing a large bay.
14. At the end of the trip do again a running count and have a short debrief.
15. Above all – *enjoy*. And come back for more.

## Celestial Navigation

Stardome Observatory has scheduled two Navigation Shows for the 10th and 12th October. These events are popular with the public. Please book your place now with Alison. Further details will be available soon.

Phone Alison on 579-0512.



**Deadline for next Issue**  
**FIRST Tuesday of the month**  
5th September



## Poem

*We all agree the world's a mess  
From pole to pole from east to west  
And all who are alive today  
Have never known another way.*

*The only way to cure these ills  
Is to use our paddling skills  
That get us out in rain or shine*

*Which leads us to a frame of mind  
That stays away from world affairs  
If all did this there'd be no wars.*

*Our Rod, through dance, became a gent  
Eschewing fights, a heart well meant  
So if the paddle's not your thing  
Take to the floor your soul to sing.*

*So paddle or dance your way to health  
Your foremost wish will not be wealth  
Indeed all thoughts of dosh disperse  
A happy heart, an empty purse.*

*Why not try both and add a third  
Component to your life - some work  
If that's too strong, well, keep it low  
In your list of things to do.*

*Your books, a bike, song, roller blades  
The family, a few good mates  
So many things to get a life  
There's not much time for wars or strife.*

*But how do we get this stuff across  
To warmongers - I'm at a loss  
To understand what's going on  
All I can say is, woe be gone.*

Mike Randall

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## Wish List Destinations

Over the years, Peter and I have visited places and said "One day we'll come back here and go paddling", so a few years back we decided we would go to the Rotorua/Taupo area and actually do some of the things we had on our wish list.

One of my previous jobs was as an Inbound Tour Operator and I frequently accompanied groups of tourists to Rotorua. We always had lunch at Hamurana Springs and afterwards we would walk along the bank of the Hamurana River to the Springs themselves. The water was exceptionally clear and we could see the white sandy river bed, large patches of oxygen weed and dozens of large trout. I itched to paddle in this river. So this was the first destination on our holiday.

On our last visit to Hamurana Springs Restaurant it was derelict so we thought it would be easy to launch our kayak just next to their car park. It was a bit of a shock to see the Restaurant had been renovated and large signs stating "No Fishing" and "No Swimming" erected, but nothing about kayaking.

Peter was ready to flag our paddle to the Springs but I really wanted to go, so I nagged him into launching the kayak into Lake Rotorua. My theory being, that if we paddled up from the lake we wouldn't be able to see the signs in advance and anyway we weren't swimming or fishing so they couldn't stop us.

The Hamurana Springs have a constant temperature of 10 degrees and as we neared the river mouth, it was noticeable how much colder the lake water became.

We paddled into the river and quickly reached the road bridge but to my disappointment almost the whole river was blocked with driftwood and willows which had started sprouting. Undeterred we slid into the branches and started to pull ourselves through. Then I convinced Peter to get out of the kayak, balance on some of the bigger logs and pull the bow of the kayak while I pulled on the branches. After a bit of huffing, puffing and a few swear words we were almost through so Peter climbed back in. We both took good solid grips on handfuls of willow shoots and with a well coordinated heave on these we were suddenly propelled out of the bushes a bit like a cork out of a bottle.

We hadn't reckoned that our sudden appearance would scare a flock of assorted water fowl which until then has been calmly swimming in front of these bushes. Shocked, they all took to the air and flew over the restored and beautifully manicured gardens where an outdoor wedding was in progress. When I was small, my mother used to tell me it was very lucky for a bride to have a bird "poop" on her. I really hope the bride that day knew how very lucky we had made her.

The wedding party was a bit distracted by this sudden lucky event and hadn't noticed us hiding around the corner as we had quickly back paddled as soon as we saw what had happened. Once they were busy getting back to the service, Peter and I decided to sneak along the far bank of the river as unobtrusively as possible, not really an easy thing to do when you're paddling a very brightly coloured Seabear Packhorse. However we paddled quickly and quietly and didn't dare stop until we had rounded a couple of bends. We continued upstream for about another 20 minutes until we reached the source and were sitting in the kayak right on top of the springs.

With difficulty we managed to turn the kayak in the narrow space and drifted much of the way back down, watching the large trout swimming below us.

The wedding party had fortunately gone inside, so we quickly paddled past the restaurant and back into the willows. Our progress this time was much easier as we had flattened some of the growth and the current was also with us, but we both felt some relief when we reached the Lake.

One desired destination achieved - three to go.

Next month: Mokoia Island and Mount Tarawera.



**Hamurana River and Restaurant**