



May 2007

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Californian Surf Practice

Photo courtesy of Johnson Outdoors Watercraft

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

Officers:

Patron:	George Gerard	269 2404
President:	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
Vice-President:	Brian Strid	09 238 8084
Secretary:	Alissa Good	269 5888
Treasurer:	Gerard Fagan	832 9720
Trips:	Philip Noble	575 3493
Publicity:	Roger Lomas	579 8799
Safety/ training:	Erica Law	360 2872
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

[Vinehouse@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz](mailto: Vinehouse@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

Autumn is here – where has Summer gone? We reflect on some good times we had on the water. Or we may regret not having taken more time out to enjoy ourselves while the weather was warm and pleasant. But fortunately we can enjoy our sport all year round. Vine House is a fascinating destination in winter. The trip calendar offers venues that are more suitable for cooler conditions. The club has been active not just paddling, but networking and lobbying through our president. We have a good relationship with the Auckland Harbourmaster and Coastguard. We have a voice regarding the development of The Landing at Okahu Bay. Our Annual General Meeting is only a few weeks away. Come and hear about last year's activities, and help planning for next year. There will be time too for celebrating and socialising. You are welcome to join in.

Peter Sommerhalder

Annual General Meeting

The Auckland Canoe Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on 16th of May 2007, at the Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay. Meet at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

Nominations for election of officers and committee members, and motions have to be received by the club's secretary no later than the 7th of May 2007. It is permitted to nominate yourself, but please make sure you have a seconder. If you are nominating someone else please check first that they are willing to stand.

Please email the secretary: Secretary@AucklandCanoeClub.org.nz, or post to: Auckland Canoe Club, PO Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland. A nomination for the club's patron was received at the last Committee meeting and has been accepted.

Members please note that only financial members are permitted to vote at the Annual General Meeting. For Club Banking Details see inside front cover of the newsletter. Or membership fees can be paid before the Annual General Meeting at the Marine Rescue Centre.

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 food for a shared dinner on Saturday night.*

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: Trevor 817-7357 (home)

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.

Just reminding you that the annual Cambridge – Hamilton Kayak Race and Cruise will take place on Sunday 6th May.

This year we are celebrating 30 years of an event which was started by Auckland Canoe Club, and continues to grow, in competitor numbers and willing sponsors.

The very generous **major sponsors this year** are: **Challenge Kayaks** who are again sponsoring a Sequel sea kayak. Value \$2500.

Johnson Outdoors Watercraft a Manitou 13 touring kayak and Series 2000 paddle. Value \$1470.

Paddling Perfection a \$1500 voucher.

Q-Kayaks a Firefly sit-on kayak and paddle. Value \$520

Safari Lodge (Fiji) A week long holiday for 2 in Fiji. Included are return minivan transfers from Nadi Airport to Ellington Wharf. Return boat transfers to Nananu-I-Ra Island. Double or twin share accommodation at Safari Island Lodge. All meals. Three days of guided Sea Kayaking. Three days of relaxing, snorkelling, fishing. Value \$3000.

Check out www.kayakrace.co.nz to download an entry form or phone Su on (09)631-5344 or 0275-529 251

Scheduled Club Trips

Any members who have ideas on trips or would like to lead a trip please contact Philip on 575 3493. You could also call a friend and meet at a convenient launching spot and have some quality time on the water.

29th April: Paddle the Eastern Beaches and Islands.

Use the outgoing tide to paddle out to Motuihe for a superb relax, swim and lunch on my favourite beach, return after lunch via Rangitoto and Bean rock. Alternatively if the weather is unfavourable we'll keep close to the shore and paddle as far as the group wants to go.

Phone Philip for details, 575 3493.

Sun 6 May: Herald Island. Meet at Birkenhead wharf. We will paddle up the harbour cruising in and out of the bays. Lunch will be at Herald or earlier for those who don't want to go so far.

Phone Gerard Fagan 832 9720 Mob 0210715917 for meeting time.

Sun 13th May: Kawakawa Bay

Join Gary Schroeder to paddle from the Kawakawa Bay boat ramp to Ponui Island. Weather will dictate which side of the Island to paddle.

Bring your lunch for a +/- 15km trip.

Phone Gary on 2981913 for details on time of departure etc.

Sun 20th May : Paddle the Manukau

Join John Maynard to paddle on the flood tide to one of his favourite destinations on the Manukau. Weather nearer the time will dictate where this will be.

Phone John on 626 4096 for meeting place and departure time.

May 26 & 27 Waiheke Weekend.

Come and spend a great weekend at Otakawhe Lodge. Paddle over from Omana on Saturday morning and return Sunday afternoon.

Phone Philip on 575 3493 for details of what to bring and departure time.

Ryan finishes off the East Coast

By Ryan Whittle

Previous trips with Colin Quilter on the East coast had left a stretch of coast between Te Kaha and Te Araroa that I hadn't seen.

So I took the chance over the holidays to put that right.

Saturday

Clear start to the drive down and a free car wash half way down. Fine at Te Kaha with 20K SW.

Hope it settles down tomorrow morning.

Apprehensive about a solo trip. Tell myself its just several day trips one after the other, but into new territory the feeling remains.

Is it because it is new territory, or because I'm alone?

Te Kaha holiday park is near full. It would be a mixed blessing for the owners. They will be happy getting the best income of the year, and stressed at having to work the longest hours of the year. They will need their own holiday after this.

Sunday

Dropped off the car keys with the motor camp owners and pulled the trolley down to the beach. Nice downhill start.

Today the airs are light, with the swells that have been building over the past week still coming in. The last time here, the winds had a habit of building during the day and often meant we were off the water around lunchtime.

Will be keeping a weary eye out for the same thing. Its very rocky near the shore meaning that there is plenty to run into lurking just below the surface..

The multitude of camping sites on the shore are all populated at this busy time of year.

The road is very close to the shore along here so its easy access for the townies to camp.

I wonder about the differences in routes I take when paddling alone and paddling in a group. It seems to be the more direct course when alone.

Plenty of pohutakawas here, but they are not in flower like they are further north.

Regularly passing settlements. One has a tropical theme with all the palm trees.

Go ashore to have a look at a road sign. It tells me there are 39km to Te Kaha, and 55km to Te Araroa. Thats nearly halfway already!

At Whangaparaoa, I can see a flat green area in the distance that looks promising for a camp site.

On arrival, there are 20-30 people fishing and picnicing, and an estuary still in front of the grass.

A little further is a small stony beach without the

crowds and a flat sheltered spot for the tent. Its drizzling all evening which makes cooking a little uncomfortable. But there is a great view over the days paddle and it is a nice way to see in the new year.

Monday - New Year's day

The land has turned into steep hillsides covered in bush and paddocks. The road is no longer here but the landing places and rocks remain.

Passing around Cape Runaway is anticlimactic. Capes bring to mind a seething mass of white caps that is no place to be in a kayak.

It raises the question: What's the difference between a Cape and a Point? Both of which can be seen on the map but don't appear to have any visible distinction.

So whipped out the laptop, connected to the internet via satellite over the solar powered iridium mobile phone and looked it up.

Point - a tapering extension of land projecting into water; a cape

Cape - a piece of land jutting into a large body of water

So it appears they are different names for the same thing. Wonder why the cartographers use one rather than the other?

Anyway, put the electronics away and pay some attention to the two islands a few hundred meters off the Cape.

There is plenty of bird activity out there so it's off for a look.

Turns out there are more gannet colonies than just Cape Kidnappers and Muriwai. There is another one here on one of the islands. Its neighbour is the Tern equivalent.

It's well worth a look and I managed not to collect any parcels out there.

Schools of fish resting on the surface, kahawai or mamou? It reminds me of similar schools around Cape Brett. Certainly haven't seen anything like it in the Hauraki Gulf for a long time.

The road may be absent on the land, but the power poles still remain.

Most of the coast along here is fronted by six vertical feet of black basalt rock. Landing places are restricted, but there are entrances through the walls to corridors behind the veneer. Its a lot calmer in there, the only problem is you can't see above the rocks and don't know if there will be a way out. (There is!)

After a while, one of the corridors leads to a beach housing a few campers. My landing spot doubles as one of the locals launching spot. They have trouble getting past the breakers when their outboard doesn't start. They are a friendly bunch of South African immigrants and gift me some cooked and battered fish left over from the previous days catch. That means an early lunch just down the coast with the boat balanced on the exposed rocks.

Approaching rain means it's a short stop and the storm puts on a display of forked lightning. Not feeling too keen about waving my paddle around in the air at that stage.

The land has dropped to rolling farmland now and this section of coast seems to go on for ages. I know that the turn into Hicks Bay is coming up, but it's not in any hurry to arrive. Landing spots are few and far between along here.

When it does decide to show up there is plenty of chop on the point and it gets a wide berth.

At Hicks Bay I've had enough for the day and although Te Araroa is in sight, it looks an inviting place to camp.

On shore there is a row of sand dunes to park and setup the tent behind that provide shelter from any wind off the sea and keeps me hidden from the locals wandering along the beach on horseback.

It keeps trying to rain that evening, which makes cooking and drying clothes a challenge.

Tomorrow will be a leisurely day to the end of the paddle, then it will be a matter of finding a way back to Te Kaha.

Tuesday

Up and away at first light. The sunrise above East Cape puts on quite a show launching directly into it. At the end of a previous trip arriving from the south at Te Araroa, we had finished at a river at the end of the beach.

After reaching the end of the beach, the only sign of the river was the road bridge that it passed under.

A local told me later that the sand is constantly moving there and often blocks up the river mouth. If it rains then it floods any low lying land nearby.

Check in at the visitor center to enquire about transport to Te Kaha, and will have to wait until 6:30 the next morning for the couriers next run.

So the rest of the day is spent as a vagrant, reading, wandering around the town and passing time with the locals.

The night is spent in the entrance to the visitors center to avoid having to pack up the tent the next morning.

Wednesday

The courier arrives as expected and we pick up a few others from nearby campgrounds. It's a small world, as one of passengers mother lives in the same small UK town as my mother. She is dropped off at a stop before mine, and I reflect that we will probably never come across each other again.

After thanking the manager at the motor camp, it's back to Te Araroa to pick up the waiting kayak.

It's still there untouched and barely lunchtime. The mountain bike gets unpacked and it's off on the gravel coast road out to the East Cape lighthouse.

The walk up the steps is well worth the effort. There is a feeling of latent power watching the more exposed southern coast. I don't think it would look as impressive in tranquil conditions.

The stiff breeze is at my back on the ride back. I even overtake cars as the metal slows them down! After a sit in the sunshine, it's back to the motor camp at Te Kaha to spend the night.

Thursday

The sunrise is another cracker. The coastline I had just paddled and driven along provides a third view from the bike.

White Island must have been named from a spot close to here on a day like this, because it is bright white today.

Packed up and leaving Te Kaha at lunchtime, the reports of the coastline back towards Opotiki being some of the best you can find, ring true under the clear blue skies.

I stop often to gaze over the Bay of Plenty to White and Whale Islands. Admire the Motu River as it winds to the sea.

It makes me compare the drive in and the drive out. Arriving a few days before with a schedule to run to, there had been no stopping or admiring the country.

Maybe paddling is similar. I had decided that it would take 2 days to paddle between Te Kaha and Te Araroa. If it had been more open ended would I have taken more notice of the journey?

The paddling part of the trip had come to an end. Paddling alone gives you the freedom to do whatever suits, but does carry the responsibility to be more conservative with your actions on the water. You may not recover from an unwise choice.

BOAT'S 21st Birthday

By Rona Patterson

At 9.30 am on Saturday, 24 March, 12 people had assembled at St Heliers Beach in preparation for celebrating the 21st birthday of Colin Quilter's **Boat** at Home Bay on Motutapu. Right on 10 am Colin, Mike, Gerard, Rosie, Judy, Paul, Graham (all the way from Rotorua), Mark, Coral, Charles, Norm and myself set off for Gardiner's Gap. We had a very pleasant crossing; arriving at the Gap at 11.30 am. Here two of our members left us, opting not to go through the Gap and set off in the other direction.

We paddled on for another 20 minutes or so where a sandy beach was found for lunch and a break. This is where I found that the first seated had

grabbed the most hygienic places to sit. I found a comfy spot away from the cow dung which had recently been deposited, only to find another three also in close proximity. I suppose there has to be a price to pay for so much outdoor living.

We left this lovely bay at 1 pm and headed around the next corner right into a strong head wind. A long, hard slog had us round the NE corner of Motutapu only to find the wind was to be with us for the rest of the journey, only this time the waves from the south were hitting us side-on. It was hard work, but enjoyable all the same. After realizing that putting my bow across the waves to save me from the continual dousing I was getting, I was heading for Coromandel, so turned in towards the coast and had some thrilling and speedy rides and continued in this manner until we were almost at Home Bay.

Half way along this coast there was a huge school of fish which were disturbing the surface with a noise sounding like surf breaking. The birds would then dive in for the catch. The fish would quieten for a short time before making the din again as they resurfaced. Paul and Colin were further out and Paul had a huge hammerhead shark swimming under his boat.

Right on 3 o'clock we arrived at Home Bay where Ryan was waiting for us and Coral and Charles were already camped. Norm continued on his way home. Once boats were lifted onto the bank, tents put up and clothes changed we settled down to the serious part of celebrating 21 years service by Colin's **Boat**. **Boat** and Colin have been inseparable for 21 years and only one of them has a name.



We sat with bubbles in our glasses/mugs eating yummy cake while sitting in the sun discussing anything and everything important at the time. Philip and Sue joined us at dinner time. Their trip was also directly into a strong head wind and they (like us) arrived wet. Dinner was cooked before dark



and eaten together, once again solving the problems of the world, before bed at 10 pm.

We were really fortunate that the showers, promised for Saturday afternoon, did not arrive, neither was there any rain during the night. We were up early, breakfasted, packed and left at 8.40 am on Sunday morning. We took a direct route over to Browns Island for a morning tea stop. The side wind was still with us and on this crossing we had lost Philip and Gerard. They were searching for the elusive fish and arrived at Browns Island a few minutes after us, and they had found Dorothy who had made the journey to meet up with us.

The ride home was awesome - strong wind with tide made for a fast and fun trip all the way to St Heliers. - What a wonderful weekend.

Found Property

Trying to locate the owner of a couple of paddles left behind near Kerikeri around the end of March. Possibly sea-kayak or maybe multisport paddles.

Could you please spread the word through your kayak network

Cheers, Pete McGhee celt@xtra.co.nz

New Members

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

Herve Carpentier

Mark Van Den Anker

Sally Margaret Johannesson

Maia Blenkinsop

Natlie White

Craig and Jill Harris



Canoe Club Survey

By Erica Law

Yes, believe it or not, here is a summary of the feedback. The surveys literally dribbled in: drop-lets, not even a streamlet – that is, very few returns. However, I do appreciate those that made the effort. So here is what I found.

Training:

- Clearly the most desired training is for surf launch and landing. [*Note the trip focusing on beach landings through small surf for 22 April – here's hoping for a bit of an easterly on the east coast.*]
- Understanding water, wind, tide, weather conditions, and I'd like to link that with navigation skills generally, was next most supported.

There was also some support for leadership, VHF, kayak rolling and outdoor first aid, though I wouldn't read much into this because of the low numbers.

Suggestions for improvement:

Get the web-site operational! (mentioned more than once)

- Newsletter trip list to cover the 6 weeks coming up
- Planned trips on the website
- Being able to advise members of trips organised after the newsletter comes out
- One technical article per newsletter
- More Saturday trips
- Ways of sharing rides to trip destinations, especially for those who don't know others
- Contact list to facilitate impromptu trips, or provision on new website to interact, especially for weekday trips.

We are close to getting the web-site operational; it includes a calendar of events, trips etc. There will also be an opportunity to post and receive ideas and suggestions in a section labelled Forum, e.g., if you are looking for others to paddle with. The committee and newsletter editor are

very keen to include technical articles in the newsletter, but we need articles. So contributions and suggestions are welcome.

We'd love to offer more Saturday trips, but we need more leaders. Only one person put up their hand. We also had an offer of use for a beach-side bach at Whangamata before Easter. Hopefully next time there might be more takers for a weekend trip there – great location to explore the harbour, estuary, islands, north to Onemana, south to Whiritoa, good variety for a range of abilities.

What you like about the club:

- Friendly, informal, inexpensive trips
- Variety of trips
- New ideas for places to paddle
- Facilities, ability to hire gear
- Learning and paddling with others, safety in a group
- Atmosphere on longer trips
- Easy to join in; can be involved as little or as much as you like

Experienced group of paddlers

Kayak For Sale

Eco Niizh seakayak double, with 2 paddles, 2 spraydecks; \$1200.

This is the clubs hire kayak, built to commercial standard for hire operators, in tidy condition. We need the space in our locker.

Please phone

Roger Lomas 579-8799.



Movie fundraiser for Katie Pocock

“The Flying Scotsman”

Sunday 6 May 7:55pm Start (Enough time to get there after the Cambridge-Hamilton Race)

Bridgeway Cinema, Birkenhead. Entry \$17

Please contact Katie to secure a ticket. Hm 482 4447

M 021 932 116 Email: katiewithanie@hotmail.com

Katie has dominated women's kayak, surf lifesaving and long distance surf paddling in New Zealand for 15 years! Money raised will go towards Katie's airfare to compete in Durban in June at the first of a series of international world cup events. Having won the Perth race in November 2006, Katie is determined to take out Durban.

President's Report

Sometimes being on the Committee seems to be a chore – albeit a job that someone has to do – but at other times it is a pleasure. This month is one of those good times!

As members will be well aware, the Committee has been working hard on a number of different topics during the past year and it is a great pleasure to be able to share with you the results of their work.

Children's Kayak training

Last month I raised the question of how we could support our younger members and train them in good kayaking practices from an early age. The problem was a lack of suitable kayaks. I can now tell you that we have started to build a kayak fleet especially for young children.

Peter Sommerhalder has arranged to purchase the Club's first Imp, a fibreglass kayak suitable for 6 - 10 yr olds and capable of being rolled "*Just like the real thing*". It would be fair to say that the Committee has some reservations about the provision of children's kayaks, but it is an experiment and one that we will all be watching with interest. The important point that I would like to stress to all parents, *The kayaks are not toys, they are scaled down versions of adult kayaks* and are there to train your children in best practices.

The Committee has decided that the children's kayaks (We have purchased one at the moment) should not be stored in the Clubs storage locker, as it will force parents to plan their trips and book the kayak. We are currently sourcing a suitable spray-skirt and paddle. Potential users should contact me for hire details.

Website

The other great news is that the Cub website is undergoing final checking by members of the Committee. It is likely to be turned on gradually over the next few weeks, with the first facility being our own calendar of events, and a notification/reminder system supporting it. The Photo Gallery where YOU will be able to load you own photos is also ready for release.

Unlike the existing web presence on Yahoo, www.aucklandcanooclub.org.nz we now have our own site and we can configure it in any way we want. It does not have banners or advertising like Yahoo, and we can develop it over time to provide exactly what the members require. Like anything new, the main problem is a lack of time to do every-

thing that we want to do. Committee members are no exception, they too have their own lives and the Club business has to be fitted in wherever possible. So...

We are looking for assistance in configuring the various software applications that are now installed on the website and are currently under test.

If you believe you have the time and the expertise to configure

- phpBB (The bulletin board system – Forum), or
- MediaWiki – the document storage system, or even

WordPress – the blogging system then please let a Committee member know.

No programming knowledge is required – just time and the ability to load various existing documents. You will not be working alone; the Webmaster or her assistant will be able to provide guidance when required.

Kayak Safety Equipment

Most of you will be aware of the concerns held by the Harbourmaster, Maritime New Zealand and the Coastguard about the visibility of kayakers in a busy harbour such as ours.

Everyone is striving to ensure that kayakers are given the same rights as any other recreational vessel in the harbour and I would like to thank all these organisations for the work they are doing.

You will have read that the speed restriction of 12 knots is now in force in the inner harbour, but that alone is not sufficient to ensure your safety. The Club has been active in sourcing suitable safety equipment for kayakers.

You will have seen the advertising for High Visibility Vests and Air Horns put out by our Merchandising Officer. You might also remember the discussions on suitable kayak lights. Perhaps you will have seen the initial prototype that I have been using? Hella NZ provided great assistance in building the prototypes but unfortunately decided that it was a low priority for them to get it to market. I met with the Sales and Marketing Manager at Hella this month and I can now tell you that thanks in part to the efforts of Jim Dilley, the Deputy Harbourmaster, Hella has agreed to let the Club provide these kayak lights to members provided we assemble them. I hope to have details of availability and pricing for you at the AGM. They will be powered by sealed batteries, and have a removable 1.2m pole with an all round white light visible for 2 nautical miles. i.e. they comply fully with marine regulations and are certified by the US Coastguard. (Just like the Air Horns).

Annual General Meeting

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find details of the Annual General Meeting. I encourage all of you to come, it will not be an onerous affair – coffee and biscuits and a brief summary of what the Club has achieved during the year.

Happy kayaking,

Jan.

Winter Lecture Series

Club Winter Lecture Series at the Marine Rescue Centre

3rd WEDNESDAY of each month.

20th June 18th July

15 August 19th September

Further details to follow later.

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.

Need more info?

Contact Roger Lomas 579-8799

Flatmate / kayaking mate wanted

Kayak to Rangitoto from your front door by flatting with Jodi at Narrow Neck this winter.

Bath, wood burning fire. Non-smoker, over 35. \$150 plus expenses.

Ph 021 942 896; 445 3639 (h); 488 4291 (w)

Near new Albatross Sea Kayak for sale

Purchased in September 2006 from Ferg's Kayaks for \$3850, this kayak has been used about 6 times. I am selling it because I need a car more than a kayak at this point and I will consider a trade for a car.

The Albatross is made with Kevlar and fibreglass reinforcement, weighs only 19kgs.

Length: 5.40 meters

Width: .55 meters

Storage: approx. 230 litres

I also have a spray skirt and water pump if interested.

Delivery...Buyer will need to pick-up. Email Karen at karebou@gmail.com



From: Auckland Canoe Club, P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland



To:

