



## August 2007

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Winter paddling bliss. Enjoying a well-earned cuppa in the sun at Westmere are Tony Hannifin, Grant Stone and David Lomas.

PHOTO R. LOMAS

## 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@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:subscribe@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)

### Officers

<i>Patron</i>	Peter Godfrey	520 5444
<i>President</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
<i>Vice-President</i>	Wolfgang Pohl	620 8516
<i>Secretary</i>	Alissa Good	269 5888
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gerard Fagan	832 9720
<i>Trips</i>	Philip Noble	575 3493
<i>Publicity</i>	Roger Lomas	846 6799
<i>Safety/training</i>	Erica Law	360 2872
<i>Storage/kayaks</i>	Gavin Baker	528 5188
<i>Assistant</i>	Roger Lomas	579 8799
<i>Merchandising</i>	Alison Calhaem	579-0512
<i>Vine House</i>	Trevor Arthur	817 7357
<i>Newsletter</i>	Peter Sommerhalder	631-5344
<i>Webmaster</i>	Claire Vial	
<i>Webmaster Assistant</i>	Matt Crozier	

### Email addresses

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[webmasterassistant@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:webmasterassistant@aucklandcanoecub.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.



## Deadline for next newsletter

**14th August 2007**  
(second Tuesday of August).

## Editorial

This issue deals mainly with skills and safety for paddlers. It is a good time of the year to do some refreshing of things learned, or to enrol in courses relating to boating. Maritime New Zealand and Coastguard are very helpful contacts for this. Maritime New Zealand has issued a new DVD "Safe Boating". It is a must have for all Small Boat People. Our president, Ian Calhaem, 6 Hunterville Court, Ellerslie, will send you a free copy. Please send Ian a self-addressed stamped envelope or mailing pouch from the post office, large enough to hold a disk of 13cm (5in) in diameter.

Our trip officer, Philip Noble, wants you to put your hand up and volunteer to lead club trips. We have a handful leaders who willingly share this duty, but more leaders with some good paddling skills and local knowledge are welcome. Philip will appreciate your call on 575 3493.

Construction work is being undertaken on the Panmure Bridge across the Tamaki River. This should be finished by the end of July. Take care, as some obstruction may still be in place past that date.

We would like to apologise to those members who have paid their subscription, but had a red dot appear on last month's newsletter.

This time we checked the mail-out carefully. Should you have a red dot, please renew your subs immediately, otherwise this is your last newsletter.

Happy paddling, *Peter Sommerhalder*

## Kayak Hire

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 an envelope.
- Put money in envelope and place envelope in honesty box.
- **No I.O.U's!**
- Carry or wheel kayaks to water.
- No seal launching.
- Please wash kayaks before returning to rack.
- Report faults or problems on the faults/problems sheet.

## Regular Events

### Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

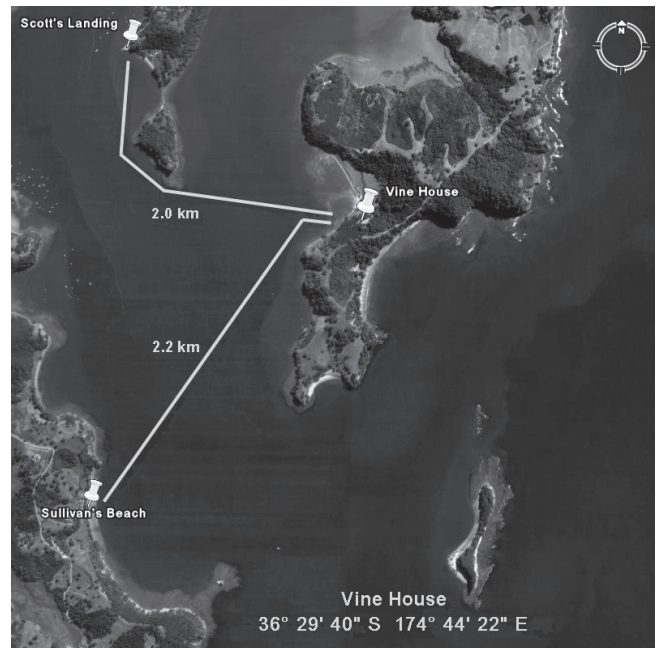
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

This gem in Mahurangi Harbour is a 2 km paddle from Sullivans Bay, which is the ARC park at the end of the Mahurangi West Road, first on the right past Puhoi.

The house sleeps 10 and has all creature comforts. Bring sleeping bag, pillow case and food. A shared meal and nibbles is the norm for Saturday night, so bring your goodies.

Lagoon Bay is very tidal, so bringing a kayak trolley is a good idea. The range of paddling is endless, eg Waiwera, Warkworth, Kawau Island, Motuora Island – your choice. Or just rest and read and enjoy this tranquil and special place. We recommend you take a carry bag to get all your gear up the track to the house. Secure parking is at Sullivans Bay. Leave a note on your dashboard reading "Vine House Volunteer" when you park in front of the ranger's house.

Please ring to book a bed, and for detailed directions. **Trevor 817-7357, Matt 817-1984.**



### 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 into 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 coffee.



## President's Report

This month marks a milestone<sup>1</sup> in the Club's History. Thanks to the tireless efforts of a few, lead by Trevor Arthur, the Auckland Canoe Club has finally signed a contract with the Auckland Regional Council for the use of Vine House.

I suspect that for a few of our newer members Vine House remains a well kept secret, known only by a few. Well the secret is now out – Vine House is an idealic location at the mouth of the Mahurangi harbour.

### History:

The Vine farmhouse at Lagoon Bay on the Mahurangi East Peninsula might look like an old bach to many, but it is a building with an interesting history.

The house, and the woolshed on the foreshore, were built by Ronald Vine in 1951–52. Vine was a sort of latter day pioneer, who did everything himself. He cleared the Mahurangi farm of gorse by hand, and designed and built the buildings. He felled the trees for the construction timber and towed them to a sawmill in a boat he had built, treated the sawn timber himself, made his own concrete blocks, slabs, and water tanks, and even built his own fridge!

The house was built in a Modern architectural style, and incorporated a number of design features that we now take for granted, but were considered avant-garde at the time. It had an open plan north-facing living area with a sliding glazed door opening onto to a large elevated deck, and an island kitchen. Acrylic paints, still considered experimental, provided the finishes.

The low-pitched roof incorporated diagonal sarking and was originally covered in a bitumen membrane, overlain with beach shell to reflect the heat.

Ron Vine was a journalist and later editor of the *NZ Farmer* magazine, and the construction of the house was documented and used as the basis for a series of articles on the design and construction of the ideal farmhouse.

The design of the house is very similar to and was originally thought to be the work of Vernon Brown, New Zealand's leading domestic architect of the day. Although Vernon Brown was part of Ron Vine's circle of friends and did visit the house, it appears that the building was in fact Vine's own design. Other friends who stayed at the Lagoon Bay house included writers ARD Fairburn and Antony Alpers, and artists Eric Lee-Johnson, Helen Brown and Alison Pickmere.

<sup>1</sup> (somehow Kilometre-stone does not sound right!)

### Club Involvement:

In 2002 the Auckland Regional Council asked for expressions of interest in possible uses for Vine House. After some negotiation the Auckland Canoe Club was granted the right to stay at Vine House in return for maintainance work, with material being provided by the Council.

A small group of dedicated people have been working away quietly for several years to bring the House up to scratch and now with new paths, new paint inside and out, a new septic tank and everything that a kayaker could want Vine House is now ready for use.

The Club has sole rights to use Vine House on the last week end of every month – starting on Friday night through to Sunday night. One of the features of this location is that it is only accessible by kayak (or boat) so it remains secluded, quiet and peaceful.

I encourage all Club Members to take advantage of this wonderful facility that is now available to you all. Trevor Arthur remains the custodian for Vine House for the Canoe Club and I am sure will welcome you enquiries.

Happy paddling,

*Ian*

## Subscriptions Are Due Final Call!!

This is a reminder that subscriptions are now due.

Check the address label on this newsletter.

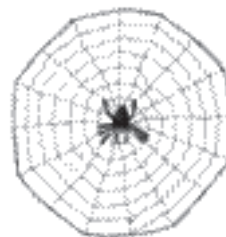
Should you find a coloured dot on it, your membership has expired and this is your last copy of the newsletter.

Event reminders will cease if subs aren't received by the end of the month.

You can obtain a membership renewal form from <http://geocities.com/tofska/memform.pdf>

Yearly membership is \$30

Family membership is \$35.



## Club Website Access for August

Password Rakino

## Club Trips – August 2007

Due to the unsettled weather, trips will be advertised as Saturday or Sunday, which will allow the Trip Co-ordinator to choose the best day, weatherwise. Please phone Wednesday or Thursday to express interest.

Please contact Philip on 575 3493 if you are available to take a trip to your favourite destination or one of the following.

### Sat 4th or Sun 5th

*The Wreck of the Alice A Leigh at Moturekareka*

An ideal tide to explore the wreck, and catch some fish if you're lucky. Depending on the weather and preference of the group we can head either north or south before returning to the cars at Wenderholm or Martins Bay by mid afternoon.

**Phone Gerard 832 9720 for details**

### Weekend 11th & 12th

*Tiri Tiri*

A great destination and rare opportunity to stay overnight.

Limited spaces, so book early.

**Phone Philip 575 3493 for details**

### Saturday 18th or Sunday 19th

*Rangitoto beckons again.* (Trip Leaders needed)

Let's try this one again. Cut the cloth to fit the suit.

For those who want a challenge (26Km) and enjoy a fair pace, paddle round Rangitoto.

For those who want to mix it up, paddle across to the wharf and walk to the top for brunch then back to the boats and paddle to meet the "rounders" for the return paddle.

**Phone Philip 575 3493 on Thursday to express interest and for details.**

### Saturday 25th or Sunday 26th

*Howick Eastern Beaches*

(Let's see if the weather is better this time)

Trip co-ordinator needed.

Choose to start either at Glendowie Boat Club or Bucklands Beach to paddle out the Tamaki Estuary, past the eastern beaches to Motukaraka Island for lunch. Return the same way.

**Phone Philip 575 3493 on Thursday to express interest and for details**

## Sea Kayaker's Guide to New Zealand's Upper North Island

Vincent Maire has been asked by the publishers of this book to prepare a second edition. Vincent is keen to receive some photos and is especially interested in one of the new hut on Motukawanui Island (big Cavelli Island).

Ideally the pic would have kayaks in the foreground. All pics should be high resolution digital images.

Vincent is also very keen to receive any news of errors or changes from the first edition that need to be fixed or noted in the new edition.

Please send your pics and or notations to [maire.family@clear.net.nz](mailto:maire.family@clear.net.nz)

## Safe Boating – Refresher

Summary by Peter Sommerhalder

Paddling the Hauraki Gulf and cruising the Auckland Harbour in a kayak demands some more concentration than just paddling “in your own little world”. These days we share our pleasure with many more boats of different sizes. Rules of the Road have to be obeyed in order to reach our destination safely.

The Coastguard has always maintained that education is better than regulation. To back this up, Coastguard now offers Home Study Courses. There is no excuse not to up-skill. Home Study Packs are available on: Sea Kayaking, NZ Day Skipper, Marine VHF Operator, GPS Operator, NZ Boatmaster, and others. Information is available by contacting Coastguard Boating Education, phone 0800 40 80 90, or visit the website [www.cbcs.org.nz](http://www.cbcs.org.nz).

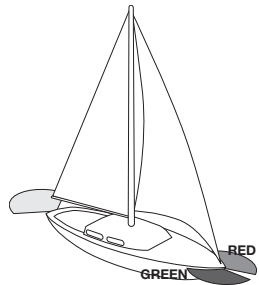
As a recreational sea kayaker with no experience in sailing, I decided to do some brushing up on skills learned some years ago when doing a Day Skippers course. Hopefully my thoughts will rub off on some other paddlers in a similar situation.

### Red and Green

Port – Left

Starboard – Right

The left side of a vessel is port, the right is starboard. Vessels longer than 7 metres have to show red and green sidelights at night.

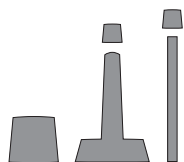


Port – Red  
Starboard – Green

This is when looking forward, or in the direction of travelling. A vessel approaching at night showing lights will have red and green on the opposite sides.

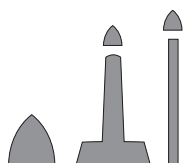
### Channel Markers

So far, so good. Red and green however will show up also on channel markers. These show well established channels and indicate port (left) and starboard (right) sides of the channels.



#### Port Mark

A red can shape.  
At night, a red flashing light may be shown



#### Starboard Mark

A green conical shape.  
At night, a green flashing light may be shown.

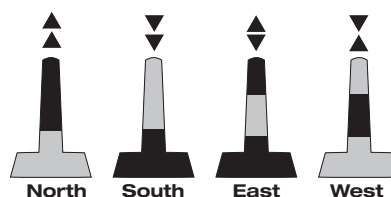
### Coming In

Upon entering harbour the red port mark should be kept on the boat's port (left) side, and the green mark on the boat's starboard (right) side. This means, the red side of my boat faces the red mark on my left (port). And the green side of my boat faces the green mark on my right (starboard).

### Going Out

When leaving harbour, the red port mark should be kept on the boat's starboard (right) side and the green mark on the boat's port (left) side. Therefore red and green will face each other on both sides.

### Cardinal Marks



Yellow and Black

They are painted yellow and black with distinctive tops. Each indicates where there is deep water close to a danger, and they show this relative to the compass, i.e. deep water is to the North of the North Cardinal Mark, to the East of the East Cardinal Mark, and so on.

### Good seamanship

- In channels and harbours every boat must keep to the starboard (right) side.
- The boat which is in the best position to give way should do so. This will often be the faster or more manoeuvrable boat.
- It is very important that an early and obvious change is made so that the other boat is able to respond appropriately.
- Every boat that is overtaking must give way.

### Sound Signals

Large vessels use their ship's horn to signal their intention. Short blasts (•) are of 1 second duration; prolonged blasts are of 4–6 seconds duration.

- altering course to starboard
- altering course to port
- engine going astern
- Query – what are your intentions?

Since reading all this up in my Safe Boating Book, I came across an excellent DVD from Maritime New Zealand, with the title *Safe Boating New Zealand*. It covers all of the above and more. Read under “Editorial” in this newsletter how to obtain your copy. Drawings in this article were reproduced from *Safe Boating*, Maritime New Zealand – [www.maritimenz.govt.nz/publications/Recreational/SBEG05.pdf](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/publications/Recreational/SBEG05.pdf).



*MNZ Safe Boating Adviser, Ian Calhaem, shows how to “stay bright on top”.*

## STAYING “BRIGHT ON TOP”

### Padding to be seen

**“Staying bright on top” is the focus of new kayak safety guidelines being developed by MNZ in collaboration with the paddling community.**

The guidelines, which will soon be available as a brochure, on DVD and on the MNZ website, encourage recreational kayakers, canoeists and others using low profile watercraft on New Zealand’s lakes, rivers and seas to be safer by making themselves more visible to other boaties.

Jim Lott, MNZ’s Manager of Recreational Boating, says the number of accidents and near misses involving kayaks has prompted the development of the resource, which has been strengthened by input from New Zealand sea kayakers.

Jim says while boaties are required by maritime rules to keep a proper “look out” and maintain appropriate speeds around other water users, there are many factors that can prevent them from seeing kayaks and other craft which sit low in the water.

“Conditions such as choppy water, fog, glare, sun strike, rain, wind in the eyes, salt spray on the windshield, poor vision or a combination of any of these can affect a boatie’s ability to spot a small craft in the water.

“However, there is a lot that kayakers and others using similar craft can do to dramatically improve their visibility – and therefore their own safety – when sharing the water with others.”

MNZ Safety Auditor Colin Sonneveld says the first step in the process is for kayakers to assess their current equipment, clothing and behaviour on the water to get an idea of how easy or hard it is for others to see them.

Colin says the best way for kayakers to gauge this is by giving themselves a “visibility impact score or VIS. The higher the VIS rating, the higher the likelihood you will be visible to other boaties.

“The trick to being safe is being seen – and paddling smarter by using the right combination of colour, contrast and movement to maximise your visibility.

“Because sunlight levels change during the day, having a range of bright, contrasting colours on your clothing and equipment means that different parts of you will still be visible, even as the light fades.

“The most visible colours on the water are day glow or fluorescent orange and yellow, as they contrast against all other naturally occurring colours and shades,” says Colin. “This contrast is another key component in increasing your VIS potential.

“You can also maximise your VIS potential by displaying contrasting colours from the top down. The higher you can create the colour flow the further you can be seen.”

## KAYAK VISIBILITY TIPS

### Use your head

As your head is your highest point, make it as bright as is possible. Day glow orange or yellow hats are excellent VIS attractants.

### Blazing paddles

Motion is another important visibility tool. Because your blades are in constant motion while paddling, you can increase your visibility by using reflective tape on blades or shafts, combined with strips of day glow tape. This combination will allow your paddle to catch and reflect sunlight as well as create flashes of day glow.

### Dress to impress

Wearing a day glow orange or yellow paddle jacket or over-shirt offers the highest VIS potential. If your torso is not covered in day glow, consider having a bright coloured paddle jacket which is a different colour to your kayak, personal flotation device (PFD) and paddle blades.

*Continued on page 8 ➤*



## **Paddling to be seen** – continued from page 7

### **Bright is best**

Choose a PFD in a bright colour. To maximise your VIS potential, consider having a PFD that is a different colour to your kayak, paddle blades and paddling jacket. Contrast the colours for maximum affect.

### **Fly the flag**

Day glow orange and yellow chopper flags provide a permanent bright flash at the same height as the rotational arc of your paddle blades. Consider always using a flag if you are fishing from a kayak in a stationary position, as you don't have the additional visibility of your moving paddle blades.

### **Choose a colourful craft**

Choose a kayak in a bright contrasting colour. The highest VIS potential is achieved when your boat contrasts to the sea and surrounding back drops. To increase your kayak's visibility, consider adding flashes of day glow or reflective tape. Multi-coloured bright kayaks provide increased contrast.

### **Be bright at night**

Maritime rules require that as a minimum, kayakers must carry a torch to prevent collision. However, holding a torch may prevent you from paddling effectively and therefore being seen! Wearing a head torch allows your arms to be free to paddle. In addition, mounting an all-round white light (or a red, green and white sector light) on your rear deck above head-height means you will be visible from all directions.

### **Stick together**

If travelling in a group, particularly at night, it is recommended that kayakers carry two light sources, such as a head torch and an all-round white light. When paddling in a tight pod, if the rear paddler has their all-round light turned on, the group will be visible from behind and other members will not be blinded. The lead kayaker should also have their head torch on and shining forward, which won't affect others' night vision. All paddlers should then only need to use their lights when there is approaching traffic. Don't use flashing strobe lights unless in an emergency.

Attaching reflective tape or strips to your kayak, paddle and clothing will maximise your VIS potential at night. Shining your torch across the strips can also help you to be seen.



*MNZ Safe Boating Adviser, Ian Calhaem, shows how to “stay bright on top”.*

*Thanks to Maritime New Zealand for the use of this article from their quarterly publication SAFE SEAS, CLEAN SEAS.*







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



To:

