



## September 2007

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*Lace monitors (goannas) about a metre long were common at some campsites.*

PHOTO TAKEN BY COLIN QUILTER ON HIS TRIP TO THE WHITSUNDAYS, AUSTRALIA

## 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

[patron@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:patron@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
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[trips@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:trips@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[publicity@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:publicity@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[safety@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:safety@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[storage@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:storage@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[merchandise@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:merchandise@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[vinehouse@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:vinehouse@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[newsletter@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[webmaster@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[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.**

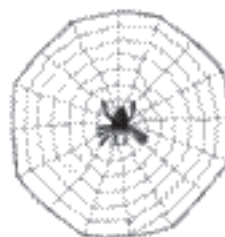
### Internet Banking

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.



## Club Website Access for September

Password Crusoe



## Deadline for next newsletter

**11th September 2007**  
(second Tuesday  
of September).

## Editorial

We did not meet on the water very often this winter. Bad weather, flooding and power cuts tested our skills using camping cookers in an emergency.

However winter lectures and social events were opportunities to socialise. Those hardy souls reading the weather forecast and swell reports correctly still got opportunities to get out.

Hopefully the worst is behind us now and we can look forward to some enjoyable 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.



## Welcome

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

**Brian Wilson**

## Regular Events

### Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

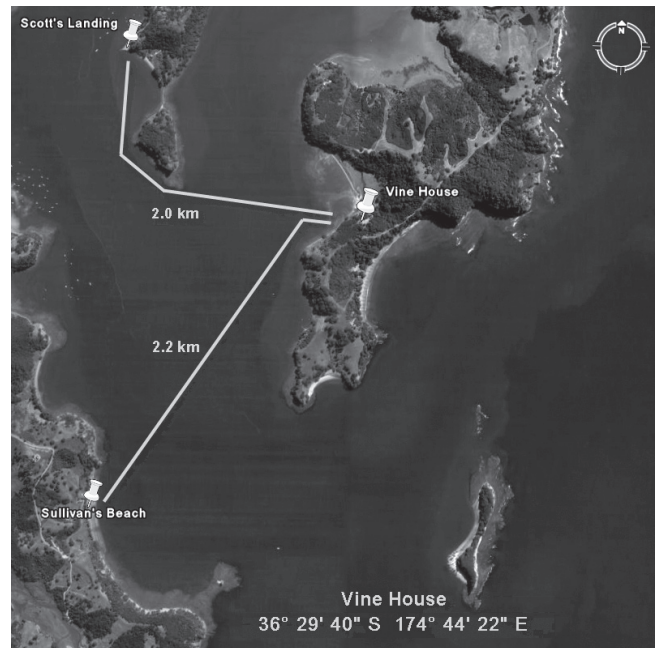
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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.

## How to receive notifications about Club events

Hi Folks,


A number of people have asked if it is possible to receive notifications and reminders about the events on the Club calendar.

The answer is Yes. The calendar on the new web site was set up especially to do that. However, these days spam is an increasing problem for all of us and the policy for most Countries is that unsolicited email is not allowed. What does this mean to you?

It is really very simple. We are not allowed to send you reminders without you confirming that you want them, and also you must have the ability to stop the reminders at any time. We have set up the web site Calendar so that you can elect to receive reminders and you can confirm your request. This is done by an email returned to your nominated address.

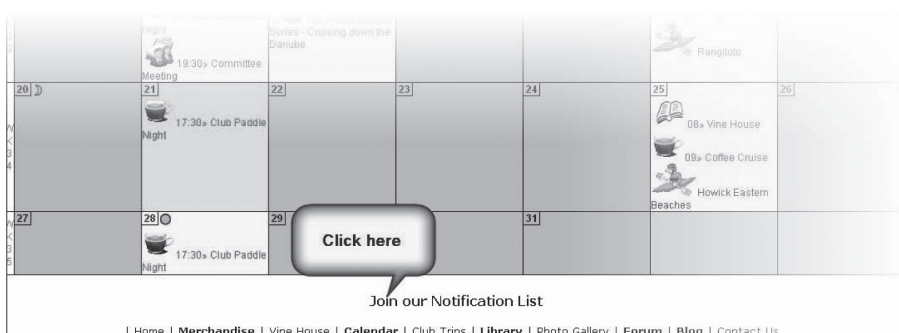
### So how do you do it?

First go to the calendar, using the members only password found in the Monthly Newsletter.



The screenshot shows the Auckland Canoe Club website. At the top, there is a logo and navigation links: Home, Merchandise, Vine House, Calendar, Club Trips, Library, Photo Gallery, Forum, Blog, and Contact Us. Below this is a search bar and a 'Login' button. The main content area features a calendar for August 2007, titled 'Auckland Canoe Club Members'. The calendar is a grid with columns for days of the week and rows for dates. Events are listed in the cells, such as '09:00 Coffee Cruise' on the 4th, 11th, and 18th, and '17:30 Club Paddle' on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. A 'Click here' button is overlaid on the 28th of August.

When you get to this page you must scroll down to the bottom.



This is a close-up of the bottom of the calendar page. It shows the dates 20th to 31st of August. A speech bubble with the text 'Click here' points to the 28th. Below the calendar grid, there is a link that says 'Join our Notification List'. At the very bottom, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, Merchandise, Vine House, Calendar, Club Trips, Library, Photo Gallery, Forum, Blog, and Contact Us.

You will then be asked to enter your email address and optionally your name. Then choose a password.

The final question will ask if you want notifications sent one by one or batched and then sent once a day.

The final part of the notifications form allows you to unsubscribe or edit your options.

Regards,  
Ian

## President's Report

Those who attended our Winter Lecture this month experienced a treat, those that did not missed out on an excellent talk. However, since the meeting attendance resulted in standing room only, perhaps it was fortunate that some of you were not able to attend. I am sure that a number of members, me included, are thinking now how we can get to the Danube next year!

Every month when I start thinking about what the Club and its members have achieved I am humbled by the enthusiasm and dedication of our members. We are fortunate in having so many active members with such a wealth of knowledge. Moreover this knowledge is so freely available to other members.

We are lucky to have such members willing and able to support others. If you are a new member, or just new to kayaking, then do take the time to make yourself known to other members. Don't be shy about asking for assistance. Someone in the Club is sure to have an answer for you. We are a big club and often it is difficult to recognise everyone and for Committee members to identify new members. We are all approachable and if we do not know the answer then we will be able to find some one else who can assist you.

Most of you will be aware that we hold our meetings in the Marine Rescue Centre which is also the home of the Northern Region of Coastguard. Last weekend I was privileged to assist with the national Coastguard Education Conference which was held in Auckland. I had the opportunity to listen to a number of the presentations and to learn about the vast in depth knowledge of the Coastguard instructors. Many of our Club members are also members of Coastguard and will be familiar with the services that Coastguard offers. I would like to suggest to Club members that are not yet Coastguard members to find out more. They have a particularly good offer of a complimentary Day Skipper Course with every new membership. I have seen the content of this and the work that has gone on in the past year to remake the various tutorials. This is relevant to kayakers just as much as for boat owners. In fact, there is now a specific module for Sea Kayakers.

Perhaps you have not thought about how kayaking fits in to the general Maritime scenario – have you realised that when the maritime laws refer to the responsibilities of the Skipper (*e.g. The skipper shall ensure that ...*) that this refers to YOU. If you are alone in a single kayak, then YOU are the skipper.

Food for thought ...

Happy paddling,

Ian

## Reflectorised Material

You will all be aware that the Club has been active in researching and implementing a number of safety items, such as the Hi Vis vests, kayak lights and most recently Hi Vis hats.

We have been working closely with Maritime New Zealand and with the Harbourmaster to ensure that we are getting the best advice possible so that the Club can contribute positively to the growing problem of kayaks being seen at night on the Harbour.

The Harbourmaster has assisted us greatly with the introduction of the 12 knot limit in the harbour but it is our responsibility to do everything possible to be as visible as possible.

Currently the Harbourmaster is working on proposed new bylaws for the harbour users and is seeking the views of Club members. Please go to the new Club Forum on the website and look at the members section. You will find a message requesting ideas and comments, plus a poll that you may wish to use.

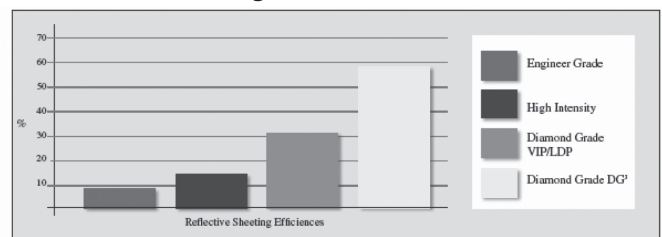
The Club has been investigating various reflectorised materials with the assistance of 3M and Maritime New Zealand.

The Official reflectorised material for use in Maritime situations conforms to the SOLAS certification standard. However 3M advised that there are now newer materials with higher efficacy and better adhesion properties. In particular, a new material called "Diamond Grade DG3".

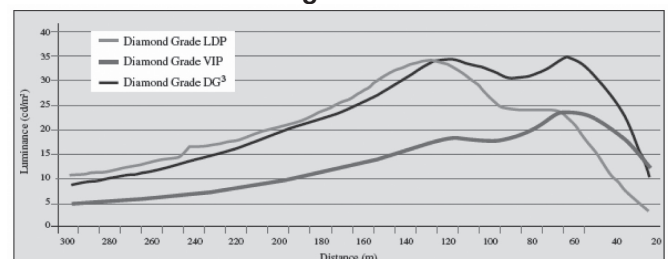
Reflectorised materials come in two basic types, those which reflect the incident light randomly in all directions, and those with a prismatic structure to reflect the light back in the direction it came from. In most situations the prismatic effect results in a much brighter reflection.

DG<sup>3</sup> goes one step further again. Instead of a simple prism, the material has a cubic internal reflector which doubles the efficiency of the reflector.

### Reflective Sheeting Efficiencies



### Left-hand Shoulder sign viewed from car with VW Passat headlights



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## A Foggy Winters Coffee Cruise

On Saturday 28th July I somewhat reluctantly pulled myself up from my cosy bed and made half-hearted preparations to go kayaking with the Coffee Cruise Group as has been the habit for over a year now.

As we drove along Tamaki Drive just before 9am I was amazed to see the water so calm and marvelled at the fog in the distance.

As our small group of stalwarts gathered at Okahu Bay we commented on the stillness of the water. This is something I have only experienced during our night paddles.

Mother Nature turned on a morning of surprises for us. As we paddled out under the pier it was like sliding through silk. Our group gathered to discuss our journey; we couldn't see Bean Rock so our thinking was it would be too risky to head there due to poor visibility. After much discussion it was decided that we would head out to the buoy visible in the distance and if we still couldn't see Bean Rock we would just hug the shoreline and head to St Heliers for coffee.

Lucky for us that on passing the buoy Bean Rock was clearly visible with the sun shining brightly beckoning us to paddle forth. Shortly before approaching the Rock I saw two little Blue Penguins in the water. That was a first for me. As we passed the Light House I was curious as to what the little black things were on the water in the distance. Off one of the team went to investigate further, the rest of us paddling slowly behind. As the brave investigator got closer, small black sea birds flew off into the fog. I was happy that the black things turned out to be birds rather than only something in the back of my eye lids caused by an over indulgence of gin the night before.

I turned back to look at the city only to find that it had been engulfed by fog and to my amazement we were now completely surrounded by fog. This was truly a strange feeling, almost spooky. I knew perfectly well that the shore was on my right but had the feeling that one could get disorientated very quickly in these conditions. I took comfort in the fact that a co paddler had in fact anticipated this very thing and had his trusty compass out, and had taken a reading as he had rounded Bean Rock. I looked back over my shoulder and could see he was checking our direction and knew that no matter what happens on the water he has the gear to make things right. As I looked through the fog towards shore I saw a blue and white barracuda paddling towards us and realised it was Gavin coming to join our little convoy and was comforted by the thought that he had found us where he would have expected us to be.

The scenery continued to change, from thick fog, to clearing bright warm sunshine with views of bits of the city as the fog moved and wrapped itself around different parts of the skyline and waterfront offering us a variety of magnificent views. As we continued our journey down to St Heliers we marvelled at what we had been treated to visually and confirmed our thoughts that perhaps it would be wise for all kayakers to carry compasses and in my case, learn how to read one.

Our coffee session was great, the conversation varied from dating habits of men and women to the dastardly deeds of George Bush. Oh how a good shot of caffeine helps solve the ills of the world!

As I arrived back at Okahu Bay I was thankful that I had risen from my warm bed to spend time on the water with like minded friends and to have experienced the splendours of Mother Nature on what would otherwise have appeared to be a grey, foggy July morning with nothing much to offer.

*Happy Kayaker*

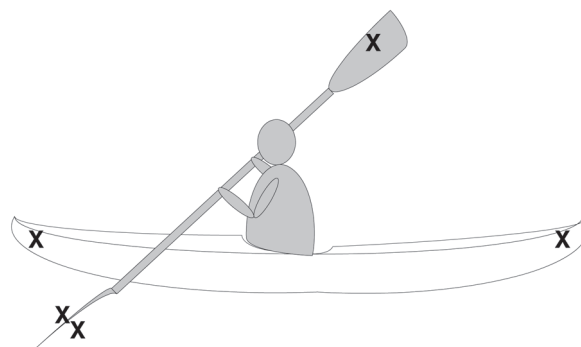
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### Reflectorised Material – continued from page 5

We have tested this material in particular to test the adhesion to the normally difficult plastic surfaces of many kayaks. Various Grades of reflectorised material were attached to a piece of long chain polythelyne Kayak Plastic and the piece was washed in an agitator washing machine for many hours. All the materials stuck, but the DG<sup>3</sup> was particularly good, as 3M had predicted. They advised that in particularly difficult situations it is possible to surface treat the plastic by passing a flame over it for a short time. This oxidises the surface, which makes the adhesion better.

The Club has been able to source the DG<sup>3</sup> material and it is now available through the Merchandising Officer at \$1 per strip.

It is suggested that reflectorised strips be attached to your kayak, fore and aft, and most importantly to both sides of the blades of your paddles, since these are both a moving target (easier to see) and also probably the highest part of you and the kayak.



## Club Trips – September 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.

### 1st or 2nd September

OK you lot, time to dust the cobwebs off your kayaks and join Will for a paddle from Torbay to Stillwater for lunch at Dacre cottage. Suitable for all levels and in most weather.

**Phone Will on 486 6215 to express interest and get further details**

### 8th or 9th September

*Waiheke Island*

Meet at Halfmoon Bay marina at the Sealink terminal. Bring your trolley. If the wind is from the North we will take the ferry to Kennedy Point on Waiheke and paddle some of the island. To come back to the cars we can use the ferry or have a downwind paddle. If the wind is southerly we will paddle downwind to Waiheke and take the ferry back.

**Phone Gerard Fagan 832 9720 mob 021 07 15917 for further details.**

### 15th or 16th September

*Lunch on Browns Island*

Suitable for all levels if weather is OK.

**Phone Philip 575 3493 on Thursday for details**

### Sunday 23 September

*Manukau Heads*

An old favourite. Meet at Cornwallis Wharf (not Cornwallis Beach) at 9.30am for a 10.00am departure. We'll paddle out to South Head, and scramble up the hillside to a grassy lunch spot with great views. Then over the top of the headland and out across the fields to the southwest, before descending back to the beach via "Rona's Leap." Perhaps we'll have time to cross to Whatipu on the way home. The paddle both out and back will be tide-assisted. Bring lunch and snacks, a small pack to carry them in, camera, and sandals or walking shoes. Total paddling time about 3 hours. Return to Cornwallis by about 5pm. In calm weather the trip is suitable for paddlers of all levels of experience; if windy then beginners must phone Colin to discuss. The trip depends on reasonable weather; **all those coming should phone Colin Quilter 630 2219 between 7.00am and 8.30am on Sunday morning to confirm that it's on. If the weather is too windy we'll try again on Sunday 7 October.** For those who are wondering why I keep running this trip, there's an old Texan saying: "When you strike oil, stop drilling."

### 29th or 30th September

**Suggestions welcomed. Phone Philip**

### Sunday 7 October

*Manukau Heads*

Back-up date for this trip if it was postponed on September 23. Meeting time and all other details are as on the 23rd.

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## Winter Lecture at the Marine Rescue Centre

### Wednesday 19th September

Our final for this year's winter series will feature a foray into Fiordland. **Erica Law** has made two expeditions to the deep south to kayak the remote Preservation Inlet and Doubtful Sound.

Come along with your sandfly repellent and settle back to enjoy Erica's stunning photography as she recounts her Fiordland wilderness escapade.

Meet at the Marine Rescue Centre at 7:00pm for a 7:30 start.

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

Need more info? **Roger Lomas 846 6799.**

## Winter escape to the Whitsundays

Colin Quilter

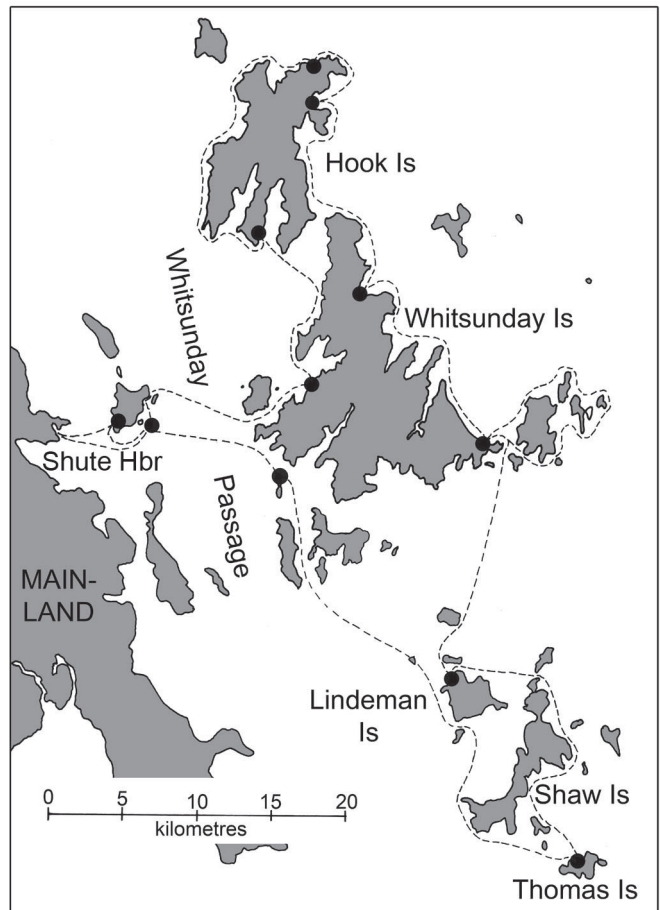
Fancy a kayaking holiday in the sun? At the end of June Mike Randall and I spent a fortnight exploring the Whitsunday Islands off the coast of Queensland. It was a fortnight of blue skies, warm water, and deserted beaches; an ideal break from the New Zealand winter. Here's a brief account of our trip, and useful information in case you are tempted to give it a try.

**Location.** The Whitsundays lie inside the Great Barrier Reef off the north Queensland coast, about 1000km north of Brisbane (at the same latitude as New Caledonia). The islands are separated from the mainland by open water of the Whitsunday Passage, but this is only 7km wide at the points where you might paddle across it. There are about 37 islands, of which 5 are privately-owned resorts and 32 are national parks. They are mountainous bush-covered volcanic islands with surrounding coral reefs and dazzling white beaches. The largest, Whitsunday Island, is about the same size as Waiheke Island in the Hauraki Gulf.

**Climate.** Winter is the dry season. At that time of year daytime temperatures are similar to an Auckland summer; nights are cool enough to require a jersey. The water temperature is about 23°C (compared to 20°C in the Hauraki Gulf in summer). In winter there are few mosquitoes, and hence little risk of Dengue fever or Ross River fever. There are no dangerous stinging jellyfish in winter. However it is the windy season. The southeast tradewinds blow onto the Queensland coast, so one can expect moderate to fresh southerly or southeasterly winds. This means that paddling to the southern islands would usually be a slog against the wind; returning in the opposite direction should be a downwind run.

**Tides.** The tidal range can be up to 3 metres and tidal currents are strong, particularly in narrow passages between islands. The flood tide sets southward through the Whitsunday group, and the ebb tide sets north. Rates are often 2-3 knots, so paddlers usually time their travel to take advantage of favourable currents. We timed our crossing of the Whitsunday Passage (between the mainland and the islands) to coincide with slack water, and we timed our travel north or south through the islands to use ebb and flood tides respectively.

**Camping.** The national parks are administered by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), which maintains basic campsites on most of the islands. The sites are not crowded; often we were the only people there. They usually have a composting toilet, and a picnic table or two. Fresh water is



seldom available; stream beds are often dry, or contain only a few stagnant pools. You need about 3 litres of water per person per day. We set off carrying 15 litres each, and organized a boat to drop off a couple of large jerry-cans of water at a campsite half-way through our trip, (more about the supply boat later). Campsites need to be pre-booked and pre-paid (\$5 per night) with QPWS. They understand that kayakers often cannot stick to a fixed itinerary, and allow some flexibility providing overcrowding of sites does not occur (unlikely in our experience).

**Animals and plants.** Sharks, rays, sea turtles, goannas, butterflies, an entire flora of tropical plants and trees. What more could you want? We were constantly delighted by new and unfamiliar animals and plants. The only problem animals are rats and crows which conduct smash-and-grab raids on campers. Rats chewed through my tent, three of Mike's heavy-duty dry bags and a water bottle. We soon learned to store food inside the kayaks at night to foil the rats and had no further trouble, but we later heard that they have been known to chew right through the hull of a plastic kayak to reach food!

Continued on page 9 ➤



## Winter escape to the Whitsundays

– continued from page 8



A lunch stop on the east coast of Whitsunday Island; one of many beautiful, deserted beaches.

Another kayaker told us of leaving a muesli bar wrapper in the pocket of his buoyancy aid; a rat chewed out the zip to reach the empty wrapper.

**Kayak rental.** We rented two singles (near-new plastic Storms) from “Salty Dog”, a small kayak tour operator at Shute Harbour, on the mainland opposite the islands. Neill and Hayley Kennedy run the business; they seemed thoroughly nice people. The cost was Aus\$50 per day, with every seventh day free. Included in the rental cost for each boat were a paddle and spare split paddle, spraydeck, buoyancy aid, flares, pump and maps. Neill also part-owns an 8-metre high-speed aluminium barge called “Scamper” which kayakers can use to be dropped with their canoes anywhere among the islands if windy weather makes paddling across the Whitsunday Passage inadvisable; Scamper could also recover you from the islands at the end of a trip if bad weather made the return difficult. Having this as a back-up in case of rough weather is an enormous advantage in planning a trip.

**Getting there.** We flew Pacific Blue to Brisbane, then Virgin Blue from there to Whitsunday Coast Airport near the town of Proserpine; (the same for the return trip). The total cost of return airfares was NZ\$850 each. It’s a 40 minute bus trip from Whitsunday Coast Airport out through the canefields to the town of Airlie Beach, near Shute Harbour. We stayed overnight in Airlie Beach at the beginning and end of our trip. There’s no supermarket in Airlie Beach. To stock up on provisions you have to travel 3km northwest of town to a Coles supermarket, or 5km out to

Woolworths. The only place we could purchase gas canisters was a camping store near Woolworths. The QPWS office is on the other side of town, on the road between Airlie Beach and Shute Harbour, but you don’t really need to visit them because campsites can be booked and paid for over the internet.

**Our trip.** We arrived to find locals grumbling about the weather; they’d had weeks of wind and rain, and the canefields were too wet to harvest. However the sun came out on the day we arrived, and we then had 13 days of paddling with constant blue skies, not a drop of rain, and little wind. The first two are expected in the dry season, but calms are not. We had planned a route that would take us south to the Lindeman Islands which are seldom visited by kayakers because of the difficulty of slogging out to them against the trade winds; indeed the QPWS were not very keen on our plans, citing open-sea crossings with the probability of “3 to 5-metre swells and huge sharks.” However in reality we paddled south in little wind, and a few days later returned northwards in an oily calm; (both crossings were also deficient in sharks). We then circumnavigated Whitsunday and Hook Islands in an anticlockwise direction, as shown by the dashed line on the map. We paddled just a few hours each day, leaving time for walking across the islands, and snorkeling over the coral reefs. The best snorkeling locations were at White Bay on the southeast corner of Whitsunday Island, and along the northern coast of Hook Island. The coral formations and fish really are spectacular, and the QPWS goes to great lengths to prevent boats damaging them with their anchors.

**A tourist trap?** The Whitsundays are renowned for expensive resorts and for bare-boat chartering. Before our trip I wondered whether these would spoil the wilderness experience. It’s true there are a number of resorts, including Hamilton Island which has its own airport, hotels, apartments, a marina, etc. But it seems that the hundreds of holiday-makers who visit the resorts spend most of their time around the swimming pool or the bar, and seldom leave the premises. We hardly noticed them as we paddled past. As for charter boats, they all carry the same guidebook, and they congregate in the anchorages which are specified in the book. In the Whitsundays, as elsewhere, 95% of people visit just 5% of the places. The shallow coral flats which lie offshore from many beaches also prevent yachts and launches from approaching them closely, but are less of an obstacle for kayakers. We came

Continued on page 10 ➤

## Winter escape to the Whitsundays

– continued from page 9

to expect deserted beaches on which ours were the only footprints; in fact there were so many to choose from that we ended up paddling past lonely and beautiful beaches with only a passing glance; we couldn't visit them all.

**Overall.....** A great escape from the New Zealand winter. The Whitsundays offer a classic seakayaking holiday, with warm water, blue skies and (as yet) uncrowded beaches. With "Scamper" as an escape route, one could plan a kayaking holiday with no risk of being stuck on the mainland by windy weather at the beginning of the trip, or being trapped on the islands at the end. All this comes at reasonable cost; on our trip the total cost including air fares, kayak hire, camp fees, taxis, backpacker accommodation, food, in fact everything, worked out at about NZ\$130 per person per day. Mike and I thought that the trip was well worth that sum.

**PS.** Virgin Blue, Salty Dog, the QPWS etc are all easy to find using Google, so I haven't bothered to give internet addresses. QPWS has a downloadable pdf file called "Island camping in the Whitsundays" which is the best single source of information and contains a useful map.



Four of our members, Trevor Arthur, Hala Akkad, Anne Maynard-Nichols and Ken Marsh have started training to walk 100 km in April of 2008. They get to raise funds for Oxfam and walk together for 30 hours around Taupo.

As part of the challenge we are selling various items on behalf of Oxfam and aiming to raise a total of \$2500 on behalf of the Auckland Canoe Club Team.

Please go to Oxfam trailwalker website.

### Select our team **Auckland Canoe Club**

And shop till you drop, there are T-shirts, books, and tickets to events available. All of the money you spend will be credited to our team fundraising total.

[http://www.oxfam.org.nz/events/teams.asp?a=show\\_team\\_pages&eventid=15&teamid=2690](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/events/teams.asp?a=show_team_pages&eventid=15&teamid=2690)

Thanks a lot, **Ken, Trevor, Hala and Anne**

### As part of our fundraising for Oxfam we are offering pool training at \$15 per person.

All nett proceeds to Oxfam. You get to learn/ practice your water confidence, rolling or flotation rescue in small boats at the Glen Innes pool. With help from John Maynard, Ken Marsh and Trevor Arthur. Starting, and then every Monday, from September 10th, at 7.30–8.45pm at GI Aquatics 122 Elstree Ave, Glen Innes. Please call Ken on 828 0701 to confirm there are boats and instructors available.

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## Adventure to the Auckland Islands

Hear Jack Finn telling us about his recent attempt to solo circumnavigate the Auckland Islands. This is a stunning slide and video presentation. He sailed south with a small support group. Witness the coastal encounters and go on day trips meeting the wildlife. Haemophilia does not stop Jack from seeking challenges and setting tough goals. In 2004 he cycled and kayaked the length of New Zealand.

We meet at the Hauraki Kayak Club House on West End Road, Herne Bay, on Wednesday, 17 October, at 7.30pm for a 8pm start. A \$2 door charge will cover your supper and help fundraising for Jack. This is a joint venue between Hauraki Kayak Group and Auckland Canoe Club. All welcome.

**For information phone Peter Sommerhalder 631-5344, or Roger Lomas 846 6799.**



## Help! Save our Maui's and Hector's Dolphins

*This is an appeal by Christine Rose, Deputy Chair, Auckland Regional Council.  
We encourage you to use the on-line contact and express your concerns.*

Kia ora,

I am writing to alert you to the extremely serious plight of a species that is special to the Auckland region. The Maui's Dolphin is the smallest dolphin of the 32 dolphin species in the world. It is also the world's rarest, and there is every sign it will become even rarer.

here are currently only an estimated 110 Maui's dolphins left, 25 of which are thought to be females of reproductive age. This means its survival is reliant on only 25 individuals.

The future isn't looking particularly bright for the Maui's dolphin. These numbers put it in the "critically endangered" category, alongside some of our more high-profile threatened species such as kiwi, kakapo and black robin. While enormous resources have been invested ensuring the survival of the kiwi et al, there is no recovery programme in place to protect Maui's dolphin from what could be imminent extinction.

The Maui's dolphin is a sub-species of the Hector's dolphin which is found in several small populations around the South Island. Both dolphin types are very small, have grey bodies and rounded black fins and black eye-patches. The Maui's dolphin is slightly plumper than the Hector's dolphin. It also lives in a different area, namely the west coast of the upper half of the North Island, particularly the area between Dargaville and Port Waikato. These dolphins are found nowhere else in the world.

All evidence suggests the most significant threat to Maui's dolphin is set netting. Dolphins get entangled in the nets and drown. They have also been known to get caught by inshore trawling vessels, particularly those in shallower waters.

Environmental groups around the country are urging the Minister of Fisheries to take action on this, and swiftly. This includes the call for a national ban on set netting, which would not only protect Maui's dolphins, but Hector's dolphins and other marine species. (Set netting is banned in the area where the Maui's dolphins are known to frequent, but dolphins tend to swim beyond those limited protected areas.)

Banning set-netting isn't a radical idea. The Ministers of Fisheries and Conservation will be making their decision on the future protection of these dolphins this year, and they welcome your comments. Or you can express your concern by posting a postcard, which is available from: [rozanne.taraia@arc.govt.nz](mailto:rozanne.taraia@arc.govt.nz). There is also a petition run by the World Wildlife Fund ([www.wwf.org.nz](http://www.wwf.org.nz)) which you can sign on-line.

Please act now. This is an extremely critical time for the Maui's and Hector's dolphins, and you can do something about it. We don't want to be the only developed nation that has lost a dolphin species in our lifetime, simply because we failed to act. Very soon, it will be too late. Extinction is forever.

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### 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)



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



To:

