



November 2007

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A foggy late-winter weekend saw Tony Hannafin, Wolfgang Pohl and David Lomas enjoying a cuppa up the harbour near Hobsonville.

PHOTO ROGER 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

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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storage@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
merchandise@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
vinehouse@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
newsletter@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
webmaster@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
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.

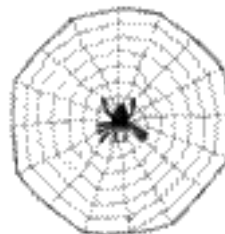
Internet Banking

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 November

Password Waiheke



Deadline for next newsletter

13th November 2007
(second Tuesday
of November).

Editorial

For some time now New Zealand has been looking to Vancouver Island and John Dowd for all things sea kayaking. And it is fair to say, we liked what we saw and learned very fast. More so we realised that our own country provides us with magnificent paddling opportunities. Gary Jacek, who is from Vancouver Island, thinks so too and will be visiting New Zealand for the fifth time next January. This time however he has to pay a “price” and agreed with our quick thinking secretary, Alissa, to contribute two articles to our club newsletter. The first part is published this month, with magnificent photos. Thanks Gary, and welcome back.

The extended winter lecture series closed in October with Jack Finn sharing his experience sailing and paddling to and around the Auckland Islands. Thanks for all those enthusiastic paddlers from Hauraki Kayak Club and Auckland Canoe Club who at the same time supported the Auckland Haemophilia Society.

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

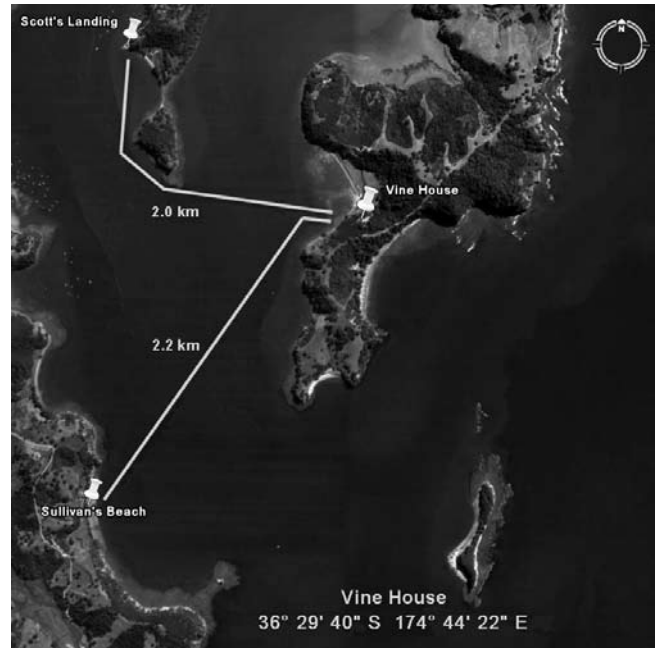
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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.

Is too much safety BAD FOR KAYAKERS?

Colin Quilter

Last month I had a phone call from Erica, the club's Safety Officer. She wondered whether I would be interested in taking part in trials on the water involving Coastguard and the Harbourmaster to find ways of making kayaks more easily seen. I thanked her for the offer, (and thank her again, here, for the excellent work she does on the club's behalf); but told her I would decline because I am philosophically opposed to too much safety for kayakers.

Erica seemed surprised. How could any sensible person be opposed to safety? I explained that I am worried that safety might in future be used as a reason to regulate how and where we paddle. Pressure for regulation might come, for example, from the owners of powerboats who would prefer kayakers to be restricted to the fringes of the harbour so that high-speed boats can travel with maximum speed and minimal lookout. Regulations achieving that will no doubt be introduced on the grounds that, "it's for the safety of kayakers".

Seven years ago I wrote a fictional short story for the newsletter exploring what the future might hold if we go down this track. With the editor's permission, it is re-printed here. Erica, it's the best explanation I can give for what might seem an unreasonable position. Naturally, this story is told from my personal view, and might not reflect the opinion of the club's committee.

It was a summer afternoon in February, 2020. Since global warming had accelerated these days of late summer had become hotter than ever, and now the paddocks on the far side of the creek shimmered with heat. The brown water flowed slowly upstream; I guessed the tide must still be rising on the coast a few miles away. We had dragged our kayaks through the blackberry and long grass to the riverbank; or rather I had dragged them, since my grand-daughter Laura and her friend Hine, both aged twelve, were too small for the task. The three of us stowed the sandwiches, the drinks and the tadpole net and were about to slide the boats into the water when the crunch of tires on gravel made us look back towards the roadside. A man of about my age, casually dressed, stood beside his bicycle.

"Hello. Going for a paddle, are you?" His question didn't seem to need a reply, so I nodded and turned back to the boats.

"Excuse me," he said. "There are a few things I need to ask you. Are you the leader of this party?"

I looked at Laura and Hine. "Am I the leader?"

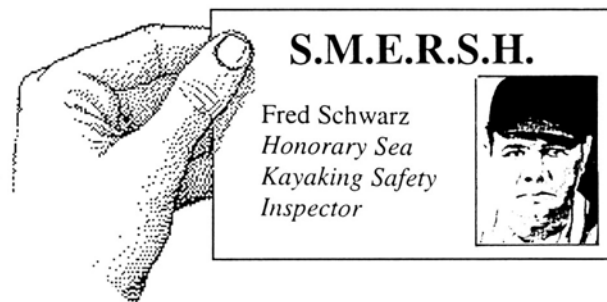
"Yes," said Laura. "You know where the tadpoles are."

"Well then. I need to make sure that you have a Level 3 Trip Leader's Certificate from the New Zealand Sea Kayaking Safety Authority, and that your boats comply with the Inshore and Protected Waters Minimum Equipment Standard for sea kayakers."

I could feel a sense of rising irritation. "And who the hell are you?"

He smiled benignly. "I'm an Honorary Sea Kayaking Safety Inspector," he said. "There are hundreds of us, up and down the country. It's our job to make sure you enjoy your sport safely. Here's my Identity Card." The card he handed me was impressive; dark blue with a logo in gold lettering on the front: SMERSH (Standards for Maritime Enjoyment,

Recreation, Sports and Hobbies). Lost for words, I passed it to Laura.



"Mister, these aren't sea kayaks," she said. "And this isn't the sea. It's a creek. With tadpoles. You're not the boss here."

"She means you're exceeding your jurisdiction," I added.

He ignored me, and spoke to Laura. "Well young lady, if you look at what you call the creek, you'll notice that the current is actually flowing up the river, not down it. That means the current is affected by the tide, and according to Paragraph 3, Regulation 39 in the SMERSH Safety Manual, that means this creek, as you call it, is legally part of the sea!" An unpleasant note of triumph had entered his voice. "And that also means that your kayakers must meet certain minimum safety standards. For example, they must each have two bulkheads, pressure-tested to 35 kilograms per square centimetre. And a maximum cockpit volume of 160 litres. Then there's the Personal Safety Equipment that each of you needs to carry." He was reading from the Safety Manual. "Category 5 Buoyancy Aid, whistle, paddle float, two red hand flares, one orange smoke flare, Approved First Aid Kit."

Continued on page 5 ➤

Is too much safety bad for kayakers?

– continued from page 4

He turned to me. “And for you, a Level 3 Trip Leader’s Certificate requires you to be able to eskimo roll, demonstrate two different types of assisted rescues, and be able to swim 100 metres wearing a buoyancy aid and sprayskirt, without losing your paddle.”

“Mister,” said Laura, “you’ve lost the plot. This creek isn’t anywhere deeper than my tummy. And in the middle of it, you could touch both banks with your paddle. How can grand-dad eskimo roll if his head’s in the mud on the bottom?” She turned to me.

“Come on, grand-dad. Let’s go home and get a videodisk about kayaking instead. There’s a cool disk called “Deliverance” which has got lots of canoes in it, plus a guy who gets shot right through with an arrow, and there’s sodomy in it as well.”

“What on earth do you know about sodomy?”

“We learned about it in sex education at school. Miss Jones told us it’s when...”

“Never mind!”

The Safety Inspector was fidgeting; something else was on his mind. “Look,” he said. “I don’t want to spoil your fun. But even if I allowed you on the water, there’s nowhere to go nowadays. This bank as far as the sea is Maori Land, so you can’t land on it. The other bank is part of Russell Coutt’s estate, the guy who made a fortune winning the America’s Cup twenty years ago. So you can’t land there either.”

The flat sense of stalemate hung in the air. Suddenly I felt tired and hot. Perhaps a canoeing videodisk was better than the real thing after all. Then Hine spoke. She’d been silent until now, but her brown eyes had missed nothing.

“Kia ora, Inspector,” she said quietly. “This is my land, and you are standing on it. I hope you don’t plan to stay long. These boats look like kayaks, but they are not. They are waka. Paddlers of waka are exempt from wearing buoyancy aids because they are culturally inappropriate. Whatever “bulkheads” and “maximum cockpit volumes” are, waka don’t have them. Nobody can eskimo roll in a waka, and we don’t swim in sprayskirts. Have a nice day Inspector, and I hope you enjoy your bike ride.”

So we ended up on the river after all. It may have been a bad day for the safety regulations, but it was a great day for tangata whenua!

Kayak Rental and Gear

It has come to our attention that private kayaks kept at the club lock up have been used by other people and returned to the locker unwashed and full of seawater, seaweed and sand. One kayak in particular has been misused in this manner on more than one occasion and has resembled the wreck of the Hesperus when the owner has gone to use it

The club has 6 kayaks available for hire

- 2 x Barracuda Beachcombers.
- 1 x Storm.
- 1 x Squall.
- 2 x Crosswind Doubles.

These club kayaks are clearly identified on the stern with “Auckland Canoe Club” followed by a number and are stored on the left hand racks.

Please use only the club kayaks for rental purposes and please hose down the kayaks after use.

Please look after the clubs equipment. It would seem that some individual has gone “rock gardening” and taken the term too literally and actually used the paddle as a shovel – possibly hoping to turn up a few crays – the paddle is damaged beyond repair.

Gavin Baker

Merchandising Officer Wanted

Alison would like to hand over her duties to a new energetic person. We are looking for “that” someone to manage and promote the club gear like club T-shirts and other clothing, as well as safety equipment. The new officer will be selling club merchandise at club events and become a committee member. Duties include accounting for sales and cash handling.

We welcome your application for this position.

Please email

Merchandise@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
or phone Alison on **0276 134 333**.



Welcome

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

**Mark Perren, Marianne Lane
& Gemma, Debbie Edwards,
Sally Roberts, Trish Snelling,
Martyn Spear (Family), Mark Todd.**

Pilgrimage to the Manukau Heads

Colin Quilter

Each year for the past decade the club has undertaken an annual pilgrimage to the South Head of the Manukau. So it was this September, when 23 penitents gathered on the beach at Cornwallis. Their sin was gluttony and slothful habits in the city; they were corpulent from too much food and pale from not enough sunlight, and redemption was to come through the pain of hard physical exercise.

The briefing on the beach was carefully phrased to conceal the perils ahead. On rounding Cornwallis Peninsula and seeing the distance ahead a few felt faint-hearted and would have retreated, but the ebbing tide swept them seaward. In the gloomy distance Paratutae and the Ninepin stood like broken teeth, with the horrid overfalls of the bar beyond.



The pilgrims landed below South Head. Their cheerful chatter showed how little they knew of what lay ahead. They were led for a few hundred metres along the beach, lambs to the slaughter, little dreaming that the road to redemption was up the cliffs alongside them. There were disbelieving cries as they started up.

“Where’s the track?”

“Is this a joke?”

“I want my mother!”

Some advanced on their hands and knees. Others cursed, or prayed for deliverance. But worse was to come. There’s only one thing harder than climbing

a precipice with an empty stomach, and that’s climbing a precipice with a full one. So they stopped on a grassy ledge and stuffed themselves with lunch. All kept their backs to the hill, so as not to contemplate the frightful slope which awaited them.

Best to draw a veil over the rest of the ascent. The pilgrims were in a pitiful state, their idle chatter reduced to gasps and groans. When eventually they dragged themselves over the crest of the hill they discovered the cruel trick that had been played on them: instead of the soft vales of paradise they found a grim wasteland of blackberry, gorse and electric fences.

All were now desperate to regain their kayaks. Rosie, in a state of catatonic despair, preferred death to more torment so she threw herself over the edge of the cliff. But there was to be no easy escape; she achieved bruises but not oblivion. Following her lead the pilgrims descended however they could: a pitiful rabble tripping, stumbling and rolling down the seaward cliffs. Rona’s Leap was the climax of that grim descent, but the pilgrims were so far gone by then that most leapt or fell over it with little more than a sob or groan.

There were cries of relief when the beach was regained. Surely their trials were over? But with sinking hearts they observed ragged clouds advancing from the northwest. Soon rain added to their misery.

It was a weary, bruised and sombre group who paddled back to Cornwallis in the late afternoon. But the worse the trial the greater the redemption; the stronger the medicine the more certain the cure; and by next year I’ve no doubt that most of the poor fools will have so little memory of the pilgrimage that they’ll turn up to do it all over again.

President's Report

Various club members have been busy this month with several projects.

The first was a project with the Harbourmaster's Office to check the effectiveness of various types of safety equipment. This was organised by our safety Officer, Erica, and involved collecting equipment from suppliers, liaising with the harbourmaster to plan the tests, selecting a variety of kayaks from club members, and then getting everyone organised for the on water trials. This took place from late afternoon through to early evening so that we could test full sun, dusk and dark conditions.

The results are being written up now and we hope to have them available for the newsletter next month.

The project with the Regional Council has started with a planning meeting for a kayak / paddler trail from Okahu Bay down the Pohutukawa Coast to

Miranda Springs. This is in early stages but is hoped to be the first of a series of links that will eventually connect the Hauraki Gulf from Miranda in the south to Warkworth in the north.

The second project that has come to the fore again is the development of The Landing. You will have noticed that a construction fence is in place and work is preceding to development the hard stand area. The problem is that the construction fence is severely encroaching into the area that we had previously been told was reserved for the new Club Rooms. The Auckland Canoe Club has met with the other users and a preliminary meeting has been held with the project manager. Letters have been exchanged with the City Council through the Mayor's Office and a joint user meeting with the Council is planned. Watch this space...

Happy paddling,

Ian



After months of cranium scratching our Vice President, Wolfgang Pohl, eventually sourced a solution to the problem. His motor home is now fully equipped to cater to his kayaking needs with the addition of his ingenious kayak loading and transport rack.

PHOTOS ROGER LOMAS



Canuck's Corner – Part 1



I wake to a wheezing rumble. Adrenaline kicks in. Is that a bear outside? Not quite.

Next to me, my son is snoring.

Something cold is pressed against my face. My eyes open to an orange blur. Our tent has collapsed upon us. It snowed last night at ROVENT. <http://rovent.ca/>

It's February 18 2007 and we're on top of a mountain pass in Manning Park, British Columbia with 400 of our closest Scouting friends from across BC and points beyond.

This year's ROVENT has a Dr. Seuss theme. We're camping in WhoVille. In my sleeping bag, I wonder "WHO talked me into THIS?"

Yesterday we were in T-shirts under sunshine and blue skies. Today it's windy and cold outside. Mountain weather changes rapidly. I've nothing to do but burrow into my down sleeping bag and dream of another, slightly more pleasant February 2003, hiking in the Nelson Lakes, collecting tua-tuas on a Coromandel beach and sailing in the Bay of Islands with my Kiwi friends Greg, Brent and Terri.

But I've gotten ahead of myself. Let's start off with some introductions.

My name is Gary Jacek (pronounced Jasseck) and I live in Victoria, BC, Canada. That's me on the right in this photo at the top of Travers Saddle in Nelson Lakes Park.

I'm an Advisor with my son's 5th Cedar Hill Venturer Company. That's how I got into paddling.

The Venturers (slightly older than Scouts) are keen on surf kayaking, so being the involved parent, I ramped up my kayaking skills. Now I kayak more than my son does.

I'll be coming to New Zealand Jan 13 through Feb 20 because Greg (on the left in the photo) is (finally!) getting married. During the remainder of my time in NZ, I'll be doing some sailing, hope to do some paddling around Auckland and with any luck I'll find myself on the water in Abel Tasman Park. Alissa Good asked me to describe my adventures in the club newsletter.

I'll tell you a little more in the next instalment. For now, if you're interested in showing me your favourite paddling spots, please send me an email. My address is Gary.Jacek@telus.net.

Paddle Safe

Gary



CONFIRMED DATES FOR HARBOUR SWIMS 2007/2008

Eagle Technology Harbour Swims

- 1st Swim HERNE BAY SWIM 1.2k**
Herne Bay Beach to Curran Street
Sunday 11th November 2007
Assemble 7.45am
Start 8.30am
Tide 9.14am
- 2nd Swim CHELSEA SUGAR SWIM 2.36k**
Curran Street to Chelsea Sugar Factory
Sunday 2nd December 2007
Assemble 12.30pm
Start 1.30pm
Tide 2.28pm
- 3rd Swim EAGLE TECHNOLOGY BAYS SWIM 3.78k**
St Heliers Bay to Tamaki Yacht Club
Sunday 10th February 2008
Assemble 7.45am
Start 8.45am
Tide 10.39am
- 4th Swim EAGLE TECHNOLOGY RANGITOTO SWIM 4.45k**
Rangitoto to St.Heliers Bay
Sunday 30th March 2008
Assemble 9.00am
Embark 10.00am
Sail for Rangitoto 10.30am
Arrive Rangitoto 11.10am
Start 11.45am
Tide 2.09pm

Quantum Events Swims

- 25th November 2008**
Harbour Crossing from Stanley Point to Viaduct Basin
- 26th January 2008**
Wellington
- 16th February 2008**
Christchurch
- 8th March 2008**
Mt Maunganui
- 20th April 2008**
King of the Bays

NOTE:- *Round the Bays Run is to be held on Sunday 16th March 2008

Sunday 24th February 2008 **KIWI-KIDS TRIATHLON**

***Sunday 16th March 2008** **ROUND THE BAYS**

Club Trips – November 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.

3rd or 4th November

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.

11th November

Swim Escort time again – Herne Bay to Curran St

Once again the escort season is here. For those who don't know, these are the only fund raising activities by the club, and pleasant ones at that.

See previous page for calendar.

For this one, we will meet at Curran Street Beach to be in the water by 7.45am to paddle up to Herne Bay for the swim start at 8.45.

Roger and Wolfgang will provide their usual excellent brunch after the event.

Phone any of the committee members for further information. Club boats are reserved for this event.

Saturday, 17th November

Christmas Lunch at Dacre Cottage

Meet with the Yakity Yakers at Dacre Cottage for Christmas Lunch. Food prepared by Pete Townend and his team for \$10 per adult, or \$5 per child. Bring your own refreshments, kayak and boat trolley. Bookings essential in advance at any Canoe and Kayak shop. Meet at entrance to Silverdale Camping ground at 9.30am for departure at 10am. Drive along East Coast Bays Road into Spur Road and Duck Creek Road, heading for Silverdale, approx 60mins from CBD.

For registration and information please phone Peter Sommerhalder on 09 631-5344.

24th or 25th November

Tiri Tiri

Join Philip for a great experience kayaking across to this iconic island for a day to remember. Ride out on the ebb tide, spend some time on the trails absorbing the wildlife, then either lunch on the island or paddle

around to a great private beach on the north eastern side for lunch. Returning early to mid afternoon.

Phone Philip on 575 493 for meeting place and departure time.

It is suggested that you phone mid week to express interest so Philip can contact you should the weather dictate a change of plans, e.g. paddle on Saturday.

2nd December

Swim Escort

Curran Street to Chelsea Sugar Factory

Meet at Curran Street at 12.30 to be on the water by 1.00pm. Same drill as last escort, BBQ afterwards at Curran Street.

See December newsletter.

16th December

Club Christmas Brunch – Browns Island

Leave from Kohi Ramp of Okahu Bay.

See December newsletter

Year End

Some interest has been expressed in having a one day or camp over for as many nights as people want at the Te Haruri Camp Ground at Shakespear National Park at the end of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.

Suggested dates have been between Christmas and New Year, with a likely day event on the 28th for those who do not want to camp. Members to make their own bookings as follows.

The council have confirmed that at the moment Te Haruri camping ground is available with lots of slots for the 25th to the 28th inclusive but that the 29th to 31st only has 19 slots. Maximum nights 7.

Vehicle based campsites

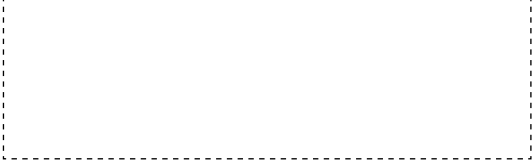
Adult	\$10 per person per night
Child	\$5 per person per night
Preschooler	No charge

Camping at designated car parks only (self contained campervans/caravans only)

Adult	\$5 per person per night
Child	\$3 per person per night
Preschooler	No charge

Backpack sites (paddle in?)

Adult	\$5 per person per night
Child	\$3 per person per night
Preschooler	No charge



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



To:

