

December 2007



*We wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
May your holiday be safe and relaxing*

From the President and Committee of Auckland Canoe Club



After helping on the first swim escort of the summer, club kayakers pause to pose for the camera before going ashore to enjoy barbecued chicken kebabs and icy cold drinks. Well done team. PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

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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>	Neil Scott	846 4004
<i>Vine House</i>	Trevor Arthur	817 7357
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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.

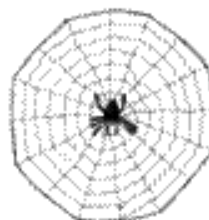
Internet Banking

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 December

Password Watchman



Deadline for February newsletter

30 January 2008

Note: There will not be a January Newsletter!

Editorial

Canoeing has never been a spectators sport. Getting your non-paddling friends to come and support you when doing a multisport event, or asking a TV channel to record the launch of a new 6-man outrigger canoe, or to report on a slalom competition on the Tongariro River, is almost an impossible task. The exception were Ian Ferguson and Paul Macdonald when bringing home Olympic Gold over twenty years ago.

Yet our sport does hit the headlines from time to time. And the number of people enjoying canoeing and kayaking is growing steadily. Two Australians are in the news presently, trying to cross the Tasman Sea from Sydney to Auckland. *"I shouldn't be alive"* on TV showed a (rather boring) story of two sea kayakers getting into trouble. And there were a number of replies to Colin Quilter's article *"Is too much safety bad for kayakers?"* Read the comments from both sides in this issue.

We wish all kayakers a relaxing Festive Season and enjoyable and safe paddling in 2008. The next newsletter will be mailed out at the beginning of February.

Peter Sommerhalder
Editor

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

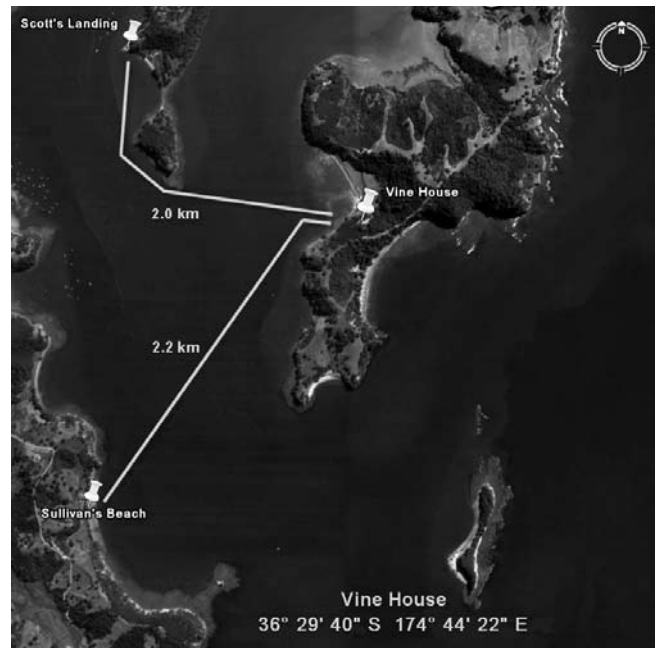
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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

Last month I promised an update concerning negotiations with the City Council.

A preliminary meeting has now taken place and the Council outlined what they believed had been happening. A critical issue was the apparent lack of communications between the Council and all user groups. We have established the reason for this – the Council was using the wrong contact list and even that was out of date. We have updated this.

We had a cordial meeting to re-establish the lines of communications and now we need to return to direct communications with the Major to make sure that the agreement of 2005 is honoured. This will include moving the construction fence back 48 meters to where it should be. Since the area will now be sealed I am going to suggest that this becomes the parking area for the small boat users until Stage 3 plans are finalised.

We did discuss two issues of immediate concern.

The lack of working toilets at our end of the Landing,

The toilets in Ferg's do not work any more, and those in the Sailing Club building are inadequate.

The other issue was the major problem with trucks using the area that is needed by the small boat users to load and unload as well as park. It was pointed out that this will be impossible over summer. Currently all users are finding this situation very difficult and I have had reports of friction between some of our members and other User Groups.

I ask all members to please respect the rights of all users. It is difficult as it is no longer possible to drive vehicles to our lockup, but other user groups have offered to assist us in handling kayaks on and off the ramp. I expect our members to offer their assistance to other groups as well eg if the Sailing Club members require assistance then please offer to help. We have to remain united if we are to convince the Council that we are all working together for the benefit of the community.

Happy Paddling, *Ian.*

Notices to Mariners:

Orakei Wharf Fireworks Display

There will be a fireworks display off Orakei Wharf on Saturday 1st December 2007. The display will take place at 2130 hours for a duration of 9 minutes.

An exclusion zone of 100 meters will exist around the Orakei Wharf.

All vessels are to follow the instructions of patrol craft.

Auckland Harbour Bridge Maintenance Works

Extension to Maintenance work programme (Notice 43 – 07). Works will continue on the Auckland Harbour Bridge between Piers 2 and 3. Work will be carried out over the period Monday to Saturday between the hours 0630 hrs to 1830 hrs for a further 2 weeks and be completed by 07 December 2007

All vessels are advised not to transit through Piers 2 and 3 during the above times and to navigate with caution.

Bruce Goff
Maritime Officer
Auckland Harbourmaster's Office

Whakatepea te kō, kia kotahi

We're in it together



Auckland
Regional Council
TE RAUHITANGA TAIAO

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Private Bag 92 012, Auckland
New Zealand
DX CP 28 008 Pitt St
Telephone +64 9 366 2000
Facsimile +64 9 366 2155
www.arc.govt.nz

Coastbusters 2008 – Reminder

The highlight for most sea kayakers is the annual Coastbuster Symposium. It is a weekend offering a mixture of lectures, hands-on exercises, guest speakers from all over the world, and socialising. Participants are expected to have done some paddling. Coastbusters is organised by the Red Team, who promises to outdo themselves from 29 February to 2 March 2008, offering the best event ever.

Coastbusters is followed by International Kayaking Week. Overseas visitors to Coastbusters are invited to join the local sea kayakers and explore the Mahurangi Harbour area. Base camp will be at Martins Bay camping ground.

These two events will be rounded off with a New Zealand Kayak Builders' Get Together weekend (7–9 March 2008) at the Rotorua Lakes.

Anyone wanting to participate in any of these three events needs to register immediately.

Please go to www.coastbusters.org.nz for details and registration forms.

Hire of club canoes during Coastbusters

The organisers of Coastbusters would like the use of our club canoes from 29 February to 6 March 2008. The Committee agreed to this request. However should club members need hire canoes during this time, they would get priority. We therefore ask you to book your canoe(s) *immediately* with Gavin Baker, our storage/hire canoe officer.

Note: This only applies for the first week in March next year.



Welcome

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

Melanie Warbrooke and Murray Keating, Jo Levy, Gary Jacek and Nicholas Grant.

Crossing the Ditch



Two Australian sea kayakers have set off from Forster, north of Sydney, to paddle across the Tasman Sea to Auckland, in New Zealand.

Justin Jones and James Castrission travel together in a custom made double sea kayak. An immense amount of preparation and training has gone into this adventure. Modern satellite communication

tracks the adventurers position every ten minutes. Their progress can be monitored on their web site www.crossingtheditch.com.au.

The two adventurers hope to make landfall in the Manukau Harbour after about six weeks of paddling, which will be near Christmas. Their goal is to achieve one of the last great things that still needs to be done.

Canuck's Corner – Part 2

Last month I recounted my February mountaintop adventures here in Canada. This month I'll describe kayaking here in British Columbia and how I came to call New Zealand my second home.

Victoria is on the southern tip of Vancouver Island on Canada's mostly-wild west coast.

It's also the jumping off point for some really great kayaking in places like our Gulf Islands National Park, Barkley Sound/The Broken Group/Deer Group islands and the very wild Brooks Peninsula. If you've seen the video "*This Is The Sea 2*", you've seen BC's Skookumchuck Narrows. There's plenty of paddling here in BC, with fjords, mountains, glaciers and waterfalls.

Sounds a lot like New Zealand, doesn't it?

But there is a catch. Here in our BC winters (Nov–Feb), you sometimes have to break the ice to get onto the water. Many of our local paddlers spend the winter on the Sea of Cortez, south of California. While the Cortez waters may be warm, fresh water is harder to come by in the arid Mexican climate. Instead of Mexico, I travel to New Zealand to get warm. Why? Well, there's a little history here.

When I was 12, one of my schoolteachers spent a year at a school in Auckland. She came back to Canada with names and addresses for all her NZ students. That's how I found myself with a Penpal, Greg in New Zealand.

Over the years, Greg and I would post all manner of goodies to each other. Those were the days when a letter full of chewing gum packets was not a problem. As we got older, our letters turned into email, I got a job with Canadian Airlines and Greg started working overseas. Suddenly it was much easier to connect in person.

Greg and I have visited each other several times. We've always tried to outdo each other. During my days as an aerobics instructor, I think I nearly killed Greg, marching him up mountains here in British Columbia. Greg returned the favour when we hiked in your Southern Alps. Together we've sailed, tramped and SCUBA'd in both countries.

We're both a little older now and I know my knees and ankles aren't what they used to be.

That's one reason why I'm keen on paddling. I can still get off the beaten track, but I don't have to carry everything on my back.

This past summer, Greg phoned. On January 26, he is FINALLY getting married! Time to pack my bags once more.

I'll be in New Zealand Jan 13 through Feb 20. When I'm not at the wedding, I'll be doing some sailing and hope to do some paddling around Auckland. With any luck I'll find myself on the water in Abel Tasman Park. If you're interested in showing me your favourite paddling spots or joining me at Abel Tasman, please send me an email. Should you find yourself in British Columbia, I promise to return the favour. Maybe we'll even get Greg on the water.

My address is Gary.Jacek@telus.net.

I'll be describing my NZ paddling adventures in a later issue. Meanwhile, if you want to read more about paddling here in BC, I highly recommend you seek out "*The Wild Coast*" volumes 1, 2, and 3 by John Kimantas.

Paddle Safe

Gary

Gary.Jacek@telus.net

New Merchandising Officer

Alison Calhaem is passing her duties as merchandising officer over to Neil Scott.

Alison built up a range of club garments and safety articles sea kayakers can't do without. We will miss her friendly advice and regular attendance. She is handing over the suitcase to Neil, and intends turning up with her paddle instead. Thank you for your big help.

Neil Scott is no stranger to our coffee cruise paddlers. He will be introducing his merchandise in the next newsletter. Neil can be contacted at home in the evenings, phone 09 846 4004, or by email: merchandise@aucklandcanooclub.org.nz. Welcome aboard, Neil.

Club Trips

Erica Law

*(with a little help from the committee
for the sake of accuracy)*

With spring well and truly under way, and people starting to think about summer, I thought it might be worth giving my impression of what some of the various club activities are like, especially for the benefit of our new club members.

Swim Escorts

What are they?

- The club's good Samaritan act, and money earner (for the club)
- Normally a fairly leisurely paddle at swimmer's pace, but can cut up rough some times, especially for the longer swims (e.g., St Heliers to Tamaki Yacht Club and the Rangitoto to St Heliers).
- An opportunity to meet some of the older (experienced) club members - and they don't bite; they're very friendly really.

The club fleet of 4 singles and 2 doubles is reserved for these swim escorts, and club members may book and use one at no cost by ringing Gavin (phone 528 5188).

We shepherd swimmers from start to finish of the harbour swims.

We earn money for the club for each kayak that turns up.

We finish off with a barbeque and drinks, thanks to Roger and Wolfgang.

So note the date of the next swim escort, and come along! We're always needing people. Normally, a minimum of 30 to 40 kayakers are needed.

If you're unsure about it, ring any of the committee members.

Vine House

This is one of those little gems that our club can offer. The last weekend of every month, we have a 'working bee' at a beautiful little 1950s bach situated on East Mahurangi Peninsula, overlooking the Mahurangi Harbour, a little north of Puhoi. The club has had an ongoing project to restore this once well-loved home which belongs to the Auckland Regional Council. This will soon become available for the public to hire, but the club will have a free weekend once a month, and the club will get priority for bookings at other times.

Even now the 'working bees' are very casual affairs; normally at least one or two people make some progress with the refurbishment. And they are

normally very social weekends. All are welcome, but you need to ring Trev (ph 817 7357) before hand, because there are only ten bunks, unless you want to tent. It's a 20 to 30 minute paddle from Sullivans Bay in West Mahurangi Regional Park.

There are lots of great places to explore from there, around the Mahurangi Harbour, Scotts Landing, Saddle Island, Motuora Island, Moturekareka Island, Wenderholm, around the peninsula, to name a few.

Tuesday night paddle – from Okahu Bay

The length and nature of these paddles depends very much on who turns up, and new members are welcome; trips will be tailored to suit. However to attend one of these you must have a good night light e.g. Dolphin light or the club's Hella light. The latter are available for hire. Ring Gavin (phone 528 5188) for further information.

Saturday Morning Coffee Cruise – from Okahu Bay

Normally led by Neil or Rosemary, numbers vary from a few to a dozen, and it's a great way to start getting your confidence and experience. The normal trip is from Okahu Bay around Bean Rock to St Heliers and back to Kohimarama for a coffee. After coffee, it is downhill back to Okahu Bay. About 2 hours of easy paddling all up.

If you are less experienced, we can cater for that by assigning someone to paddle with you and cut your part of the trip back to paddling from Okahu Bay to Kohi to meet for coffee, and then return. Whatever you need based on your skills and experience can be catered for.

We meet at the Club's Kayak Lock up beside Fergs at Okahu Bay at 8.45am to leave at 9.00am. We are normally back by mid-day. For beginners, club kayaks are available for hire as we have 2 double and 4 single kayaks.

Some times we go a little further with a trip across the harbour to Devonport or Narrowneck. Wherever it is, beginners are in great hands, with instructive tips (if they want it) along the way.

Day Trips

There are a range of other trips further afield, led by experienced club members. With most of these, if you can paddle a few hours or so, you should be able to handle it, but you should always ring the trip leader at least a couple of days before to register your interest, and discuss trip details. For example, read about the trip to Manukau Heads, reported last month; or trips to Hoteo River and to Waiheke in this newsletter.

The Swim Escorts from a Swimmer's point of view

By Alissa Good

The following is a summary from a swimmer who has done the Rangitoto swim twice and been an escort on several occasions.

First a big thanks to all you paddlers who come and escort the swim. It would be a very frightening thing to do if you were not around. Hopefully the following will give you some insight into the problems for us swimmers:

- 1) Don't expect us to swim in a straight line. I have found that when you correct a swimmer on their direction that they don't move their body to line up with the direction they should be going. This means that when they put their heads down to swim again that they swing back onto the old path.
- 2) Don't expect us to be polite. I know we should be very thankful that you are there, but when you are tired and have a long swim ahead sometimes you lose your sense of humour. Forgive us.
- 3) We can't see what you can see. You may tell us to line up with an object, but from the water it may not be visible.
- 4) If she has her top down, she is not flashing at you, but more like has started to chafe.
- 5) Please don't let us stray too far. If we go off course, we can end up swimming a lot further than the 4.3 km.
- 6) When coming close to the end, if we are heading to the wrong end of the beach then chances are we don't know where to get out. Please correct us asap because boys are we tired by then.
- 7) If we don't look up when you talk to us then chances are we can't hear you (the caps, water in the ears and our own bubbles can stop us from hearing external noises).

DATES FOR REMAINING HARBOUR SWIMS – 2007/2008

Thank you to those who helped in the last swim, your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Eagle Technology Harbour Swims

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

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

Kia Ora Colin

Ko Erica ahau¹

These are my personal views, not necessarily those of the committee.

I must compliment Colin on his article 'Is too much safety BAD FOR KAYAKERS', that was in last month's newsletter; an entertaining and positive way of making a good point. I believe a club is the healthier for it where there is open debate and discussion about those things that affect us, and matter to us for the enjoyment of our sport. I have always been a fan for trying to understand all sides of an issue. So I welcome Colin's views (always so well made), and those of any others who care to convey them in a constructive manner.

For my part, as a trumper and mountaineer of the 70s and 80s, when you could camp, tramp and climb anywhere in our national parks, self-reliant, with your own skills and experience to get you home safely, I would rue the day when we were robbed of a sense of freedom and adventure because of a raft of compliance requirements; or worse still, couldn't even take part in our sport because of the cost of compliance. However, with freedom and self-reliance comes the responsibility of being well-informed, and skilled enough to manage any likely risks.

Just as I think debate and informed self-reliance is important, I also think it is really important that we all work together, and engage with one another and our various points of view, to jointly address the complex issues that face us today. No one person has a monopoly on 'the truth'. Hence it's important that as a club we have open channels of communication with a range of groups that have a bearing on our sport, including the Harbour Master, Coast Guard, City Council, Regional Council, and other boating groups.

In terms of the testing of equipment for visibility and audibility, what did I learn?

Well, Jim Dilley, the Deputy Harbour Master, will write more technically and eruditely than I can about the results, but here are the key points that stick in my mind:

- The best deal is the club's cheap (\$5 if we can source them cheaply) high-visibility vests! But any clothing, including head gear, made of high visibility orange or yellow material is great.
- White paddle blades are better than any other colour.
- Flags are better if they are long enough to flap in the breeze, and the higher off the water the better. High vis orange and yellow works well.
- Dolphin lights are the best uni-directional night lights, and Hella lights the best 360 degree night lights. I personally wouldn't trust to being seen with anything else.
- Whistles are useless for being heard by motor boat drivers, and it seems the air horn is only audible from a motor boat if the latter is down wind.
- It only takes 30 seconds for a motorised boat at 25kph to reach a group of kayakers after first spotting them (in daylight conditions).
- Colour of kayak makes a difference. Bright colours such as orange and yellow seem to work best; it varies a little with different light conditions.

I also noted that I, who am short-sighted and wear prescription lenses, could see a lot less than Jim who has 20/20 vision, even when I looked directly at what he was pointing out. So it strikes me that we can't assume that all boat drivers can **see** as well as Jim.

I really welcomed the opportunity to put myself in the shoes of a motor boat user, and literally see things from their perspective on a boat moving at some speed, and I thank Jim for this great opportunity.

From a sea kayaker's point of view, I think it is extremely important that the message keeps being hammered in and reinforced, that motor boat drivers and other boaters must keep a sharp look out for kayakers. It is **their** responsibility to be aware of hazards in their path (even if seakayaks are mobile, and not as damaging to motor boats as rocks and reefs). In our turn, we must take responsibility for wearing and using effective high visibility gear.

¹ Greetings Colin. By Erica Law.

How Right You Are Colin

Many decades ago when I was an Inspector of Health I realised that if an inspector had been with Cook on the Endeavour,

- (a) Cook would never even have set sail for foreign climes. Hygiene aboard would have put paid to that foolish escapade.
- (b) Had he been allowed to sail neither he nor his crew would have been allowed to land – just in case... Was it not possible some thing not very nice might happen to you?

And that is precisely what OSH and all its contemporary PC organisations are all about. You should not do this or that JUST IN CASE. The 'WHAT IF' brigade I call them!! My answer to them is 'SO WHAT!' Unless one is seriously mentally impaired no one is going to do anything so deliberate that would result in the cessation of one's life.

Life is a matter of everyone obeying the rules. Whether it be on land, on sea, or in the air, there are rules for every one to follow for the safety of all other craft as well as your own. We members of the ACC know (or should know through the articles and

advice given in these monthly newsletters) what gear is needed for our own safety when we venture on the water, salt, fresh, flat or turbulent. You are doing a good job Erica for helping to expand those rules. Keep up the good work. In the good old days when we first started night paddles on the harbour we attracted the attention of a lot of boaties and the harbour police who had never seen paddlers on the water at night before. One idiot ferry skipper even followed a group of us as far as the now non existent Compass Dolphin in Mechanics Bay declaring we were at risk because he could not see us. How the devil then could he follow us if he could not see us. Now night paddling is common place. Rules were laid down.

But Colin is correct in his opinion that too much safety is bad for kayakers. It is the challenge and the achievement that really matters. Where would the world be to day if all those adventurers and pioneers had taken heed of the WHAT IF BRIGADE?

Go on, do something daring for Christmas!!!

Laurie Bugbee

Control Didymo

Paddlers will suffer should Didymo find its way into our North Island rivers and lakes. It is essential that we stay alert and prevent the disease from spreading.

First reaction from sea kayakers will be: This does not concern me, I am paddling in sea water only. Quite right, this disease is a danger in fresh water only. However, most paddlers in the Auckland area will not pass an opportunity to paddle on the Waikato River, or on the lakes in the Rotorua-Taupo area, or on the Kai-Iwi Lakes. So my response to you is: *Stay alert and know what to do.*

All kayaking gear in contact with water needs to be cleaned, not just the kayak or canoe. This means: lifejacket, paddle jacket, paddles, booties, deckbag, the pouches for VHF radio or GPS strapped to paddler or boat, and so on. There is no need to buy a special cleaner. Make your own solution of 5% dishwashing detergent, or 5% nappy cleaner. 5% means a solution of 500ml (half a litre or two

large cups) of dishwashing detergent added to 10 litres of water. This cleaning solution can be mixed in a collapsible dishwash basin, or make use of one compartment in your seakayak, or the cockpit. The lifejacket and paddling accessories should be washed in this solution for at least one minute. Wash the hull and deck of the canoe as well. Then rinse it and preferably let it all dry before using your gear in the next waterway. Dispose of the used solution by letting it soak into soil away from fresh water.

Competitors in the 2007 Coast to Coast returning to the North Island were checked by MAF and Biosecurity personnel in Picton before boarding the Interisland Ferry. Yes, this is a very serious issue. We ask all paddlers to be extremely cautious and keep at least one 500ml bottle of detergent ready in the fishbin with their paddling kit.

CHECK – CLEAN – DRY. For more information visit www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymot

Club Trip up the Hotoe River



by Sue Noble

In mid-October, eight of us kayaked up the Hotoe River, hopeful of seeing the Kowhai trees in bloom. We met at the boat

ramp at 9 am for a 9.30 departure where Helen filled us in about the river. The weather was good and we soon set off, avoiding the slippery boat ramp by launching from the wharf.

The first part of the trip was through the upper reaches of the tidal mangroves of the Kaipara Harbour, but as we paddled further we entered areas with beautiful native bush on one or both sides of the river. We soon noted that the Kowhai trees were almost completely finished flowering, but the bush was nonetheless spectacular. We cruised past Mt Auckland with absorbing scenery with some lovely regenerating Kauri and Rimu. We paddled quietly, engrossed in our thoughts as we passed a grove of beautiful Kahikatea trees and pongas overhanging the river banks. It was not long before we reached the spot Helen had earmarked for a tea stop – the site of a bach overlooking a grassy river bank and the forest beyond. No-one was willing to try the Flying Fox which hung from a tree across the river

as we enjoyed the surroundings and the outlook.

Re-launching our boats was fun as we avoided the mud by some assisted seal launches, one of which almost tipped Paul into the water with some robust help. We continued up the watercourse, passing a couple more unique baches on the riverbank. As we approached the end of the navigable watercourse, we discovered a group of white-baiters – though not unfriendly, engrossed in their task they did not acknowledge our presence and we turned our boats to avoid disturbing their fishing. We had noted en route a number of whitebait traps and several mai mai's concealed with relatively fresh vegetation.

It was a pity that the Kowhai blooms were over, but we had a superb day, enjoying the tranquil river and the magnificent native bush along the banks. On the way home we kayaked up the Mangetu Stream through beautiful native bush overhanging the still water, before returning at about 3.30pm. Helen led the trip with Paul, Richard, Jackie, Erica, Brian, Sue and Philip enjoying a great day out.



Steve and Sue Levett recently travelled with their kayaks to Big Bay in the Bay of Islands. It was an emotional farewell watching the sinking of the decommissioned frigate, Canterbury, as Steve has served on the ship. It will become an artificial reef in its second life.

Club Trips – December 2007, January and February 2008

Please phone Wednesday or Thursday to express interest.

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

Note: Trips will start at the time announced. Ensure you are on time or be left to catch up.

2nd December

Swim Escort

Curran Street to Chelsea Sugar

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. 45 boats required please.

Phone any Committee member for additional details.

Club Boats reserved for escort.

Sat 8th or Sun 9th December

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.

16th December

Club Christmas Brunch – Browns Island

Once again we'll do the Christmas thing, we'll paddle from Kohi Beach, meeting 8.00 am for an 8.30 departure to Browns Island for brunch and exchange of gifts (bring a small gift for someone else – limit \$5.00) and your brunch. Those who have portable BBQs, please bring them.

Dress: anything from Tux to Togs.

Someone suggested some Christmas carols, so bring your voice too.

Phone Philip 575 3493 or Ian 579 0512.

18th January

A Rangi Evening BBQ with David & friends.

Depart at 6.00pm from Narrow Neck for an easy (one hour) paddle to McKenzie Bay Light House, have a swim and cook your steak or snarlors on my gas BBQ. There should be the rising full moon for our return trip. Watch out for the phosphorescence

NIGHT LIGHTS ARE A MUST.

Phone David on 445 3639 to register interest and further details.

Sunday, 27 January

Junior Skills Training, 1pm, French Bay, Titirangi

This is for boys and girls, 6-13 years old, wanting to learn proper paddling strokes, capsize drill and rescues. Also some fun races and games. Some children's kayaks and sit-ons will be supplied. Two sessions are planned for children whose parents (or grandparents) belong to the club.

Phone Peter or Su Sommerhalder 631 5344.

Sunday 10th February

Eagle Technology Bays Swim

Meet at St Heliers Bay at 8.00am for briefing. The swim starts at 8.45. Alternately leave from Okahu Bay at 7.15 to paddle down to St Heliers

Afterwards join the South African contingent for a Braai of Boerewors, Snarlors, Sue's famous bean sauce and all the trimmings at the boat shed.

Club boats reserved for the Escort.

Phone any of the Committee for details.

16th & 17th February

Weekend at Tiri Tiri

Limited spaces available to spend an awesome weekend in the house on Tiri Tiri.

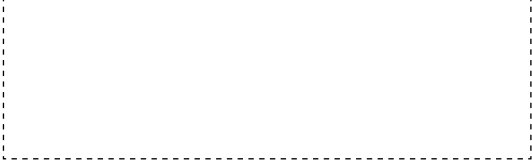
Phone Philip on 575 3493 to book your place.

Sunday, 17th February

Junior Skills Training, 1.30pm, Torpedo Bay, Devonport

This is for boys and girls, 6-13 years old, wanting to learn proper paddling strokes, capsize drill and rescues. Also some fun races and games. Some children's kayaks and sit-ons will be supplied. Two sessions are planned for children whose parents (or grandparents) belong to the club.

Phone Peter or Su Sommerhalder 631 5344.



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



To:

