



## February 2008

Club Information .....	2
Club Trip/Event Policies .....	2
Club Banking Details .....	2
Website Password .....	2
Editorial.....	3
Kayak Hire .....	3
Regular Events.....	3
President's Report	
<i>The Landing</i> .....	4
<i>Waitangi Day</i> .....	7
<i>Bylaws</i> .....	7
Great Barrier Island.....	8
Harbour Swim Dates.....	11

Club Trips.....	12
Events Calendar.....	12
Building a Traditional Canoe (Vaka) .....	13
Oxfam Trailwalker NZ Auckland Canoe Club team – January Update .....	15



*Know how – Can do!*

PHOTO IRIS WEGMUELLER

## 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>	Neil Scott	846 4004
<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)  
[president@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:president@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[vicepresident@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:vicepresident@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[secretary@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:secretary@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[treasurer@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[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.**

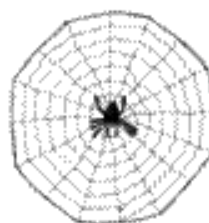
### Internet Banking

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 February

**Password** Ponui



### Deadline for March newsletter

**17 February 2008**

## Editorial

Exciting news reached us on Sunday, 13 of January, when James and Justin arrived in New Zealand after a heroic first Crossing of the Ditch in a kayak. Well done New Plymouth for a tremendous welcome for the two paddlers from Australia.

Now it is time for Auckland to Celebrate. Ngati Whatua ki Orakei is inviting us to celebrate Waitangi Day at Okahu Bay. Details are in this newsletter.

Hope to see you all down at The Landing on 6th 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.

## FOR SALE

**Sisson Nucleus 60 Multisport Kayak**  
with Bumfortable seat.

Make an offer to email: [ccurtis@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:ccurtis@waikato.ac.nz)  
or Text 027 297 6804

## Regular Events

### Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

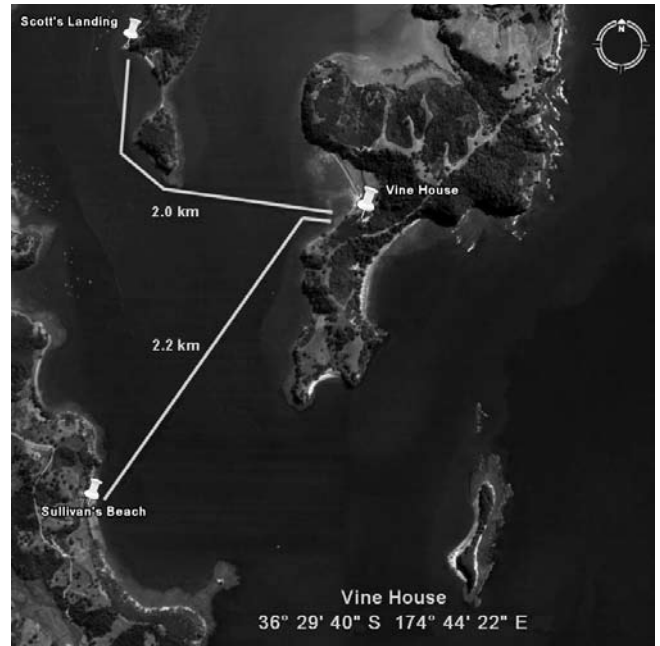
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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.

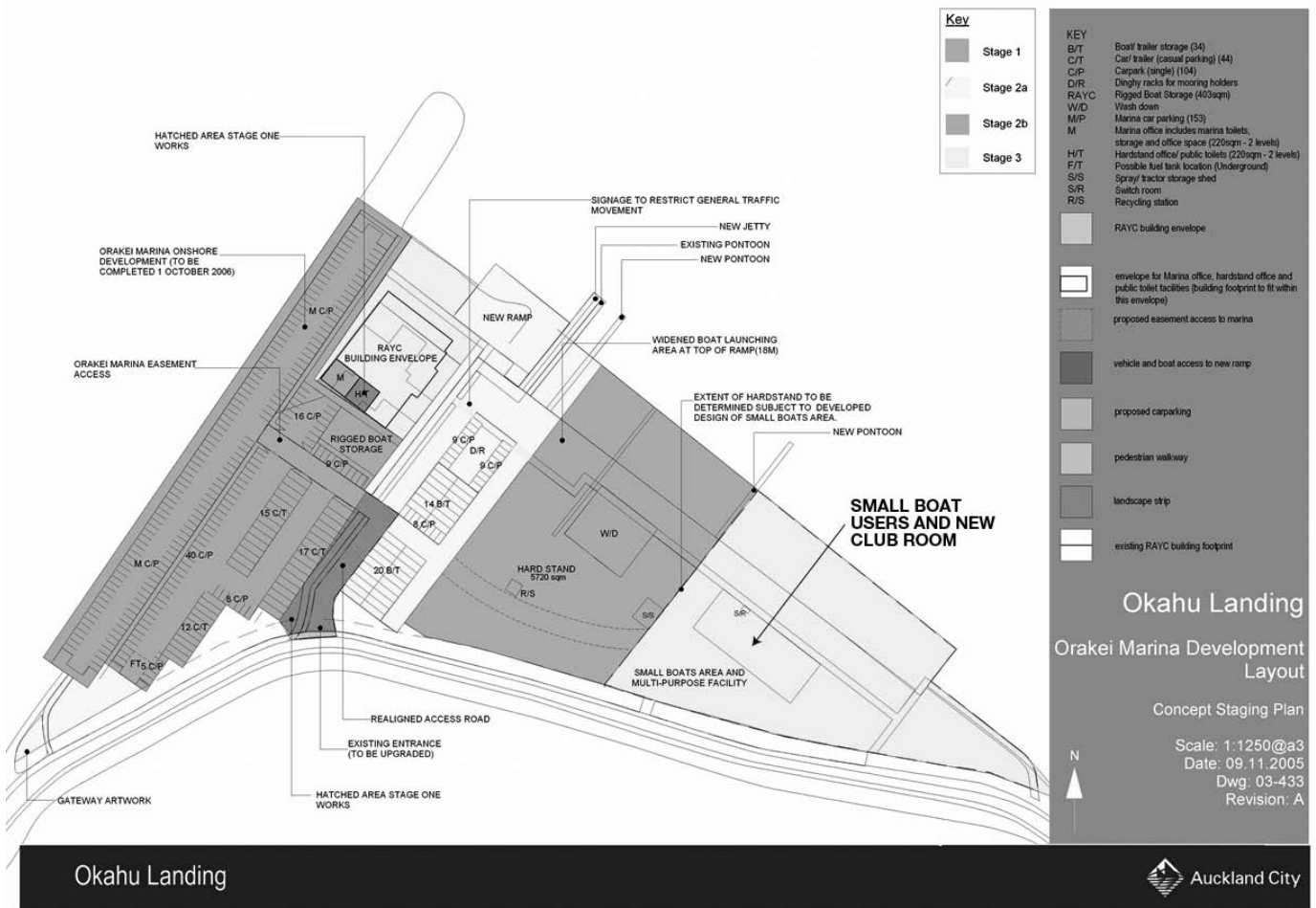
# President's Report

Dear All,

I thought Xmas was supposed to be a time of relaxation, when everyone enjoyed themselves and had not a care in the world! Either people have come back to work so refreshed that they are creating new ideas etc faster then ever or they are now sending out all the things that were not completed before Xmas. Either way it has been an extremely busy period. Let me explain...

## The Landing

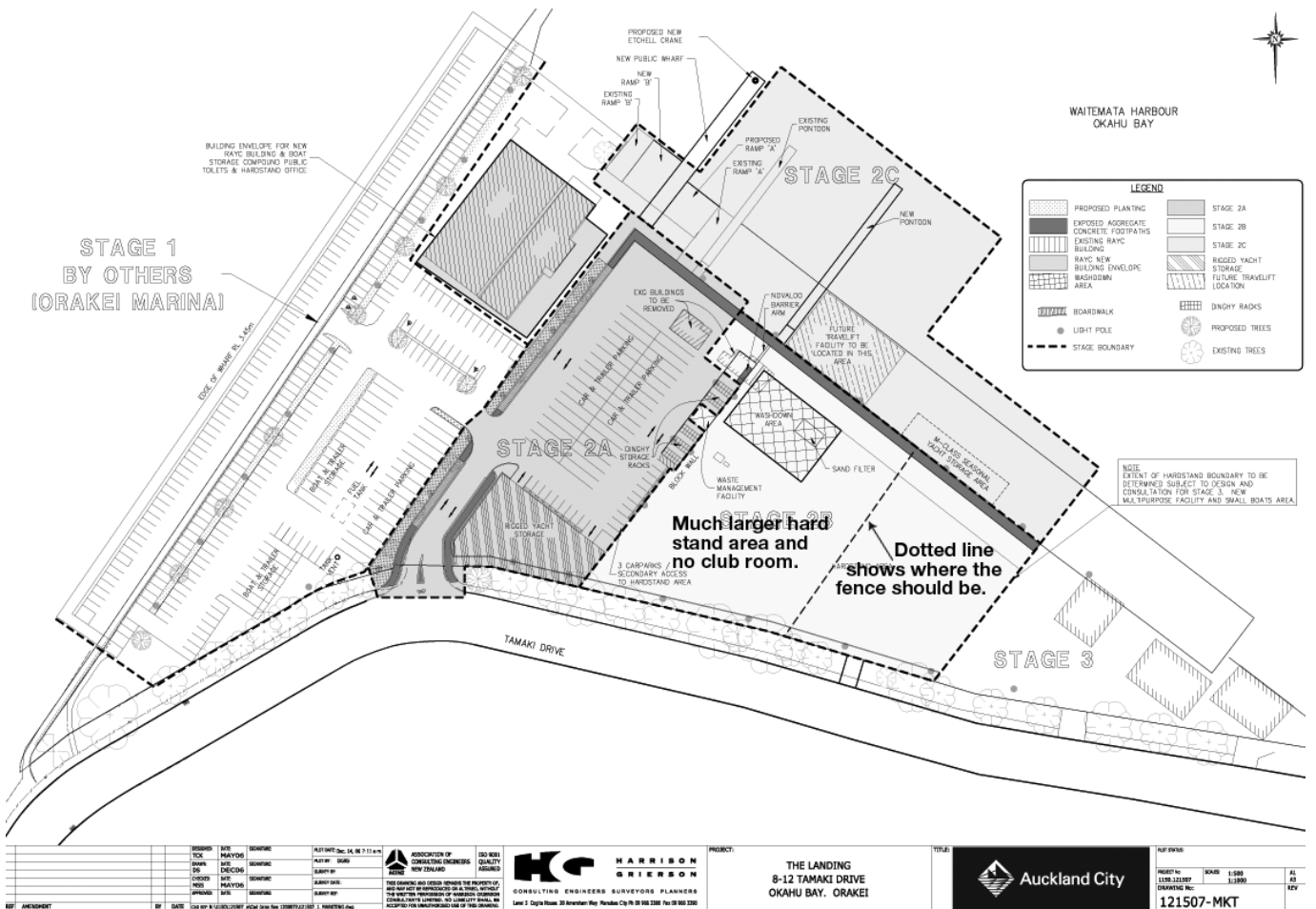
It was October last year when we first approached the Council to seek clarification over the position of the construction fence that appeared so close to the small boat user end of the Landing. Back in 2005 all users had agreed with the Council plans and we knew that stage 1 (The marina end) was to be complete first followed by detailed planning for stage 3 ("our" end) before stage 2 was to be started.



2005 plan Agreed by all users

The construction fence marked the start of work on Stage 2 yet we had not been involved in any stage 3 detailed planning – nor had any other users. However the most significant alteration to the plan was that the hard stand area had moved 48 metres into the area designated as Stage 3 for small boat users. Moreover, the room left between the proposed hard stand and the existing Sailing Club building did not allow for the construction of the new multi-purpose Club room.

Continued on page 5 ➤



**October 2007 Council plan**

The various user groups got together and I was elected Chairman and charged with the task of writing to the Mayor to seek clarification. This resulted in an on site meeting with the Project Manager, Tony Sainsbury. He assured me that the boundary fence just marked the extent of the sealing and nothing was being done inside the area that would impede the construction of the Multi-Purpose Club room. We confirmed that the construction fence was in the position shown on the current construction plans – 18 metres from the wall of the Sailing Club, and that the position of the stage 2/3 boundary was 48 metres to the West of this fence.

The User Group subsequently met with the Council officers and we discussed how things had deviated from the agreed plans. The Main reason given was that communications were being sent to an old out of date mailing list, although Roger Lomas was on that list and he had not received any information, neither had any other user groups. We corrected that list and we were assured in November that a newsletter would be sent out the following week. No one has received it yet.

We raised the great difficulties being experienced by all users during the construction as parking was now almost non-existent and made worse by the introduction of the new bus lane in Tamaki Drive. This was to be looked into and the cradle boats removed from the eastern end to free up some of the parking. Again this has not happened.

At the end of December the User Group met again and resolved to write again to the Mayor recording the minutes of the various meetings that had been held and proposing 5 specific action items.

1. That as soon as the sealing is complete, the fence is moved back to the correct boundary position. This is 48 metres west of the construction fence and is in line with the second row of light poles.

*Continued on page 6 ➤*



2. That Okahu Haulage Inc, who have been told after 30 years on the Landing that they have to leave to make way for a Council operation, should be re-established on the new concrete wash-down pad.
3. The funding already allocated for Sage 3 detail planning should be used now for that purpose during the busy period on the Landing.
4. That the Council should set a date to report back to the User Group with the final plans and now the new Club Room is to be funded - based on the initial promise of \$3.5M from the Marina easement (The Council appears to have “borrowed” these funds to develop the hard stand for their own purposes)
5. We requested a face to face meeting with the Mayor to discuss the details of this important and historic area of Auckland.

This week I received a reply from the Mayor’s Office. He has tasked Councillors Toni Millar and Doug Armstrong with coordinating the development at the Landing. I have yet to arrange a meeting with them, but we intend to do so as soon as possible.

Meanwhile a letter has been sent to the Landing Manager Scott Fickling asking for a firm date when the fence will be moved back 48 metres so we can all start to use the area again.

I also discovered that Scott holds parking tickets for users of the Landing so that they are exempt from paying the new proposed park and display fees. I asked if he wants every user to apply individually for the parking ticket or whether he would prefer to issue them in bulk to the Club.

Until the fence is moved and the seal has had a chance to harden, please respect this area, however tempting it is to use it. Currently we are trying to re-establish the previous good relationship we had with the Council.

[Scott Fickling has replied to say that there are no plans to shift the fence back to its proper position in the short term. This has been challenged but will require a meeting with Council to resolve. Meanwhile although impractical for small boat users Scott has indicated that parking is free on the landing for all cars.]

*Continued on page 7 ➤*

## Waitangi Day Feb 6th 2008

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will have read about the celebrations that will be taking place on February 6th as part of the Waitangi Day celebrations.

I would like to stress to everyone that this is a VERY IMPORTANT EVENT in terms of our argument for User facilities at the Landing. It is an opportunity to show the Mayor just how many groups make use of the Landing. So even if you are able to come for an hour or so you will be most welcome.

So what is happening on the 6th Feb?

- At 8am The Mayor and VIP guests will leave the Maritime Museum by sailing ship bound for Okahu Bay. The ship will anchor outside the wavebreak about 9am and guests will then be rowed ashore by long boat to a specially erected floating pontoon in Okahu Bay for a traditional Maori welcome on the Okahu Bay Domain.
- *Ngati Whatua ki Orakei* have asked for as many vessels as possible to meet the sailing ship at the wavescreen and accompany the guests ashore.
- I am told that planning is underway for two traditional waka to go out from Okahu Bay to challenge the arrival and accompany the long boats ashore. I have also been asked to make my vaka available in case the Maori waka are unavailable (due to other major commitments at Waitangi and at Ngaruawahia).
- On the Domain the Okahu Bay User Group will have an information Booth detailing the plans for the Landing and giving details of the various Groups who use the area.

This event is being heralded as second only the events at Okahu Bay on 1st Jan 2000. Those of us who were involved know how dramatic that was then.

Okahu Bay is the birth place of Auckland and the User Groups have long tried to get this message across to the City Council. They appear to have listened and we now have to opportunity to celebrate its historic and future importance to the people of Auckland.

It was on the shores of Okahu Bay that Governor Hobson was welcomed by the Ngati Whatua chiefs Te Kawau, Te Reweti and Te Tinana who signed the Treaty of Waitangi and offered Governor Hobson the pick of the lands we now call Auckland City.

Ngati Whatua wish to share with the people of Auckland the local significance of the Treaty of Waitangi, and to allow us all to move forward together to embrace the challenges of the future. Nowhere is this more relevant to us than in our negotiations over the future of the Landing.

Please come and support us all. If you have a kayak then please be on the water by about 8am, otherwise please join us on the beach. [Free parking is available at the western end of the Landing.]

## Bylaws

The Auckland Regional Council is reviewing the Navigational Safety Bylaw 2000 and is inviting written submissions on the new draft.

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday the 5th February at the Marine Rescue Centre at 6:00pm to allow the public to seek clarification and to obtain further background information. This is YOUR chance to be involved and have your say on how the Auckland Harbour is managed.

The Bylaw covers the management of navigation safety on all navigable waters within the Auckland region. An information pack containing background information, the draft Bylaw and a submission form is available at [www.arc.govt.nz/bylaws](http://www.arc.govt.nz/bylaws)

Written submissions must be received by the Council no later than 4.30pm on Friday, 29 February 2008. Submitters will have the opportunity to be heard in person at a public hearing in April 2008. If you do or do not wish to present your submission in person, please make this clear in your written submission.

I have read the draft carefully and already noted some apparent anomalies that could affect us.

My understanding is that under the draft bylaw

- A personal kayak, waka etc is classified as a "Pleasure Craft"
- Our club kayaks which are hired to members are not "Pleasure Craft" but are classified as "Recreational Craft"

In both cases these Craft are classified a "vessels"

*Under section 2.14 all "vessels" shall be marked with its name or similar identifying mark.*

**Question:** Is it intended for all kayaks and waka etc (jetskis are already covered) carry unique identification marks?

*Under section 2.1.5 all "vessels" of 4 metres or longer are required to carry navigational charts.*

**Question:** Is it intended for all kayaks to carry navigation charts? (most sea kayaks are 5.2 metres or longer)

It may well be that this type of anomaly is unintentional or that I have misinterpreted the bylaw, but either way it is important to clarify the situation at a time when we have the opportunity to do something about it.

Please come along to the public meeting on the 5th Feb at 6:00pm to learn more.

Happy Paddling

*Ian*

# Great Barrier Island

By Rona Patterson and Iris Wegmueller (comments in italics)

PHOTOS TAKEN BY IRIS WEGMUELLER AND DES MATHEWS

Boxing Day afternoon saw Iris, Gerard and I at Wynyard Wharf packing eight days gear into the hatches of our kayaks and then pushing them into locked storage in preparation for our ferry trip over to Great Barrier scheduled for 7 am the following day.

*Should anybody ever want to know how you can miraculously add two more brand new dry bags to a previously totally full hatch, I have got some advice for you... Gerard is a wizard when it comes to organizing hatches and finding places for stuff you never thought would go in. Also, I strongly recommend you refrain from reading scary reports before going on a journey like this, as every experience is different from any previous one done in the same environment, as conditions always vary enormously, as proven here.*



During the night we had very heavy rain, but this had cleared early the following morning when Gerard and his brother collected me at 5.45 am. We arrived at the wharf to find Des already there – stuffing his hatches in preparation for the journey. While we were at the head of the queue, we were the last to be loaded onto the ferry – squashed between the larger vehicles. Loading took much longer than we had expected and it was 8 am before we finally left the wharf in perfect weather. We had a dream crossing to Tryphena with the highlight being watching a pod of dolphins playing in the bow wave of the ferry.

*As Tryphena came closer and got bigger and wider before our eyes, the excitement increased, the thrill of being here and doing this combined with such a benign weather forecast for the next few days. We even got talking to some of the locals on the ferry who showed keen interest in what we had planned.*

At 12.30 pm we were pulling our kayaks off the ferry and along the road for 100 metres to a launching ramp where we set off at 1 pm to tackle the east coast of the island with the plan of landing at Medlands for

the first night. The harbour was calm with a gentle breeze, but as we turned into the Barrier Channel, the waves were rolling in – up to two metres breaking with waves washing right over us. At 2 pm Gerard made the decision for us to turn back. At this stage there was still at least an hour to paddle in these conditions with the waves breaking side on before rounding a cliff and possible shelter. While this was disappointing, we were not deterred. Once again, Gerard was to the rescue by arranging for a van with trailer to take us over the hill to Medlands where we camped for the night. We were now on the East Coast on a beautiful white sandy beach in perfect weather.

*As several waves broke right over me, it became clear that we either had to take a considerable risk, namely that of a capsizing and then assisting with a rescue, something that I personally did not want to have to face on our very first day. I believe I muttered something along those lines when Gerard approached me to find out how I felt about it. We all wanted to turn back, even though it felt a bit like an anticlimax on our very first day. Never mind, I thought, we could take a shuttle to the camp we wanted to be tonight. So I voiced that idea which was immediately accepted as an option by the others. I hated the prospect of spending a night in Tryphena, waking up the next morning – maybe only to find out that we could still not paddle around Cape Barrier and had lost one entire day! As it turned out, the private Medlands camp, north of the DOC camp, was in a beautiful spot, and the famous surf beach was flat as when we arrived that evening, much to the disappointment of one local surfer who was also staying in the camp. The calm wave less shoreline was a delightful sight to us and looked like a promise for the next day.*

Friday 28 December following a reasonable sleep I was up at 6 am on another perfect day. We were packed and ready to leave at 9 am. Originally we thought we could float the kayaks through a tidal stream out to the main beach, but this was not possible so struggled to pull the kayaks across the stream. Finally we were on the water in perfectly calm conditions. The girls took a more direct route across in front of Lion Rock while the boys remained nearer the shore. A break was had at 10.30 am where the decision was made for the four of us to remain together for the whole trip. Lunch was eaten at Redcliffs and we were now beyond the lovely white, sandy beaches and landing on stones.

*No pounding surf and big swell to be found anywhere, what a blessing to paddle along the much talked about East Coast in such ideal conditions!*

Continued on page 9 ➤



As the afternoon moved on we began looking for a suitable place for overnight camping and after a 30 km day we found the best camp of the entire trip at Rangihakaea. Iris and Gerard led us into the bay and I heard Des say “did you see that fin”? No, I didn’t, but I certainly saw the one which then came between our kayaks. It was accompanied by a body almost as long as our kayaks. Des then saw another fin. We were not to know whether there were three sharks or one, or worse, perhaps the whole family. Anyway, once landed, the very heavy boats were pulled across the stones, through some long grass into an opening under a huge pohutakawa tree. What a magic site. It had a barbecue table, a side table and a bench complete with a dish rack. Obviously built for someone else’s comfort – a shame not to use it. Following a very welcome dinner we took a little beach walk and climbed onto a large, rough rock and lay back watching the surf rolling in. The surf was not there when we arrived.



*This site was truly magic and I will never forget it. There was a stream nearby where we could wash the salt off our bodies, and the large Pohutukawa trees created a cove-like, sheltered environment. I was listening to the waves rolling in as I fell asleep after a perfect day on the water.*

Saturday 29 December we were on the beach again at 9 am. The water was very calm, and mirror flat as we paddled north and through the needle cave at 10.20 am. I had been having sleepless nights about the horror stories of others going through here, but for us, it was perfect. We had been told that mid-tide was the best time to get through and it was exactly mid-tide for us. The rest of our paddle this day was a dream looking at and entering all the caves which were all along the coast to Miners Cove, where we found another dream camp with a stream to the right of the beach. This was the perfect place to cool the wine and to clean the salt off our tired bodies, however, there was no shelter and it was very hot.

Not a problem for our men who made a shelter and seating for us.

*I felt quite excited as I raced towards the needle and quietly drifted through the gap at 10.20am! I believe we have several photos to prove our story... Another amusing bit of that day was me trying to find a place for a pee. I had read the warning about the 50 kilometres of coast line where you could not stop, we did not have 50 kilometres to cover, however, because I am such an incorrigible coffee addict and as we know, coffee acts as a diuretic, I saw myself forced to come up with some contraption south of the famous needle, that allowed me to have a pee without leaving my kayak. This after various unsuccessful attempts to perform a rock landing, which is not entirely impossible, especially in a squall! Any woman out there who wonders how I did it, do not hesitate to ask me, happy to share my trick with you.*

While still in the process of getting the kayaks up and over the stony beach, we were aware of a pod of dolphins playing in the bay. It took only a few seconds for Iris to strip her overtop off and swim out to play with the dolphins. Des had emptied his kayak and he jumped back in and paddled out to join in the fun. The dolphins remained for 10–15 minutes before disappearing.

*Many people pay a lot of money for this. By the way, I always wear my bikini underneath the paddle gear, which is really handy in cases like these and also when you just want to have a swim upon your landing. Within minutes of swimming out into the bay, I was surrounded by a pod of dolphins. They were swimming around me, jumping and making dolphin noises, seemingly happy to have contact with humans. I believe Des has a picture on his camera of this memorable experience.*

Sunday 30 December saw us getting into holiday mode and did not leave the beach until 10 am, once again, into perfect conditions. We spent the day leisurely watching ever-changing scenery as we passed Little Barrier and cut many corners by going through caves. This was a dream paddle with lots of rock gardening and caves to visit or go through. It was a relief to arrive at Port Fitzroy where we stopped at the shop for ice-creams before heading for the DOC camp and settling in for a good clean up. This was the first time we were able to make contact with family and friends to let them know that we were still alive. It was also the first camp where we had any neighbours and were fortunate to have neighbours who went out fishing and gave us fish for breakfast the following morning. We opted to take it with us for our dinner later that day.

Continued on page 10 ➤

*Ah, the cold shower in that camp ground, what a delight! I have to admit though, I got used very quickly to our nomad life with little contact to communities of people, so camping in Fitzroy already felt somewhat unusual after our free camping where we were alone.*

*The problem with campsites that are relatively full is often the snoring at night coming from other tents. Fortunately in this case, there were more moreporks than snorers and the sound of a stream right beside my tent, which provided the perfect background for a good night's sleep!*

Monday, New Year's Eve and we are getting quite proficient at packing our kayaks and the weather was still very hot, sunny, with little wind. We left beautiful Fitzroy at 10 am heading towards Whangaparapara. While there had been a lot of white specks in the water all the way from the top of the island, it was now accompanied with huge areas of very dark pink, thick, soup-like substance. This we assumed was toxic-algal-bloom. The pink bloom was in a lot of cases, washed towards shore giving an appearance of a red sea near the coast.

*I think apocalyptic was the word that came to me when I saw the red sea, remembering the words from the Bible where it says: "... and the sea turned red" (or something similar). It was certainly a very unusual sight, especially in an otherwise unspoiled and remote area.*



In my eyes, this part of the journey was the most beautiful with so much to see with all the islands and changing coastline. However, by now, I was getting really tired. In fact, for four tired paddlers it was a relief to find the very basic DOC camp where Neil Scott was waiting our arrival. Neil had paddled from Orewa, via Waiheke and Coromandel – an amazing feat. This was New Year's Eve and a joy to have another friend with us, but only two survived until midnight.

*I believe I crawled into my tent by about 10 pm and slept through the bagpipe music coming from the other side of the bay and the New Year's toast enjoyed by Gerard and Rona. Happy 2008, this has got to be a superb beginning to a New Year!*

New Year's Day and the promise for SE 20 knot winds gusting 30, a lay day was ordered for tired paddlers. The morning commenced with Des discarding his mouldy pita bread. They flew like frisbies, but broke up on landing, so Iris decided her plastic plate would be better. The plastic plate was far inferior to Gerard's stainless steel plate and a game of frisbies was played until the dinner plate landed directly edge on, into the ground. This camp had a barbecue table set under a gazebo style cover and was taken over by us, however we were not to know this was a popular stopping place for the many trampers in the area, who also wanted the use of the table, so a hurried clean up was in order. Many of the trampers were interested in us and what we were doing.

*Boy, did we have a good laugh playing! I suggested playing hide and seek first, but got no offers, and then the pita bread came flying across my tent. Gerard's plate got a bit damaged when it landed on the rocks, but that did not deter him from continuing the game until we were tired. Then Des and I set off on a 2 hour hike to the top of Mt. Whangaparapara, which was great, as it gave us a different workout and provided us with a stunning view over the entire bay and right out to Shag Point. I highly recommend it, especially for weary paddlers who want to exercise different muscle groups on a day off.*

Wednesday 2 January saw us up early ready to get four heavy boats and one super-heavy boat onto the water, with four of us heading for Tryphena and Neil (who was stocked with food for four weeks) heading in the opposite direction. Today's paddle was a short, easy and enjoyable one, but while we sought out any possible stops, were unable to find a nice place to camp for the night. By now we were nomads and did not want neighbours. While on an ice-cream stop at Tryphena store we looked at options for where we would lay our heads for the night. Finally we found that The Stray Possum could fit four in a dorm, but were faced with a long hike to get there,

Continued on page 11 ➤

## Great Barrier Island – continued from page 10

so set off in the water again to paddle past a couple more bays in order to land at the bottom of the .5 km hill where the kayaks had to be hauled up. This was the hardest part of the whole trip. Once up the hill, we had to pull the kayaks down into a valley where we found we could camp but the tents were very close together. I was very tired and in bed and asleep before 9 pm. I was undisturbed by the noise which carried well into the next morning.

*This backpacker lodge comes with a warning: it is noisy and there are dogs. You know what I mean. Dogs do not belong on camp site. I got up in that place at 1.30am as the Hip Hop music got louder and I had tried to go asleep in vain for about three hours. I went to the source of the noise and politely enquired about their intended time to allow people to go to sleep. 10 minutes later, it was quiet. What surprised me is that nobody else took any action that night, despite the fact that many people made comments about the lack of sleep and the noise the next morning. This is clearly not a place for active people, unless you want to party all night!*

Thursday 3 January dawned for me at 5.30 am to another perfect day. I was up, fed, toileted and packed before 8 am and the remainder of the camp was still in their beds. Once the others were packed we trundled our kayaks back down the long .5 km road and around the main road to Tryphena Wharf to await our ferry back to the mainland. Once again, the sun shone and we were treated to a pleasant journey home on the ferry.

*I would have been very happy to do it all over again! It had ended all too soon, but I would have amazing memories to take with me. I also got to know my fellow paddlers better and must say that we worked well as a group and had so much fun together. That is never to be taken for granted.*

We were extremely fortunate with the weather – light winds – no rain and none of my worst nightmares were to eventuate. Our kayaks were very heavy and our two men were wonderful helping to pull them up over the stony beaches. What awesome memories I am to carry with me.

---

## CONFIRMED DATES FOR 2008 HARBOUR SWIMS

### Eagle Technology Harbour Swims

#### 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

#### 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 – January / 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.**

### 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 3 February

#### Paddle for novices

Join Erica for an easy paddle from Kohi to either Browns or Motuihe depending on the weather and the group.

**Phone Erica on 360 2872 for details and departure time.**

### Sunday 10 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, at the boat shed, join the South African contingent for a Braai of Boerewors, Snarlers with Sue's famous bean sauce and all the trimmings.

Club boats reserved for the Escort.

**Phone any of the Committee for details.**

### Saturday 16 or Sunday 17 February

#### Paddle to and Round Tiri Tiri

Join me on a leisurely paddle to this iconic island. Bring your lunch to enjoy on a private beach on the northern side. Fishers, bring your "soft baits" for a snapper or two. Good walks to see and hear the birdlife.

**Phone Philip on 575 3493 to register interest and for departure time and place.**

### Sunday 17 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.**

### Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 February

#### Home Bay – Motutapu

Join Philip and Sue for an overnight camp at this great destination. Early start on Saturday and return with the tide on Sunday morning.

**Phone Philip 575 3493 for details.**

---

## Events Calendar

### February 5th – 6:00pm

**Public meeting at the Marine Rescue Centre** to review the draft navigational bylaws.

### February 6th – Waitangi Day

**Waitangi Day Celebration** to accompany the Mayor into Okahu Bay from the sailing ship. Be on the water by 8 am to meet the arrival of the ship at 9am at the wavebreak.

## Building a Traditional Canoe (Vaka)

*Ian Calhaem*

Many of you know that I spend time each year working in the Cook Islands. Over the years I have got to know many interesting people and I have been gently suggesting to them that they should encourage the younger folk to learn the art of canoe building so that it does not get lost. This was prompted by seeing traditional dugout canoes rotting on the beaches of Atiu.

Last year I was told that in conjunction with the annual canoe racing festival (modern fibreglass waka that we see Orakei Water Sports using at Okahu Bay) they were going to organise a canoe (Vaka) building festival and would I like to be involved. Of course the answer was yes.



**Day One – a row of tree trunks**

I am told that a traditional vaka can take up to 2 years to build so asking for the task to be completed in only 10 days needed some technical assistance – modern tools. Yes chain saws were used on day one to rough out the shape of the hulls and later electric planners assisted in the final shaping. However most of the work was still carried out using traditional adzes, but the final smoothing was done with sand paper and not the traditional turtle shell scraper and shark skin.



**Shaping the Hull**



**Adzes take over**

I was involved with the Pukapukan Vaka as this was the only ocean going vaka being built, the other vaka were all inner reef craft. This was possibly the most interesting craft as it was a multi piece hull, comprising the main hull, a stern and bow section and two gunwales all stitched together with coconut sinnet.



**Fitting the stern section**



**Stitching and lashing the components together**



*Continued on page 14 ➤*

## Building a Vaka

– continued from page 13

At the end of two weeks with a few late nights the vaka were all ready for the ceremonial launching.

It was a grand affair, a parade through town where each vaka was proudly shown to the locals and tourists alike and then we moved down to the harbour for the ceremonial blessings.



**Parading through town**

The ceremony was a very formal affair. I was told that it was traditional to break the spiritual connection between the tree trunk and the land and transfer the spirit to the sea. Each vaka was ceremonially anchored to the land via a vine and a log of wood formed the “anchor”. The vine was broken during the ceremony and a coconut broken over the hull (much as we launch a new vessel with a bottle of champagne).

The Vaka was then splashed with water and carried down to the sea.



**The finished Pukapukan Vaka**



**It floats!**

### ***Why is this so significant to Auckland and in particular Okahu Bay?***

I was fortunate to travel up to Rarotonga with Maati Tamariki, from Ngati Whatua. I knew that Ngati Whatua had connections with the Cook Islands but I did not realise the connection was with Pukapuka. Maati is a carver of traditional Maori waka and was extremely interested in the carving ceremony in Rarotonga. It has prompted him to rekindle a dream he has had for years to organise a similar event at Okahu Bay.

Whilst it is too late to organise for this year, perhaps Waitangi Day 2009 will be marked by a carving festival in the weeks before based at the Landing. His idea is to involve the public and let everyone see and participate.

Further ideas are to build a larger traditional waka at the Landing and he is already talking about procuring a 32 metre log.

*Continued on page 15 ➤*

## Auckland Canoe Club team – January Update

### “New Team Member”



Anne Nichols has decided to throw herself into the support role for the Oxfam Trailwalker team, so Jackie Hillman has taken her place as a walker in the Auckland Canoe Club team entered for the 100km Charity walk on 5–6th April.

The first training walk in the Waitakeres for the new team went off well with Hala leading at a brisk pace. (We might need to find a way to slow her down!)

I was pleased to see a training president set with a café stop. Having always trained with café stop rewards I felt right at home !

Over the Christmas and New Year holidays the team have been doing their own training walks during their different vacations. We will now have the opportunity to do more team walks, now everyone is back at work. Auckland provides a great training base with so many walks to choose from. So the real preparation begins with only 12 weeks to go. I suspect those weeks will go very quickly. I think the real pain starts now as the hips and knees start to crumble as the walks get longer and steeper!

If you are not sure how this event works, the whole team has to walk the full distance together with a support crew meeting them at Checkpoints.

We will endeavour to keep you updated on our progress but we need your support to make this a success for Oxfam and the Auckland Canoe Club.

The whole purpose is to raise as much money as we can for Oxfam's projects in the Pacific.

Please Click on our fundraiser web site link via the Oxfam web site to donate on their secure site. [www.oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz/oxfam\\_trailwalker/default.asp](http://www.oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz/oxfam_trailwalker/default.asp)

Team name; Auckland Canoe Club

We will put in the “grunt” so help us by putting in your cash !

We would love your ideas for good varied training walks and feel free to join us to help motivate the team. We would love to see some of you down there if you can find the time.

Let's make it a real Auckland canoe club success and have fun.

*Jackie*

---

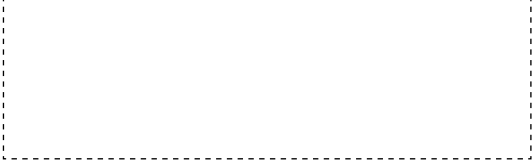
## Building a Vaka – continued from page 14

The Landing at Okahu Bay is traditionally the place where the voyaging canoes brought the original Maori to Auckland and as such it has a very special place in Maori tradition. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the details for this year's Waitangi Day celebrations which Ngati Whatua want to share with the people of Auckland.

The other idea being proposed by Ngati Whatua is the creation, again on the Landing, of Pou Moana, traditional carved poles signifying the historical importance of Okahu Bay. In this case the public will be encouraged to come and help carve the poles. It is proposed to erect these at each end of the wavescreen.

These are exciting times. It appears that the cultural significance of Okahu Bay is at last receiving some public recognition. As paddlers we fit in with this history and indeed are part of it.

**PS.** The Pukapukan Vaka was presented to me after the launching ceremony and brought back to Okahu Bay with their fibreglass waka by Orakei Water Sports. It is planned to launch this vaka at Okahu Bay on Waitangi Day. So if you are interested in paddling in traditional style come and join us.



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



To:

