

April 2008

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View looking north from Kawau Island to Tawharanui.

PHOTO: ERICA LAW

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	846 6799
<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
president@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
vicepresident@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
secretary@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
treasurer@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
trips@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
publicity@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
safety@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
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.

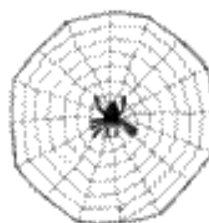
Internet Banking

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 April**
Password Motukorea



**Deadline
for May
newsletter**
13 April 2008

President's Report

Dear All,

Thank you to those who turned up for the Canoe Day at Pahurehure Inlet. It was a great success with about 300 children on the water.

Our next event is the Swim Escort and I can highly recommend this. It is a time to get together with those you do not see too often, and as always Roger and cohorts will have a delicious BBQ waiting for us on the beach at St Heliers.

The tides this year make for a civilised starting time – 0945hrs at St Heliers to paddle across to Rangitoto.

I have nothing to report yet about the Developments on the Landing – the City Council had not replied to requests for meetings but this is being actively pursued and I hope to have more information next month. In the meantime remember that the parking spaces on the Landing are free for cars – just ignore the parking meters as they only apply to boat trailers.

Last year the club was involved with various authorities to test safety equipment under the guidance of Jim Dilley, the Deputy Harbourmaster. The report is now available and has been published on our website.

You can find it by going to the Library and clicking on Safety Equipment Trials.

(This is where you can also find all the back issues of the newsletters since 2003.)

Whilst talking about the Website, you may have noticed that other areas are starting to get used now. The Forum has a growing number of user articles, and so has the Blog.

Have you checked the photo gallery lately – there are some great photos here. Happy Paddling, *Ian*



Children's Kayaks and other housekeeping

After discussions last year the club purchased two Imp children's kayaks. They are to be used under supervision by parents or active club members. This summer we had two training sessions for Juniors so far.

One kayak is stored and looked after by Rona Patterson. It is available for club members by ringing Rona on 09 834 3399.

The second kayak seems to have gone astray. We are asking anyone knowing where it is, to please get in touch with our storage/kayak officer, Gavin Baker.

Safety Report

Following the safety exercise last year, Ian Calhaem put together an extensive report with photos. This report has now been released by the Harbour Master and can be downloaded from the Library off the club website. It makes interesting reading for all seakayakers. Thank you to all volunteers partaking in this exercise.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21st May, at the Marine Rescue Centre. Meet at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Payment of Annual Membership fee can be made before the start of the meeting.

Nominations for election of officers and committee members, and motions, have to be received by the club's secretary at the latest two weeks before the AGM. This is an early reminder to do so. It is permitted to nominate yourself for the elections, but you will need to have a seconder. If you want to nominate someone else, please check first that this person is willing to stand.

The positions for Trips Officer, Safety/Training and Editor are vacant.

Please email the club's secretary: secretary@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz or post to: Auckland Canoe Club, PO Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland. Financial members only are allowed to vote at the Annual General Meeting. See inside front cover of the newsletter for Club Banking Details.

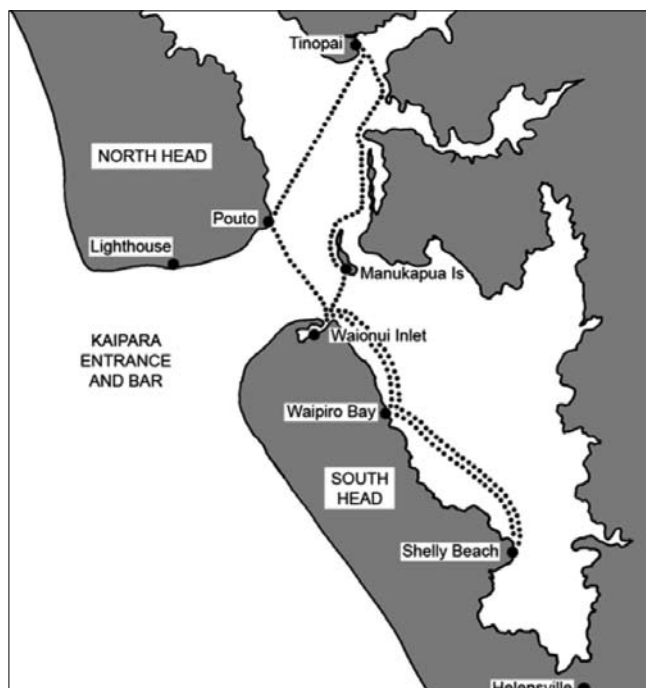
KAYAKING THE KAIPARA

Colin Quilter

Recently I spent four days exploring the Kaipara Harbour. In more than 20 years of sea kayaking this was my first visit; how can I have missed such a huge body of water for so long? These notes might help others who would like to go.

I left my car at Shelly Beach, parked alongside the beachfront cafe; (the owner lives upstairs and keeps a large dog, so this is probably as safe a place to leave a car as any). I launched at high water to catch the ebb tide heading north, because the current runs swiftly and working the tides is essential.

The Auckland Regional Council has recently purchased a coastal farm at Waipiro Bay, 12km north of Shelly Beach, which I wanted to visit. The farm will eventually become a Regional Park, but at present although public access is allowed there are no facilities. To reach the farm I paddled across the Omokoiti Flats on the western side of the harbour. These flats are covered with water at high tide, and dry out at low tide. This one sandbank covers an area of about 25 square kilometres, (the same size as Rangitoto)! On the opposite side of the harbour, across the narrow deep-water channel, there are even larger flats which also dry at low water. This is a dominant feature of the Kaipara Harbour; most of it becomes dry land at low tide. Don't go there without a chart which shows the flats, and a set of tide tables.



By the time I reached Waipiro Bay the tide was half-way out, and the water's edge was 300 metres out from the beach. But I found that the surface was firm sandy mud so I could easily wheel my kayak

across it, (having extra-wide wheels on the trolley was useful). At low tide the water's edge is 500 metres or more from the beach, which would be a long haul. In the shade of manuka trees behind the beach I found a sheltered campsite, and made a mental note of it for future use.



Waipiro Bay with the tide only partly out.

In the afternoon I carried on to the Waionui Inlet, a fascinating tidal lagoon at the tip of South Head. This is a great place to visit; it is isolated, beautiful and ideal for exploring by kayak. It would be worth visiting the Kaipara just to go to the lagoon. I spent the night near the lagoon entrance where a flat grassy shelf on the south bank provides an excellent campsite.



Above Waionui Inlet, looking west.

My plan in the morning was to make a direct crossing of the Kaipara entrance to Pouto, but I was nervous. This place is not called "the widow-maker"

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Kayaking the Kaipara – continued from page 5

for nothing. At mid-tide the current runs at 6km/hr, about as fast as I can paddle, so I timed my crossing for slack water. I also climbed the hill behind the lagoon to check for rough water. There were flashes of white in the distance, which I thought were probably waves breaking on the far shore. However I was wrong, and about two-thirds of the way across I found myself among breaking swells. I had an interesting quarter-hour dodging between them. I can't explain the presence of these breakers, because the chart shows depths of at least 10 metres there, but I later found out that they are well known to Pouto fishermen. I was relieved to reach the beach at Pouto. Next time instead of crossing in a straight line I would cross by making a big curve to the east, staying deeper inside the harbour.

There's an official campground at Pouto, by the hall 200 metres up the road from the beach. But the area's best known feature is the Kaipara Head lighthouse, a classic timber lighthouse in the old tradition, now disused. It sits on a bold sandy headland 8km west of Pouto. I had planned to paddle out there, following the main channel, but since I was now feeling a bit spooked by the water I left my kayak at Pouto and walked out along the beach instead; and much enjoyed it. The lighthouse is lonely and majestic, looking out across the endless surf of the Kaipara Bar and the dune wastelands to the west.



The old lighthouse at North Head.

In the afternoon I paddled northeast to the coastal settlement of Tinopai. The campground beside the beach is plain but clean; the manager was astonished that I had arrived by kayak and I surmise that paddlers are not common on the Kaipara. Next day I returned southwards, around the sand dune island of Manukapua. I guess this was once a sand bar, but it is now high enough above the waves to have vegetation and animals (rabbits). From the southern tip of Manukapua I wanted to cross the main channel to South Head. It was mid-ebb tide and I was too impatient to wait 3 hours until slack water, so I muscled across, paddling hard and pointing 45 degrees upstream to counteract the current. Even then I couldn't hold a straight line across and was drifted downstream by the fierce current, but not enough to cause problems. That was enough to convince me of the futility of paddling any further against the current, so I entered the Waionui Inlet again for a walk ashore while waiting for the tide to turn. Later that afternoon I caught the flood tide back up to Waipiro Bay where the little grassy clearing beneath the manuka trees was just as nice for camping as I anticipated; and the following morning I returned with the next flood tide to Shelly Beach.

So that was my first trip on the Kaipara. All in all, navigation there is a challenge. The vast areas of mud and sand flats exposed at low water mean that landings are only easy at high tide. The times of high and low water, and the direction of the tidal current, govern everything you do, (as they do for every other living thing on the harbour). The surrounding land is low-lying, so the wind sweeps unobstructed across the water. In much wind or rain the Kaipara could be a desolate place, with little shelter. The harbour entrance has its own problems, which I've mentioned before. But on the other hand it is isolated, beautiful, seldom-visited and close to home; what more could you hope for?



Welcome

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

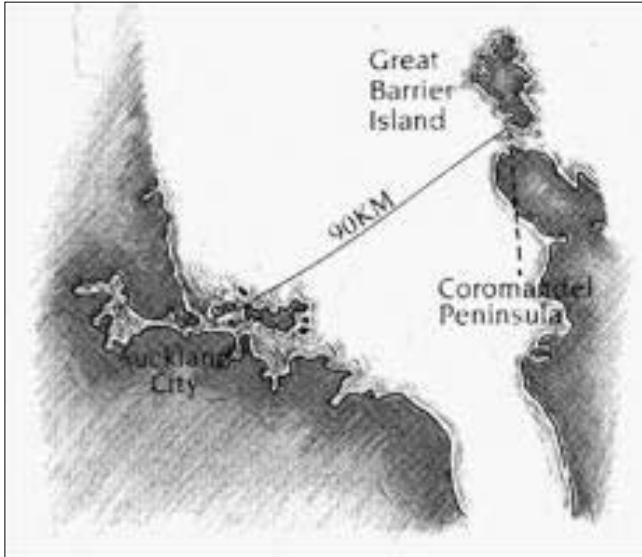
**Richard and Jackie Caddy;
Kirstyn Albercut;
David Kirkham;**

Ian, Joan, Gayle and Dylan Mather.

Great Barrier Island

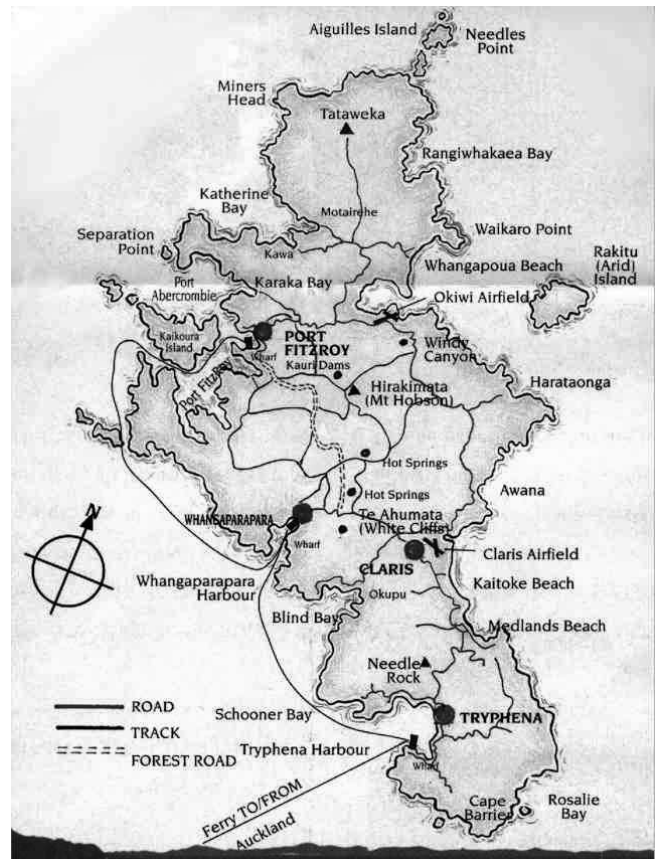
Ryan Whittle

Less than ideal conditions on the East Coast of Great Barrier Island on a previous trip provided the impetus for Ryan, in a Barracuda, and Wally, in a Storm, to re-visit the island for an alternate view.



We started from Omaru Bay near the township of Coromandel on the first day of February, a month that has traditionally delivered more settled weather. The conditions were calm and clear even with the late morning start, and kawahai were working baitfish just offshore. Numerous islands off the coast and Waiheke seemed very close today, making for a great view. We stopped for lunch on Waitete Beach before the gentle breeze started turning into a headwind, and it didn't take much for us to decide to stop at about halfway to Port Jackson at our regular campsite behind a lagoon. At eight the next morning, the breeze had turned 180 degrees and pushed us up the boulder covered beaches to the top of the peninsula, and into Port Jackson, as we were watched by goats and sheep on the hills. The conditions up here were as benign as I have seen, it can chop up without too much provocation. The DOC campground was emptying out at the end of the school holidays, giving us a choice of beachside sites. Little Barrier and Great Barrier framed the seaward view. This had been the second short day, and we decided that this sort of schedule was a great way to spend your holiday. The afternoon was spent swimming, relaxing, and reducing the weight of our boats by eating the contents. Advantages of the DOC campgrounds were the access to fresh water and cold showers. The summer season had the main ones manned with friendly helpful staff. They are a wealth of useful local information. If they happen to be successful fishermen, then there is always the chance of getting some of the surplus fish for dinner.

A walk up to the headland after dinner to spy on the



channel before the crossing showed us the reef and choppy water we would need to avoid in the morning. Richard and Belinda had just arrived from Gisborne, and were also planning to cross to the Barrier the next day. After swapping notes, we decided to meet up in the morning and cross together. Putting the head out of the tent at five the next morning to see the rain and the wind whipping up the surf, changed the plans for the day. By late morning it appeared to be easing, so we headed off for a look. Great Barrier came and went with the clouds. Approaching blue skies encouraged us to set off, but an hours effort showed very little progress, and the rising swell was enough to turn us into Fletchers Bay, the other DOC campground at the end of the peninsula. We attempted to look at the Pinnacles before heading in, normally a great place for rock-gardening and admiring the rock monoliths, but they could only be viewed from a distance in these conditions. Richard and Belinda attempted some fishing in the afternoon, but they were infected with our success rate, and it was dehy for tea. The following morning was the one we were after, a gentle side-on breeze, and Great Barrier in clear view. Plenty of seabirds kept us company, shearwaters, gannets, petrels and a tiny bird that skips along the water. A couple of container ships passed by on route from Tauranga, and made us feel small and slow. The entrance to Tryphena

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Great Barrier Island – continued from page 7

was reached in under three hours. Then we dawdled into shore, seeing fishermen on sit-on tops, and a few paddlers in local hired boats. Tryphena hasn't changed much over the last few years. Homes in this relatively populated part of the island are still spread out. By the time we reached shore, the heat was building up, so a leisurely few hours were spent under pohutakawas on the grass, eating ice cream and cooling off in the sea.

We decided to head for the DOC campground at Whangaparapara for the night. Wally and I set off first to stick close to the coast. Richard and Belinda opted to enjoy the beach a little longer and would meet us there. On arrival, they had already set-up their tent and located a fresh water creek to rinse off in. We shared the site with one of several Year 13 groups from Mahurangi College, tramping on the island. The college has a trip each year to get the students together before the start of the academic year. The morning threatened with rain, but allowed us to pack up first. We said goodbye to Richard and Belinda, who planned on some tramping today. Further out from the campsite VHF reception was back, and told us that Channel Island had 40 knots, gusting 50 knots. It was calm where we were, but on reaching outside, there it was. But it was going in the same direction we wanted to go. We didn't need to do much paddling aside from bracing, and still we zipped along in the building seas. A breakwater on one of the Broken Islands provided some protection and we landed to chat to a local fisherman on a cray boat, the Bay Fisher. He was not going out today. Our ride continued to Man of War Passage, the entry to Port Fitzroy, where the change in direction had us battling upwind even in the sheltered harbour. The 2 to 3 km to Smokehouse Bay was a workout, but the sea did not get a chance to build much in the harbour. Smokehouse Bay is on private land gifted to a trust for use by boaties, to smoke their catch and grab a hot bath. The original building was destroyed in 2005 by a landslide, and has since been rebuilt. There are a number of washing lines in the open alongside washing tubs, and it didn't take long for the wind to dry off our gear. Unfortunately, six pegs were not enough to hold an item on the line, and they needed to be tied on. The skies were blue while the wind howled, and for lunch we were given two kawahai straight from the smoker by the only other visitor today. Seagulls and gannets were enjoying themselves riding the airwaves, and oyster catchers gathered by the dozen under the clothes lines.

The next morning we headed out of the harbour and alongside Kaikoura Island (aka Selwyn Island) and along the lee shore that was cliffs most of the time. Bradshaw Cove was about halfway along. It was the starting point for a track across the island and home to a couple of buildings that have seen better days. They were dry inside, although a bit dusty. The Bay

Fisher we met yesterday was back at work collecting his pots and waved hello. Motohaku Island, just past Nelson Island, we were told, has a possible campsite at its summit. We liked the sound of its location being the most westerly point on the Barrier, but it looked a lot higher than the 110 feet on the map, and we didn't see anywhere friendly to land to even go for a look. After crossing Port Abercrombie we pulled in for lunch on a sheltered beach facing Green Island. Just after landing another kayaker appeared, heading for his fishing spot. He was one of a group of twenty from the Yakkity Yak Club that had come over with vehicles to increase their range of activities.

Katherine Bay was the site of a Maori community that is reputed to not encourage visitors. So after cruising along some of the attractive beaches, mingled with rock gardens and more tunnels, we cut across. Miners Head provides the last landing for a while and we set up camp there. There was a good fresh water stream just behind the beach, and plenty of space for tents. But there was no shelter from the sun or the wind. We were held-up there for three nights on the last visit, and two of the four tents were flattened. Every available peg was put to use as insurance this time. But it was a huge overkill, as it stayed calm and still under a moonless sky, the stars putting on a great display. ___The catamaran, that spent the night, set sail early in the direction of Auckland. But its lack of progress told us, that the winds out there were not too strong. There were what looked like white caps on the horizon, but it was flat calm here. Multiple tunnels, passages, and the green stains on the cliffs from the copper provided plenty to look at. The S.S. Wairarapa ran into these cliffs under full steam in 1894. More than 125 died, and there are graveyards on both sides of Great Barrier, at Port Fitzroy, and Whangapoua beach, where the bodies were washed up. There were plenty of boats fishing, but there didn't seem to be many birds around. A few shags, gannets, seagulls and numerous swifts were present.

The narrow gap between Great Barrier and Aiguilles Island is the route often taken by kayakers here, but we wanted to explore the outlying islands and the gap was full of white water. We were promised that we would catch fish here, and Wally delivered, but I wanted a refund. Around the Needles at the end of the chain, it was another world. Open to the wind, we could see why there were whitecaps on the horizon this morning. There was no sightseeing in these conditions, and it was a couple of hours slogging into a messy sea before reaching Rangiwahakaea Bay and some welcome shelter. The pohutakawas mentioned in another trip report are here, right behind the DOC "No Camping" sign.

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Great Barrier Island – continued from page 8

Tables, benches and level tent sites indicated the sign must be referring to the beach. We called an end to paddling for the day, washed in the stream, and cooked up Wally's kahawai for lunch. A walk up the hill gave us great views back up the coast to the Needles. Clear blue skies and calm seas welcomed the new day, and another fishing boat collecting cray pots was working as we departed. There were good rock gardens on the coast up to Waikaro Pt, before we crossed to Arid Island on a flat blue sea. The island has steep white sandstone cliffs dropping straight into the sea, and the caves and tunnels turn the south-west part of the island into Swiss cheese. The Cove was the only decent landing spot we saw. A golden sandy beach in a protected inlet has three or four homes here. A woman with a baby run out the back door of the first house as we paddled in. The invaders had been spotted! It is a private farm and scenic reserve, and visitors are welcome to wander the island after seeing the manager. There are no facilities and no water available. No camping is permitted. As we sat on the grass bank for lunch, the welcoming party of a chicken approached... and approached. It climbed over and perched on us, and was then joined by four other equally forward chickens and a goose. When the food was gone, they were as well. We felt so used! After lunch, the wind had picked up, and the sea was messy the rest of the way around the island.

A large rock off Arid Island facing back to Great Barrier had been concreted over to form a landing pad for a helicopter, and a fishing platform for the people it brings. They were wasting their time though. We dragged lures all day with no result.

Whangawhia Bay looked promising as we head back. On arrival, a neighboring beach opened up and was even more sheltered. We landed on the white sandy beach and campe on the sand under the pohutakawas after waiting for the tide to peak, to ensure we didn't get wet. Arid Island with its attached helicopter pad provided the views for the evening. Another helicopter made an early arrival they next day. And a much higher tide than last night covered our camp site as we leave. This is a rough section of coast, and big swells rolling over the rocks were a spectacular azure blue straight out of a tourist brochure.

Great Barrier has wrecked 24 ships since 1854, and a dive boat was here looking at the wreck of the S.S. Wiltshire in about 20 meters of water. The 7800 ton steamer broke into two and sunk in 1922 without loss of life, and now provides great diving. They offered us hamburgers as we passed. Wally showed great balance with a burger in one hand, and another burger balanced on the blade of his paddle.

He couldn't paddle, but he could eat. Best burgers either of us ever had while kayaking. We reached Cape Barrier at low water. There were a few boomers that kept us well offshore, but slack water was the right time to be here. It was intended to stop for the night at Sandy Bay, but the signs made it clear not to, and there was no one in the nearby house to ask. The neighbouring beach actually turned out to be better, with flat grassy spots for the tents, a fresh water stream to wash in, and a fence to dry the washing on. We were facing west again, and as we did at Miners Head, got to watch the sunset while relaxing after dinner. It is nice to get the early morning sun to dry the tents when facing east, but sitting at the end of the day watching the sunset, we decided was the better option. Up at first light on a rising tide, we headed towards Channel Island in a light northerly under an overcast sky. Lots of petrels seemed very interested in us for the first ninety minutes, until the clouds and rain descended. The mainland and Great Barrier disappeared, leaving Channel Island as the only land visible. The rising wind prompted us to change course for a more direct route to the mainland, but we meandered a little until the coast came into view. It's times like these a compass bearing would be very useful.

My landing at Port Jackson provided some light entertainment for the campers, and the ranger provided a cup of tea as a reward. There were a few bored campers around wondering what to do with themselves, as wind and rain continued. We set off after lunch with the wind at our backs. It was great paddling with the wind and the sea pushing us along. There were more unhappy campers at Fantail Bay as we passed by. The tide was low when we reached the estuary, and there was no easy way in, and we needed to portage up the stream to get sheltered again at this great campsite. Sleeping in to let the tide rise, we had a tail wind again down the coast. We expected this last part of the trip to be an easy day, but 10 days paddling must have added up, and we were both feeling weary passing the lovely secluded coast before pulling up at Long Beach. Wally's wife Sue had left his bike there, and he cycled the 15 minutes home to pick up the car, while I had the tough job of guarding the boats, flattening the grass and getting rid of the last of the food.

We had been lucky with the weather. It hadn't rained while camping, and the wind followed us around, giving us tail winds every day. Fish and hamburgers had been generously supplied by strangers. And the next day it heaved down.

Club Trips – April 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.

Hey, those who missed the Tiri Tiri trip missed a great day.

Those willing to co-ordinate a trip, please contact Philip.

Sunday 5th April

Paddle Whangaparaoa

Join Will for this one-way 19km paddle around the peninsula. Starting from Matakatia, the ebb tide will assist you down to the eastern end and a lunch stop on a secluded beach, after which some superb rock gardens and good fishing will await your trip to Tindalls Beach. A short walk (500m) to fetch the cars will conclude a great day.

Phone Will Hendon on 486 6215 and discuss with him the meeting time and what to bring.

Saturday 12th April

Practice Session

Paddle strokes, rescues, rolling – Okahu Bay

Come and learn new skills, and brush up on old skills. This is also a great opportunity to practise self and assisted rescues, with others alongside to help. Whether you are a new member, or have been around a long while, this is your chance to spend an hour or two practising and learning from others.

There will be a number of experienced club members on hand to assist. If you want to start learning to roll, and have a light wetsuit, and mask, that would be helpful. Towel and change of dry clothes essential.

Please phone Erica on 360 2872 with your name and phone number, so we have an idea of numbers. Meet 10.30am at Okahu Bay.

Sunday 13 April

Herald Island to Riverhead Pub return

This is a leisurely trip. From Herald Island, a small and peaceful settlement right up the head of the inner Waitemata, we paddle about an hour and a quarter up the river with the tide, as far as the lovely old pub, the Forrester Arms. Lunch in or near the pub. If you plan to eat at the pub, you might be advised to book in advance, or risk not getting your lunch in time. We will arrive approximately 12.30pm, and take about an hour lunch break. Then another hour or so back down river with the outgoing tide.

This is also a great opportunity to practise your new-found or freshly-oiled skills from the Practice Session at Okahu Bay. We will meet at 10.45am so as to be ready to paddle by 11.15am.

Please phone Erica on 360 2872 with your name and phone number and for confirmation of trip details.

Saturday 19th or Sunday 20th April

Kawau Island – Motuora Is

Meet at Martins Bay, from there we have several options depending on the wind direction. A northerly or easterly wind will suit a circumnavigation of Kawau island. But if it's a south-westerly we will head to Motuora Is and have a tailwind back. Either way we will get a paddle.

Phone Gerard Fagan 832 9720

Saturday 26th April at 10.30 am

Paddling Skills

Join Philip and others at Okahu Bay to discuss, practise and perfect various paddling skills. Bring your boats etc. and all your questions for a practical few hours on the water.

We will also be discussing Trip Planning and Safety aspects for yourself and those with you. as well as any other topics you may want included on the day e.g. camping, catering for multi-day trips, gear, packing your boat etc. I will then try and invite someone who is experienced in your interest topic.

Phone Philip on 575 3493 to express interest. I would also like to hear from anyone who is able to talk about or demonstrate their interest area as part of the day.

Fall back date if weather is unkind, Sunday 27th.

FUTURE EVENTS

Lake Taupo Trip

Queens Birthday Weekend, May 31, June 1 & 2

How about 3 days on Lake Taupo leaving from Kinloch and camping at Waihaha? From here we can explore other great parts of this beautiful side of the lake or the Waihaha river and fantastic waterfall. The paddle over is worth it just to see the cliffs and waterfalls.

The Waihaha camp ground is on the water's edge with toilets and shelter belts. Cost is around \$5 per person so you will need cash, and this will be winter time so plenty of warm gear required. Camping only, so you need to be self-sufficient, and a reasonable level of fitness is required as it is 20 kms to camp with one stop at the 10km mark.

Keen to turn up – get in touch with:
Evan Pugh sheepskinsnstuff@xtra.co.nz
Or phone 07 883 6898.

Jan Was goes sailing...

These photos were taken by Jackie Hillman.

She came across this chap with an interesting sail set-up on his Tasman Explorer. Little did Jackie know that the owner/designer of this impressive sailing kayak is a past member of our club, Jan Was.

He used to experiment with a sail on his old Dura white water kayak, disappearing into the distance. Meanwhile his wife sat down in a cafe at Mission Bay, hoping Jan would make it back to shore again.

If anyone is interested to follow-up on Jan's rig, please get in touch with the editor of the newsletter.



REMAINING HARBOUR SWIM 2008

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS

Members need to understand that the Swim Escorts are the only fund raising events we have to keep subscriptions low. I am tired of the excuse that "the pace is so slow I get bored" or "I would rather be doing something else" etc etc.

The fun of the day is meeting your fellow paddlers before or after at the BBQ which is generously provided by the club.

A big thank you to those who DO give up their time and come year after year, even for one or two events. These are the members that should be rewarded.

Perhaps those who are able bodied & choose not to come may consider a donation, say \$30, to the club in lieu of a NO SHOW!!! for all of the 4 events.

The last of the escorts usually has a big field so we need 60+ boats please

4th Swim **EAGLE TECHNOLOGY RANGITOTO SWIM**

Rangitoto to St.Heliers Bay, 4.45km – Sunday 30th March 2008

The swim starts at 11.45am at the Rangitoto Wharf, so we need to meet at St Heliers beach at 9.45am to paddle across to Rangitoto, or meet at the Rangitoto Wharf at 10.45am.

With the start so late on Sunday, some of us are going over to Home Bay for Saturday night, so feel free to join us. Remember, your attendance raises funds to help subsidise our subscriptions.

**Followed by Roger and Wolfgang's famous barbecue at St Heliers Beach
for escort paddlers!**

Team update

– Jackie Hillman

We have been training hard with some fabulous walks. We will share our experience/photos of the event with you in the next issue.

We all work on our own walking fitness during the week but commit to walking as a group every weekend leading up to the event. This usually involves a longer walk. These have varied from tramps in the Waitakeres to coastal paths, Auckland urban routes and after Trevor and Ken tested some of the actual route during a February training weekend we have minimized the steep climbs but added extra distance. We used the Rotorua walking festival weekend in March as a training event with two long walks over the weekend 40 km and 30km.

Our support team of John Maynard, Anne Nichols and Denise Duane came too, to join in some of the walking and test out their support roles.

There is much to consider when planning such a venture. Food suitable for energy, comfort and raising spirits in the early hours. Fresh socks and shoes and blister repair kits. Most of all, the support crew work to keep spirits high by adding a few surprises (more on those next issue). Then not least how to work the team dynamics as everyone gets tired and a little scratchy !!



However while we prepared our fitness the aim was and still is to raise money for Oxfam so we have worked hard to keep those donations coming.

It's not too late, so please head to the web site www.oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz/oxfam_trailwalker/default.asp

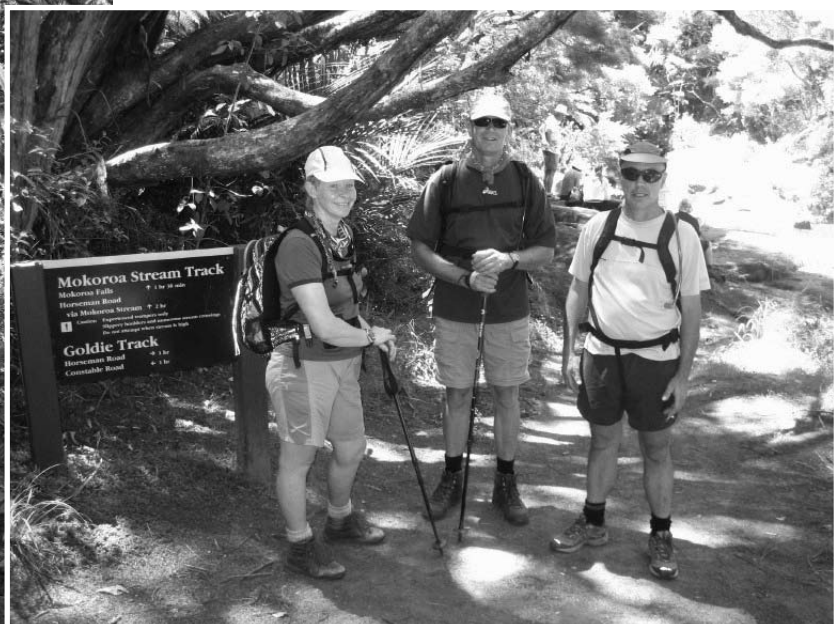
Team name: Auckland Canoe Club

or if you prefer contact one of the team and you can give cash or write a cheque

We really have appreciated the support we have received so far in donations, interest and cheery messages. A special thanks to Auckland Canoe Club members Matt Crozier, Trish Lewis and Ted Hughes.

Many thanks

Ken Marsh – 828 0701 / 021 166 4506
Trevor Arthur – 817 7357 / 027 278 8018
Jackie Hillman – 634 5042 / 021 027 83781
Hala Akkad – 535 0072 / 021 258 3459



Coastbusters 2008 *by Peter Sommerhalder*

The Red Team promised us a better event than ever before, and they lived up to it!

Over 200 seakayakers attended the workshops and seminars on the shores of Lake Pupuke over the first weekend in March. The workshops included boat maintenance, kayak sailing, yoga and injury prevention, Bugger File, kayak cooking, and several trip reports. A practical fun/skill session on Lake Pupuke finished off Saturday afternoon, followed by scenarios at Sullivans Bay on Sunday morning.

This was followed by International Kayaking Week at the camping ground at Martins Bay, north of the Mahurangi Harbour. Those booked-in enjoyed surfing/rescue practice in rough conditions, cruising

to Kawau Island (or all around the island for the tough ones!), and visits to Moturekareka and Tiri islands. We were accompanied by paddlers from Serbia, Holland, Bulgaria, Australia and America. They provided us with video and slide presentations from their countries, and we had the benefit of coaching from two instructors from the Tsunami Rangers, as well as several New Zealand kayaking guides.

These two events provided us with opportunities to lift our kayaking skill levels and form ties with overseas paddlers. Coastbusters is organised every two years by volunteers (the Red Team) as a non-profit event. Your next opportunity to participate will be in 2010.

Inaugural International Kayak Festival

by Erica Law

Martins Bay – Sunday 2 April to Thursday 6 April 2008

What a way to round off another successful Coastbusters at Lake Pupuke. The theme of the forum this year was something like 'stretch out of your comfort zones'. Mark Jones (a member of the Adventure Philosophy team, of Antarctic Peninsula, and South Georgia expedition fame) very ably set the theme talking about various zones of our experience, challenging us to move from our play and cruise experiences, into challenge or stretch experiences; and to develop the skills so that we don't go beyond into misadventure. The forum included a range of presentations about different trips to give people ideas about what they might plan and attempt, as well as opportunities to learn about and practise new skills.

About fifty coastbusters variously from around NZ and the globe stayed on for the following week, which proved to give plenty of opportunities for people to practise, and challenge ourselves further, somewhat aided by the breezy conditions, not to mention the numbers of advanced paddlers on hand to assist others.

Some highlights of the week:

- Surfing at Tawharanui's Anchor Bay, thankfully in kindly surf, with Jim Kakuk and Deb Volturno, the awesome Tsunami Rangers. For those who don't know (and I didn't), these two, along with the other members of their group go searching for the biggest, meanest waves along the Californian coast that they can find; they thrive in conditions that match our image of tsunamis.

- Paddling with a pod of about 20 dolphins off Takatu Point. The young ones (dolphins) leapt and played with delight, and some of us older ones (kayakers) yelled with delight. We'd been told that they like lots of noise and enthusiasm. Well, that wasn't hard.



With Dolphins at Takatu Point.

- Waking up to an inclement day: whitecaps onshore, frequent passing showers, and 15 knot winds, and being told that the activity for the morning was practising self rescues, and assisted rescues in Martins Bay. Twenty of us braved the conditions with our pod leaders, and learnt some useful lessons. Like the wind blows kayaks away if you don't hold on to them. Like, there are advantages and disadvantages (entanglement) of paddle and paddle float leashes. Like, you need to practise, practise, practise in order to become efficient in setting up your rescue, and getting out of the water quickly. Some even managed to do a roll, much to their delight.

Continued on page 14 ➤

Inaugural International Kayak Festival – continued from page 13

- Hot pools at Waiwera, and wine tasting near Omaha, following our rather wet morning.
- Circumnavigating Kawau Island (anticlockwise) – seas were a bit gentler than the previous day, but 15 knot SW winds made the return trip from the northern tip quite a work-out. We were thankful to be able to take a breather behind a couple of headlands (by Vivian Bay and North Cove), before having a good rest at Mansion House. The trip across the channel back to Martins Bay was hard work, but I found it quite exhilarating.
- The developing sense of camaraderie and ‘community’ amongst the group as the week progressed, with sharing such great experiences, not to mention the good food and cheer. Some great kayaking friendships and connections developed between people from around the country, and overseas.

A big thanks to Sue and Steve Levett for their hard work in setting up this inaugural and highly successful international kayak festival event.



Cliff at the back of Kawau Island.

PHOTOS: ERICA LAW

ROLLING WITH MIKE RANDALL

Strokes, Rescues, Rolling Practice sessions.

Mike Randall is happy to host some self rescue and support stroke sessions at Kohimarama Beach during April/ May. The water is beautifully warm at the moment. This is a great opportunity to try out or improve those rescues, support strokes and rolls that you’ve been meaning to practise all year.

Mike practises almost daily, a great role model.

Watch out for his emails on a Wednesday or Thursday, so you know whether he will be at the beach the following Saturday morning 10.30am.

If you’re especially keen, or have any questions, **phone Erica, 360 2872.**

CAMBRIDGE–HAMILTON RACE AND CRUISE

Is now expected to take place on Sunday, 14 September.

Further details will be available soon.

<http://www.kayakrace.co.nz>

SEA KAYAK FORUM

Ohope Beach (near Whakatane), Anzac weekend, April 25 to 27.

Further info at www.kask.co.nz

Or contact Evan, sheepskinsstuff@xtra.co.nz

LOOKING FOR DRIVER POST KASK FORUM

Is there anyone who might be able to drive my car back from KASK (27 or 28 April) in Bay of Plenty to Auckland?

Phone Erica on 360 2872

KAYAK FOR SALE

Seabear Packhorse Express

Double, in excellent condition. \$3100.

Phone Ian on 0274 391 921



24 hr Paddle-a-thon 28th March 2008

Okahu Bay

7:00pm Friday 28th to 7:00pm Saturday 29th

Letter to Auckland Canoe Club

Kia ora people,

I am arranging a 24 hour paddle-a-thon to raise funds to help one of our oldest waka ama paddlers to get to Canada for heart surgery. It's a procedure that is not currently done in NZ.

He has medical insurance but we all know that never covers everything. The Waka Ama community are getting together to help with the "things that aren't covered"

I'd like to extend an invitation to you all to come and be a part of this history making event. It costs \$25/ paddler and includes being fed. You can do as little or as much as you want to.

We would love you to paddle with us in our waka but you are more than welcome to join the cause in your kayaks.

Noho ora mai,

Donna Tamaariki

Ph 622 2610

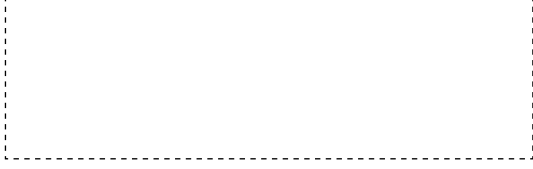
Comment from President

This event is for a good cause but also will be great fun! Ten waka-ama will be on the water and the waka will never stop apart from the crew changes which will be two at a time.

Donna would love to see kayakers trying out a waka and invite all to come and be part of the "Crew". However, if you are more comfortable in your own kayak then bring your own kayak.

The course will be the 2 Km circuit within Okahu Bay inside the wavebreak with crew changes taking place on the pontoon. You can do as much or as little of the 24 hrs as you are comfortable with.

Ian Calhaem



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



To:

