

## September 2008

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*A rare glimmer of winter sunshine warms early morning kayakers Ryan Whittle, Grant Stone and Ian Smeeton as they prepare to depart from a cuppa stop up the coast near Takapuna.*

PHOTO R. LOMAS

## Auckland Canoe Club Information

### Postal Address

P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

### Clubrooms

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

### Website

<http://www.aucklandcanoecub.org.nz>

### Email event reminders

send blank email to

[subscribe@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:subscribe@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)

### Officers

<i>Patron</i>	Peter Godfrey	520 5444
<i>President</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
<i>Secretary</i>	Alissa Good	269 5888
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gerard Fagan	832 9720
<i>Trips</i>	Will Henden	486 6215
<i>Publicity</i>	Roger Lomas	846 6799
<i>Training</i>	John Maynard	626 4096
<i>Storage/kayaks</i>	Gavin Baker	528 5188
<i>Assistant</i>	Roger Lomas	846 6799
<i>Merchandising</i>	Neil Scott	550 0466
<i>Vine House</i>	Trevor Arthur	817 7357
<i>Newsletter</i>	Claire O'Connor	521 1769
<i>Webmaster</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512

### Email addresses

[patron@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:patron@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[president@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:president@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)  
[training@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:training@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)

## Club Trip/Event Policies

Visit the Club website for details of safety and other important policies.

### Contacting trip/event organiser

You must notify the trip organiser in advance of your intention to go on a trip. Organisers need to know numbers and to be able to contact you if the plan changes.

You must also discuss with the organiser in advance any medical or other conditions (such as your experience and ability) that might affect the progress of the group.

### Cancellation

If the weather looks uncertain call the trip leader. The Newstalk ZB Cancellation Service is no longer being used.

## Club Banking Details

*Bank* BNZ  
*Branch* Newmarket  
*Account* 02-0100-0023453-000  
*Name* Auckland Canoe Club

### IMPORTANT

**If you are depositing money to the Club Account please ensure that you include YOUR name so that the Treasurer knows who deposited the money.**

### Internet Banking

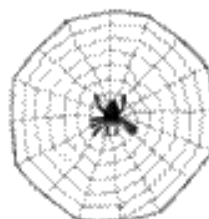
All major banks have set up Auckland Canoe Club as a registered payee for internet banking.

This means that you can pay to

#### **Auckland Canoe Club**

without having to enter the account number.

Check with your bank.



## Club Website Access for September

**Password** Otata



## Deadline for October newsletter

**9 September 2008**

## 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.

## NEW MEMBERS



### Welcome

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

**Fran Mitchell  
and Geoff Love**

## Regular Events

### Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

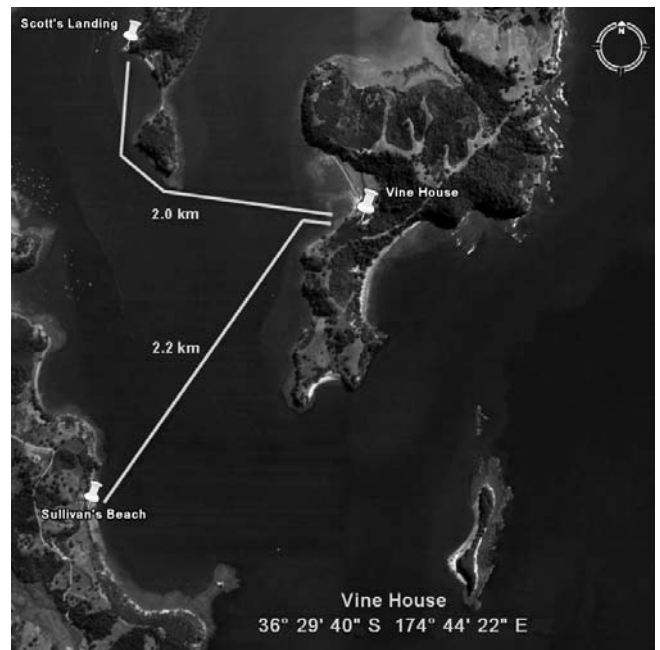
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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,

Despite it being the middle of winter – at least it felt like it – lots of things have been happening, just not on the water.

I represented the Club at the Harbour User's Meeting at the beginning of August where various happenings in our Harbour were discussed amongst a wide group of interested parties. We were given an update on the Aquaculture proposals being currently debated by the Government and it was good to learn that it is proposed to limit the size of existing aquaculture locations around the coastline, whilst encouraging new ventures to be developed in deep water. This keeps the coastline free for recreational users like us.

The new bylaws have been discussed at previous meetings but the Harbourmaster reminded everyone that they were now in force – as of 1st July 2008. Of importance to everyone was the new concept of a moving exclusion zone around larger vessels. This means that everyone has to keep clear of 500m ahead and 100m astern and along both sides. The 12knot limit that was introduced in the harbour to limit the speed of vessels coming and going as a Harbourmaster's Directive is now converted, unchanged, into a bylaw. This is great news for kayakers as it gives us more chance to get out of the way of an approaching vessel, and gives them more time to see us.

As most of you already know through discussions in past issues of this Newsletter, a more controversial new bylaw – 2.17 "*Visibility of kayaks and paddle craft*" also came into force.

This club made a number of submissions during the bylaw review process along with numerous other submissions from boating and commercial groups. All our submissions were accepted. However, the draft bylaws did not include Clause 2.17 – that was introduced at the last minute by the Regional Council Bylaw Committee. In the draft bylaws the visibility of craft was considered very important but it was felt best left as an educational goal rather than achieved by legislation. During the final Committee hearing various boating groups persuaded the Council that small craft should have to be as visible as possible when travelling beyond 200m from the shore.

Based on the testing of equipment that was carried out last year by the Harbourmaster, Maritime NZ, Environment Waikato and Coastguard, with assistance from our Club, the new bylaw specifies requirements in a very general way. This is intentional as it leaves open the choice of equipment used by the kayaker. The bylaw specifies that beyond 200m the paddler should wear a high visibility vest or PFD; have reflecting tape on the paddle and at night show an all round white light visible for 2 nm. All of these requirements are familiar to the Auckland Canoe Club users as we have all strived over the years to remain safe and visible in the increasingly congested harbour.

Several kayak groups from outside the Auckland region asked for a meeting with the Harbourmaster and that was also held this month and attended by the Regional Council, Maritime NZ, Environment Waikato, Watersafe Auckland; by commercial organisations Hutchwilco, Hella Marine, and Canoe and Kayak, and by kayak organisations, Auckland Canoe Club, KASK, North Shore Canoe Club, and Yakity Yak.

The Harbourmaster and deputy explained the purpose of the Clause in detail and the extensive submission process that had been followed. Maritime NZ made it clear that the new Bylaw in no way changed Rule 71 of the Maritime Act charging all recreational boat owners with the responsibility to give way to paddle craft. Similarly Rule 22 specifies that all vessels are required to have a light visible for 2 nm. Under 7 metres a vessel may have a light capable of being displayed in sufficient time to prevent a collision.

The new Bylaw really serves to clarify for kayakers the impracticality of stopping in rough conditions to turn on and point a 2 nm torch in the direction of an oncoming vessel.

Environment Waikato made it clear that their bylaws were also under review and it was intended to have an extensive consultation process before any changes were made.

Happy Paddling,

*Ian*

## Raid on Rhamnus

Colin Quilter

Some time ago I wrote a newsletter article about an exotic weed which is invading the Hauraki Gulf islands. The plant is the Evergreen Buckthorn *Rhamnus alaternus*. It is a medium-sized tree reaching about 10 metres in height, with glossy green leaves and red berries on female plants in early summer. Birds feed on the berries and seedlings germinate from their droppings, so once the buckthorn is established it is spread rapidly by birds. The worst feature of this alien is that it grows faster than most native plants, and it likes exposed coastal cliffs where if unchecked it will out-compete *tukawa* and eventually completely replace it.



*Rhamnus* is well established on the Motutapu cliffs overlooking Islington Bay. DOC have been attacking it there but the trees are big and hard to kill. It has spread around the entire coastal margin of Rangitoto, and across the summit cone. Infestations also occur on Waiheke, Rakino, Motuihe and Crusoe Island. The ARC's Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy notes that *Rhamnus* is "well established in the inner Hauraki Gulf... and is likely to become an extremely widespread and serious pest of native ecosystems."

Recently I've been watching a new generation of *Rhamnus* springing up on Browns Island. There are, I guess, a few hundred small plants mostly between knee-high and waist-high. They are scattered all around the coastal fringe of the island, with heavy infestations beneath trees where birds roost, particularly on the northern side of the island.

Scattered plants are also established across the open slopes of the volcanic cone, where they are visible from a long distance as dark green spots among the grass. Most of these plants have stems about as thick as a finger. At this size they could easily be cut off close to the ground and the stumps painted with herbicide, which would be an effective control before the plants have a chance to produce a crop of berries. If this generation of plants is allowed to get any bigger then not only will they be much harder to kill, but birds will have dispersed the seeds and another generation will spring into life.

It seems to me that an Auckland Canoe Club **Raid on Rhamnus** at Browns Island would be a chance for us to make a really beneficial impact on an island we all know and love. I think that if we could place 20 kayakers on the island for one day, armed with loppers, secateurs, pruning saws and herbicide, we could probably destroy most of the *Rhamnus* there. This would free up DOC to concentrate their efforts on other islands where the trees are much bigger and harder to kill.

I've been in contact with Steve Benham of DOC, who says that they would certainly appreciate our help on Browns Island. Steve is willing to come with us if we organise a weekend trip.

**So: here are the details of the Raid on Rhamnus.**

**Date:** Sunday 14 September

Meet at the boat ramp, St Heliers Beach, at 9.00am for a 9.30am departure.

**Bring:** shoes, lunch, snacks, thermos.

**Tools:** please bring long-handled loppers if you have them. Secateurs will be OK for small plants and pruning saws might be needed for a few larger ones. The club will supply herbicide (a gel formulation called "Vigilant") to apply to the cut stumps, and chemical-resistant gloves.

**If the weather forecast is doubtful:** phone Colin Quilter 630 2219 on Saturday evening or Sunday morning between 7.00 and 8.00am; (the herbicide gel can't be applied in rain so we need reasonably fine weather).

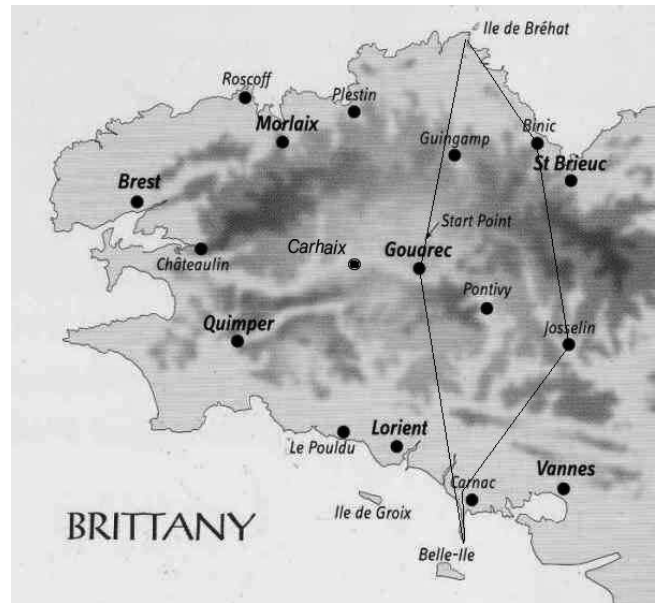


## Camping Without a Kayak

Ryan Whittle



Map of France. Brittany is marked on the top left corner.



An indication of where we went.

At the end of June 2008, I travelled to England to visit relatives and spent two weeks of that cycling through Brittany in France with my little sister, dodging the Tour de France on the way. We hired bikes and camping gear from Breton Bikes, a company owned by an expat English couple and operated for the past 15 years.

They have a range of tours for which they provide routes and accommodation for each night. Depending on tastes and budget, the accommodation can be in hotels, B&B (known as gite in France), or the option we chose, camping. Hotels and Gite were prebooked, or a campground suggested.

The different tours vary in average daily distance from 20km to 60km. A detailed road map of Brittany and "1st left, 2nd right" type instructions are provided. Our tour was called "A Chateau A Megalith and the Rose Granite Coast"

We caught the Eurostar from London to Paris and spent a day in the French capital, staying in a Montmartre hostel and spent the first evening wandering the area with its many restaurants and craft shops. Fresh paintings hung from balconies to dry. The name comes from "Mont des Martyrs". Around 250AD, a Bishop, a priest and an archdeacon where decapitated here. The Sacre-Coeur at the top of the 130m hill provides panoramic views over Paris. It is visited by hundreds of tourists and is a gathering place for impromptu parties on the steps.

A couple of guitarists led the crowd singing an extended version of the Beatles "Hey Jude" that evening. We called in for a late dinner at one of the local eateries, tried some phrase book French and were rewarded with a great meal in return. Everywhere we went, we found that making an effort to use French was a great ice breaker and greatly appreciated. The most useful phrase was "Je voudrais ... s'il vous plait" – I would like ... please. The light remains until around 11pm at this time of year, so it's easy to have late nights.

Breakfast was provided at the hostel before we took the Metro into town – it's as easy to use as the London Underground – where we joined up with "Fat Tyre Bike Tours". A great introduction to the cycle friendly city. Paris has a cycle hire scheme, where 15000 distinctive bikes are scattered throughout the city. You can subscribe to the service on a daily through to an annual basis for access. The first 30min each day are free, then a hire rate applies. They are in common use but recent reports tell of 3000 bikes having walked. One being found in Australia.

After getting an overview of the city we set off on foot, foregoing a trip up the Eiffel Tower due to the long queues at the entrances. Walked to the Arc de Triomphe and took the stairs to the top to view each of the tree lined avenues radiating out. There are no marked lanes on the roundabout. Unlike in NZ, where we are used to giving way to traffic on the

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## Camping Without a Kayak – continued from page 6

roundabout, the French must give way to traffic joining the roundabout. With 12 busy roads feeding on, it's no surprise that there is an incident every 8 minutes – we didn't see any. Police on several streets direct traffic and up to 7 cars abreast wait for gaps. The ceremonial flame was rekindled at 6:30pm, as it has been every day since 1923. Walking back along the Champs Elysees, work is out and the number of people on the street has increased. Lots of Renaults and Peugeotts on the road illustrate the French patriotism.

We took a boat tour on the River Seine, which was commented on in five languages by the guide. She concluded with an effort in Russian, the sixth, to cheers from one of the groups. Next morning we catch a train and a taxi to reach the bike hire site in Gouarec. The B&B and hotel tours have a short pedal to their first stops while we camp the night. Breakfast is organised at a local cafe and leads us to wonder at French etiquette, not knowing if we are using the correct, or any manners. Because it's a Sunday, most shops are closed in the afternoon so a shopping trip to the local superette to get lunch and dinner is suggested to us.

The route starts along the Nantes-Brest canal, which stretches 360km across Brittany, and was built between 1811 and 1842 to enable access to cities that were blocked from sea access by the English forces. Then pass through forest, and past houses with large pigs in the front yard. Vapour trails in the sky from military aircraft are common both here and in the UK. A little different from what we see from our Air Force.

The first stop is in St Nicholas. It's a pretty town next to the canal. One of the 237 weirs on the canal used for electricity generation and its accompanying lock provides the view as we grab a drink at an outdoor table from the local pub. Signs on the road advertise that the Tour de France will be passing through here the next week. The campground is back the way we came, uphill of course.

In the morning the tents take a while to dry from the condensation, then it's back down the hill through town again. The afternoon provides a wander through the Manoir de Keravon. It's an old run down building with lovely forested grounds and a couple of ponds. They are reputed to be teeming with frogs. We see only one as the bright afternoon not the best time for them. One of the ponds has its own island – ile d'Amour – the island of love. Then it's just a short distance from here to Erdeven past the site of one of the many Alignments, like a mini Stonehenge. The campsite is tracked down and tents pitched in very tidy manicured grounds.

Time to explore. The coast is close now, and we find Ria d'Étel, a harbour/estuary, and watch the strong

tidal stream of clear water passing under the road bridge we stop on. Following the road to its end at St Cado and again enjoying the tranquil views, a local gent manages to communicate to us in French that the local restaurants have great seafood. We are staying here two nights, so the tents are left standing the next morning and we explore down to the ocean beaches.

There is a municipal campground right on the beach for just 1 euro a night. It is bare and exposed so you get what you pay for in this case. Throughout our travels, there were always plenty of campgrounds to choose from. Continuing along the coast line brings us to a coastal cycleway that continues down the peninsula to Quiberon, another pretty seaside town where the island ferries depart from. The peninsula is only 100m wide at its narrowest. The sea is lively on the west, and dead flat on the east.

On the return trip, we stop at a small Creperie on the outskirts of Erdeven. The phrase book gets some more use and is the source of more entertainment. Our outside table provides us with light rain as well as the local speciality. It rains all night and the tents prove just how permeable they are, everything is wet. We pack in the changing rooms the next morning and leave during a break in the rain. Passing through the large town of Aurey, we stumble on a fantastic bakery/chocolate shop and succumb to temptation. Not for the first, or the last time.

Just out of town at St Anne-D'Aurey is a large Basilica (a large and important church that has been given special ceremonial rites by the Pope) that we take the time to wander through. Its prominent enough to have had recent visits from the Pope and large enough to hold the huge crowds that came to see him. Back on the road just past Bigan is an exposition of work by Giuseppe Gabellone and Shirley Jaffe in the Chateau at the Kerguehennec Estate. We found the chateau and its grounds more impressive than the art work.

Further on in Guehenno is a church rebuilt after being destroyed in conflicts. A 15th Century Calvaire (a monumental public crucifix) in its grounds is the largest in Brittany. Approaching Josselin, there are views of the castle-like Chateau on the banks. Built with defence in mind, the wall rising from the road is dizzying. Our campground near here has caravans for hire. It's still raining and with wet gear we take the sensible option and stay dry. It's been run by an English couple for 4 years. They moved here as a lifestyle choice but lament the French bureaucracy. They provide us with a great French breakfast the next day, and our gear is out to dry with the rising

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## Camping Without a Kayak – continued from page 7

sun. The day is spent walking through the town of about 3000.

The Basilica Notre Dame du Roncier has a huge tower that provides great views over the town and surrounding countryside. The grounds inside the walls of the Chateau look much friendlier from this side. Some shopping for groundsheets and waterproofing spray leads us to a garden centre. The phrase book proves its worth once again and leaves customers and staff with a smile on their faces.

A big food supply is intended to see out the next day, but seems to disappear that night. It's along the canal path again in the morning, and after an hour we realise we have gone the wrong way. That's part of the countryside we wouldn't have got to see otherwise. We eventually leave the canal at Rohan after midday to visit a bike shop for brake repairs. There is no action until after lunch, a French custom that needs to be allowed for.

The afternoon takes us through rolling hills and past more small windfarms. At Mur de Bretagne, we do our daily shop at the supermarket, and find the campground on the banks of Lac de Guerledan, the largest lake in Brittany. This is where we have decided to catch the Tour de France in two days and there are a few others there with the same idea. Tony and Andy from the UK also on bikes, Klaus from Germany in his campervan, and a Dutch couple in a people mover and a mile of canvas. The Dutchman speaks 5 languages fluently. This is not unusual for a European, but he is also partially deaf and lipreads them all as well. Mixing with multilingual people always makes me feel guilty about native speaking English and our relative lack of language skills.

The next day sees us explore below the lake to see the dam that forms it. Kayakers are training in the canal but they are only multisporters!

Another day requires another visit to the supermarket, and another bakery requires another choice of tasty pastries to be made. A big difference between kayak and cycle camping is that you can't carry as much food cycling, and shopping every day means that your food is always fresh.

On a kayaking trip after a few days, your thoughts are never far from wondering about when the next feed is due. On a cycling trip, your thoughts are still about food, but you wonder more about where the food is going to come from.

A visit to the tourist information centre gives us details about where to go to watch the tour the next day. Andy, Tim and Klaus have driven to watch Stage 1 of the tour today and we get to view the photographs on their return. The campground has filled up tonight with the tour coming tomorrow.

After a relaxing start to the day, we cycle halfway up a hill to watch the tour pass by. There are plenty of people already there several hours before the event and the numbers continue to increase. Cyclists of varying ability doing their own tours get plenty of encouragement from the crowd. The caravan is a procession of advertisers with a variety of floats and giveaways. The entertainment they provide is a big part of the event.

When the cyclists appear they don't hang around long. The peloton fills the entire road. Standing on the edge, I still need to take a backward step to make room. The following support vehicles loaded with gear and all the flash bikes on the roofs are a show by themselves. There are so many people we have to walk our bikes back down the hill. The afternoon is spent in the local bar watching the rest of the stage on television.

We have decided to make earlier starts to the day, rather than taking our time. This will give us the chance to pick up lunch before the shops close (food playing its part again). Numerous villages through more rolling countryside before lunch in Quintin by a lake. The most sheltered spot we can find is under a tree, and it's a fine place to have a welcome refuel. A friendly local chats to us and we promise to return someday and have another conversation in French. Detouring from the inland route at Tregomeur takes us alongside streams to Binic and around the coast to Plouha.

There are numerous towns close to the water, each with large stone piers acting as breakwaters protecting the many yachts. Windsurfers at sea are making the most of the breeze. Our campground is right on the sea at the top of cliffs and the following morning we set off to walk some of the Granite Coast. There is a great cliff-top promontory providing views up and down the coast, and down onto circling seagulls and recreational fishing boats.

Back on the bikes we continue to hug the coast, sometimes down single tracks barely wide enough for a bike. Eventually we make our way to a campsite at Ploubazlanec. It's on a point, directly above the sea. After pitching the tents and unloading, it's on to the Pointe de L'Arcouest to catch a ferry out to Brehat. It circumnavigates the island to give an overview before landing. The sea along this part of the coast would be a nightmare for boaties. There are thousands of exposed rocks and small islands, and just as many below the surface. It was easy spending a few hours taking in the many houses, shops, and the tiny church by wandering around the network of paths on the island. The island has

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## Camping Without a Kayak – *continued from page 8*

a population of 300, but there are many more houses acting as holiday homes, and large numbers of visitors.

On our return to the campground, dinnerless, we find a mobile pizza van parked in the drive. No prizes for guessing what was on the menu that night. Thomas and Christine from Austria invite us for a drink and a chat. Reclining and soaking up the views is a great way to spend the long evenings.

Sticking to the early starts, we take the direct route to Treguir where the markets are in full swing. After wandering around the stalls for an hour it's impossible to resist the food, so we stock up. The town is on the banks of an estuary and it's a pleasant place to have lunch. One of the boats is being lifted out of the water by crane and lowered towards a cradle. At midday, everyone stops and leaves. The boat remains dangling above the cradle. Very different priorities than we are used to.

From here it's back on the coast to Pointe du Chateau on the headland, then on to Treleven. The rocky islands of the coast continue and I wonder how many boats have come to grief here. The French coasting pilot states "the coast has so many rocks above and under water, that it is impossible to go without a pilot. The place is frequented by coasters, in war time, who go to avoid the enemy".

Campgrounds are still numerous and one beach has a children's playground built below the high tide mark. The seaweed is removed when the tide drops. It seems like a great place to send misbehaving children. Our campsite is again beachfront. The tides here don't seem to stay high for as long as NZ, but don't see why they wouldn't, so it's probably just a false impression. The tidal range is from 36 to 40 feet here. At one of the seaside towns there is a marina, but no water surrounding it. There is a dam that stops the water receding with the tide. A simple idea that keeps the craft afloat while waiting for the tide to return.

In Lannion, there are more markets running. Most of the stalls seem to be clothing but we manage to track down lunch supplies. This is the largest town we have seen on the tour, the increased population and busy traffic having a more city feel.

Leaving alongside the river, we wonder if we have taken a wrong turn heading up a couple of steep rises. We pass through the cliffside village of Le Yaudet and reach the end of the peninsula at Point de Sehar where some friendly English tourists chat for awhile. There is more cliff top accommodation at Plestin-les-Greves where Urin and Marie invite us for tea after dinner. They have been coming here

for 6–7 years from Holland to sail and keep a 20' catamaran at the local marina. The attraction for them is the reliable wind and they have inherited a prime campsite. The views are best enjoyed with hot tea and chocolate.

Another early start takes us back along the beach we came past yesterday, pausing at the turnoff to farewell the ocean before heading inland. Wandering off route to explore some smaller roads (OK, we got lost!), and stopping at Loguivy-Plougras for lunch. The bakery has the most fantastic almond filled pastry and we enjoyed it seated opposite the local rundown church. It's still an impressive stone building and the tower bells still operate. We wonder if benches on the footpath in front of homes are for public use or belong to the homes. The curtains being regularly drawn back for a look make us feel a little guilty. Or maybe they knew how good that pastry was and just wanted some?

Passing through the Forêt De Beffou and into Callac, we get in the early finish that comes with the early start. The tents are pitched just before the rain starts and we both grab afternoon nana naps and don't wake until 8pm. It's a short walk into town to browse the closed shops. An open cafe provides shelter and hot drinks until a break in the rain lets us get back to the campground.

A final early start on the final day for the 50k back to Gouarec. It's a twisty scenic route over back roads and we get offered directions at a crossroads by an English immigrant. She is a psychologist and says there is plenty of work from other English customers. Another mention of French bureaucracy hindering entrepreneurs has a familiar note.

At the Bon Repo Abbey, which was founded in the 12th Century and has been destroyed, rebuilt, renovated, sacked and rebuilt again, we turn onto the canal that leads us back to Gouarec. A taxi returns us to the train station and there are stories shared with the others that started their tours at the same time as us. Then it's on to Paris, the Eurostar, and back to London.

This was a great way to spend two weeks and would have been great to continue. We cycled within ourselves and had no problem with the body complaining. It's not a race, it's a holiday. Good reliable gear is essential, the same story as kayak camping. It's no fun once you get wet.

Brittany is a great place to cycle. We didn't hit any severe hills, there are plenty of supermarkets but not enough bakeries. French drivers are cycle aware and considerate – remember to keep right!

## Poet's Corner

*The country's locked in ice and snow from somewhere  
to the Bluff  
In Wellington the gales are blowing ill  
You ponder in your kayak  
Is there not a better place  
Than up here North of them thar Bombay Hills.*

*Now there's not a lot of sea kayaking in Nightcaps  
or Taihape  
Though I stand to be corrected on that score  
While in sunny Akarana  
Where the gentle zephyrs blow  
You're always bound to find a quiet shore.*

*When all the months have R in them you can  
go down South  
In the Marlborough Sounds or Lyttleton Bays  
Your sun cream and your hat on  
You can paddle heart content  
Enjoying all those brilliant summer days.*

*Although at times in darkest months of winter  
Kayak Dundee is out in West Coast surf  
For the likes of wimpy me  
With that fainter heart of mine  
I'll winter over on my Auckland turf.*

*In case there is some gross misunderstanding  
I love those places as you do to bits  
But here the sun is shining  
On Kohimarama Beach  
While the TV screen's filled up with the winter blitz.*

*To live here on the isthmus is the best thing in  
the world  
But should you tire of this bit of land  
Nip across the water  
To the wonderful coast of Queensland  
And join the sunshine seeking kiwi band.*

*But not to put too fine a point on this parochial stuff  
It all depends exactly where you live  
Be it Invercargill  
Gore or even Marton  
You'll be sure to give it all that you can give.*

*And if by chance you never spy a sea kayak  
And you had to sell yours since you've gone to ground  
Just be glad that you are  
Still alive and kicking  
Ready when the next time comes around.*

*But to finish off this tirade from an immigrant up  
North  
In spite of when I say it's sunny here  
That Southy wind is freezing  
The hail is coming down  
And the water's bloody cold this time of year.*

*With spring about to burst on us the way it does  
each year  
It seemed a long way off in cool July  
September with its 'r'  
Is with us once again  
Get out of here put on those wings and fly.*

*Mike Randall*



*Tony Hannifin, Ian Smeeton (obscured) and  
Ryan Whittle doing their pre-departure checks  
on the beach at the Goat Island Marine Reserve.*

PHOTO R. LOMAS

## Notice to Mariners

### **Auckland Harbour Bridge Maintenance Works**

**Notice 34-08** Maintenance work will be undertaken on the Auckland Harbour Bridge under Span 3 and will continue for at least the next 4 months.

During this time all vessels are asked to remain well clear.

**Marc Davis**  
**Maritime Officer**  
**Auckland Harbourmaster's Office**

## Club Trips – September 2008

Please phone Wednesday or Thursday to express interest.

Please contact Will on 486 6215 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.

### Saturday 6 or Sunday 7 September.

#### UP THE CREEK WITH A PADDLE

Exploring our local Estuaries

##### *No. 1 The Wade/Weiti river*

Paddle The Wade/Weiti River. A leisurely cruise up to Silverdale where the river narrows and the trees grow over the water. With the tide right we can reach the Silverdale rugby club.

**Call Will for details on put in spot and departure time – 486 6215**

### Saturday 13 or Sunday 14 September

#### TI POINT TO LEIGH

Great rockeries along the way. We will paddle from Ti point just inside the entrance to the Omaha estuary out the mouth of the estuary and along a beautiful shoreline and round to a fantastic hidden beach and then to Matheson's Bay for morning tea and a ginger nut. Then continue past Daniels reef and onto Leigh harbour. We will either return from here back to Ti point or continue a little further for a spot of rock gardening before returning.

**Call Will for details on put in spot and departure time – 486 6215**

### Sunday 14 September

#### BROWN'S ISLAND "RAID ON RHAMNUS"

Spend a day on Brown's Island helping to wipe out an alien weed which will out-compete pohutukawa if not stopped. Meet at the boat ramp, St Heliers Beach, at 9.00am for a 9.30am departure.

**Bring:** shoes, lunch, snacks, and a thermos.

**Tools:** please bring long-handled loppers if you have them. Secateurs will be OK for small plants. The club will supply herbicide to apply to the cut stumps, and chemical-resistant gloves.

**If the weather forecast is doubtful:** phone Colin Quilter 630 2219 on Saturday evening or Sunday morning between 7.00 and 8.00am; (the herbicide gel can't be applied in rain so we need reasonably fine weather).

### Saturday 20 or Sunday 21 September

#### ESTUARY EXPLORATION NO. 2

A very protected and safe but adventurous trip from Island Bay on the north side of the Waitemata harbour to Albany along the Lucus creek.

**Call Charles for departure time and day 418 1119**

## Winter Lecture Series 2008

### A SAILING TRIP WITH SEA KAYAKERS Wednesday 17th September

In the summer of 2007 a group of sea kayaking yachties embarked on a voyage that circumnavigated New Zealand. During this adventure they anchored up in some idyllic places in Fiordland and at Stewart Island where they launched their sea kayaks for some coastal exploration. Salty old sea dog Ross Mackenzie will be along to recount the voyage and coastal excursions.

The winter lecture series is open to everyone, so feel free to bring along a friend. It is also an ideal evening to catch up with club mates and provides a good opportunity for newer members to meld in with our friendly club.

Meet at the Marine Rescue Centre on Tamaki Drive at 7.00pm for a 7.30 start.

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

This will be the final in this years series.

For more information phone Roger Lomas 09 846 6799

## Auckland Central Masters Harbour Swim Dates

**Herne Bay Beach to Masefield Beach (Pt Erin)**  
9th November 08, start 15:36, 50min, tide 16.36.

**Masefield Beach (Pt Erin) to Chelsea Sugar**  
30th November 08, start 9:00am, 75min, tide 10:04.

**St Heliers to Tamaki**  
15th February 09, start 11:00am, 90min, tide 12:40.

**Rangi Wharf to St Heliers**  
1st March 09, start 9:00am, 120min, tide 11:21.



2008



**Akarana Kayaks**  
**Cambridge-Hamilton Kayak Race & Cruise**  
Sunday 14th September 2008

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This premier North Island river race of approximately 23 kilometers is open to all types of canoes, kayaks and surf skis.

A short distance event of 11km from The Narrows is also available.

Entries close at 6pm on Monday 1st September 2008.

**NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY OF THE RACE**, but you may email them to [KayakRace@AkaranaKayaks.com](mailto:KayakRace@AkaranaKayaks.com) or fax your entry to (09) 631-5344 before 6pm on Monday 8th September 2008.

A late entry fee of \$20 applies

**Lunch for competitors, a quality T shirt and generous Race Pack is included in the entry fee.**

**Spot Prizes - over \$15,000**

Including 2 kayaks and a Sea Kayaking holiday in Fiji for two people.

The only requirements are that you must be present at the prize giving and have actually paddled!

11am race briefing at Riverside Reserve, Dominion Ave, south of Cambridge. 11.30am Race starts.

12.30pm Short race starts at Acacia Reserve, just past the Narrows Bridge at Tamahere

Buoyancy aids **MUST BE WORN**.

Race finish and prize giving at Hamilton City Hawks Clubrooms, Grantham Road, Hamilton.

Prize giving will start at 2.30pm. Trophies will be awarded to the first three finishers in each class/category.

**Sponsors**

**Safari Lodge (Fiji) Ltd   Ocean Kayak   Q-Kayaks   Canoe and Kayak Ltd**

**Akarana Kayaks, Ampro, Back of Beyond, Comfort Technologies, Craig Potton Publishing, Day Two, Diversified Products, Donovan's Chocolates, Positively First Training, Mission Kayaking, Paddling Perfection, Party DJ Co, Point 5 Watersports, Ruahine Kayaks, The Boatshed Cafe & Kayaks, Trek'N'Travel, Thule NZ, TV3, Ultimate Surf Products, Waimarino Kayaks, Wet Shoes**

For Race information, phone (09) 631-5344 or 0275-529251 (0275-kayak1)

Race Director: Su Sommerhalder

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2008



**Akarana Kayaks**  
**Cambridge-Hamilton Kayak Race & Cruise**

Sunday 14th September 2008

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**Volunteers Wanted**

Are you available to help at the

**Cambridge-Hamilton Kayak Race & Cruise ?**

All registered helpers receive a race pack containing a T-shirt, gift, drink, nibbles, fruit, and lunch.

For information, phone (09) 631-5344 or 0275-529251 (0275-kayak1)

Or email [KayakRace@AkaranaKayaks.com](mailto:KayakRace@AkaranaKayaks.com)

Race Director: Su Sommerhalder

# Akarana Kayaks

## Cambridge to Hamilton Kayak Race & Cruise

### Sunday 14th September 2008

This premier North Island river race of approximately 23 kilometres is a class event open to all types and classes of canoes, kayaks and surf ski's. A short distance event is available to Racers and Cruisers. Entries close at 6pm on Monday 1st September 2008. **NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY OF THE RACE**, but you may fax your entry before 6 pm on Monday 8th September to (09) 631-5344 or email it to [KayakRace@AkaranaKayaks.com](mailto:KayakRace@AkaranaKayaks.com). An additional late entry fee of \$20 will apply.

Race packs may be collected ahead of the race at the following locations.

- Saturday 13th September between 2pm & 7pm from the Waikato Sport Fishing Club, ( above Hamilton City Hawks Clubrooms) Grantham Rd, Hamilton, ph 0275-529251
- Sunday 14th September from 8am at the race start.

All paddlers should attend the 11am Race briefing at Riverside Reserve, Dominion Avenue, south of Cambridge on State Highway 1. There is no entry into the Reserve from SH1. Go to Victoria Street (main road through Cambridge) Just before the Victoria Bridge, turn left into Dominion Avenue. See <http://maps.google.co.nz/maps?hl=en&tab=wl&q=dominion%20ave%2C%20cambridge> for map.

Race starts at 11.30am.

Juniors start at 12.30pm at Acacia Reserve on the left bank of the Waikato River just past the Narrows bridge at Tamahere.

Race finish and prizegiving at Hamilton City Hawks Clubrooms, Grantham Road, Hamilton on the left side of the river. See <http://maps.google.co.nz/maps?hl=en&tab=wl&q=grantham%20st%2C%20hamilton%2C%20nz> for map.

Prizegiving will start at 2.30pm.

Competitors should where possible, bring their own driver to avoid having to return to the start after the race and possibly miss the prizegiving.

Buoyancy aids **MUST BE WORN**

Rescue craft will be available, but competitors are expected to assist others when required and apply for time compensation from the officials.

Trophies will be awarded to the first three finishers in each class/category, provided that more than three entries are received in the class/category.

The Auckland Canoe Centre Trophy will be awarded to the crews of the first four boats home from any NZCA registered Club.

**Lunch for competitors included in entry fee. Non-competitors lunch \$8.00**

## Spot Prizes - over \$15,000

**Including 2 kayaks and a Sea Kayaking Holiday in Fiji for two people**

**The only requirements are that you must be present at the prize giving and have actually paddled!**

**Major prizes include...**

Safari Lodge (Fiji) Ltd, holiday in Fiji, including accommodation, transfers, 3 days kayaking and food. Air fares to Fiji are not included.

Ocean Kayak Prowler 13 with rudder and seat. Plus Carlisle Arctic carbon paddle valued at \$2000.

Q-Kayaks Kiwi touring kayak, valued at \$1250.

**Prizes may be viewed from 5th August at:**

Canoe and Kayak Auckland, 502 Sandringham Road, Sandringham Ph: (09) 815-2073

Canoe and Kayak Waikato, 73b Duke Street, Hamilton. Ph: (09) 847-5565

## Biosecurity New Zealand

reminds all competitors that it is expected they have cleaned all gear before leaving their base, in order to slow the spread of the invasive alga didymo.

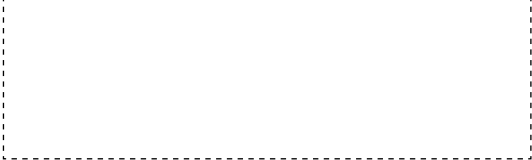
This means all boats and equipment used in the water (including footwear) must be cleaned either using either a 5 percent solution of dishwashing detergent, or any one of the other cleaning methods available on our website [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo)

This is especially important if competitors are coming from the South Island, and is a requirement under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

**For Information, phone (09) 631-5344 or 0275-529251 (0275-kayak-1)**

**Race Director: Su Sommerhalder**

27 Jul 2008



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



To:

