



## October 2008

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*RAID ON RHAMNUS / BROWNS ISLAND / 14 SEPTEMBER*

*Ailsa and a Rhamnus bush about to meet its fate.  
This one was a female plant with many red berries.*

PHOTO COLIN QUILTER

## 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

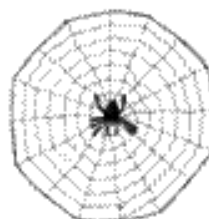
All major banks have set up Auckland Canoe Club as a registered payee for internet banking.

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 October

**Password Orarapa**



## Deadline for November newsletter

**7 October 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 ...

Eddie De Vries,  
Simon Roche

and the Seaman family: John and his sons James and Thomas.

## 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.

## Regular Events

### Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

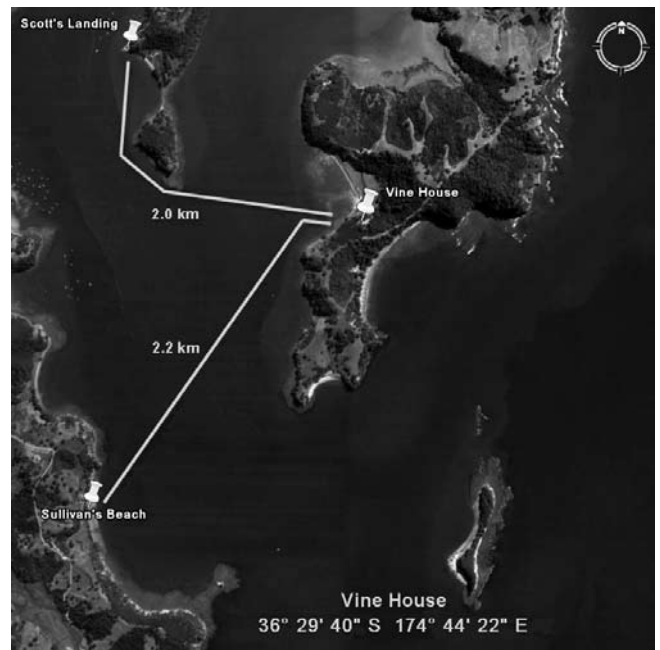
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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.

### ***Could this have happened to you?***

Dear All,

This month the Auckland Canoe Club was delivered a timely and sobering reminder that the pursuit of safety is a continuous process and just how easy it is for standards to inadvertently fall.

- One of the club kayaks was taken out for a Saturday afternoon paddle.
- Late Saturday evening the two occupants were delivered back to Okahu Bay by launch to waiting ambulance and police.
- On Sunday morning Coastguard and Maritime Police were just about to start a full scale search when they were informed that the occupants of the empty kayak that had been found on Takapuna reef were safe and well.
- Happily for everyone it ended well but it could so easily have been a tragedy.

#### **How did this happen and what has the Club learnt from the incident?**

The Auckland Canoe Club tries hard to encourage safety and is justifiably proud of its safety record over the past 50 years.

However, despite all our safety initiatives this incident showed that we let our new members down. All outdoor activities come with a degree of risk, but the secret of enjoying outdoor activities safely is to identify and manage the risk.

The day after the incident I spent time with all the authorities involved, Police, Marine Police, Harbourmaster, Maritime New Zealand and Coastguard, and interviewed the club member.

The Canoe Club Committee then met to discuss the details and decide how to minimise the chance of a similar event happening again. I will discuss the Committee decisions later in this article.

#### **So what actually happened?**

When new members join the club they fill out a membership form and indicate their level of experience, novice, intermediate or advanced. This member considered themselves to be intermediate as they had paddled a sit on top kayak for several years. The club did not check the actual level of competence and this member was given access to the club storage and the club kayaks.

Mid Saturday afternoon this member and a friend decided to take a club kayak out for a paddle. The sea looked reasonably calm and they decided to paddle to Rangitoto. On the return journey the wind changed direction and the sea became very choppy. The kayak filled with water and became impossible to paddle.

The occupants decided to get out and tried to sit on top of the upturned hull hoping to attract the attention of a passing vessel.

Eventually as darkness fell, they drifted close to a vessel that had just put an anchor down to start fishing and the skipper noticed an unfamiliar object in the water. He pulled up his anchor and went to investigate.

Now suffering from the onset of hypothermia the occupants were rescued and ambulance and police called. The skipper delivered the occupants back to Okahu Bay, but the kayak was left drifting in the channel.

After treatment on shore the occupants were sent home after the police took down the details.

On Sunday morning the member called the Club's gear officer, Gavin Baker, to report in events of the previous night. Gavin then immediately called the Coastguard to report the safe rescue of the two occupants and the fact that the kayak was still drifting in the harbour. Coastguard was able to report that the kayak had been found on Takapuna Reef, and they would stand down the search parties about to go out.

#### **Why did this happen?**

The main reason that this incident happened was a lack of experience by the member and the fact that the Club had not verified the information on the membership form prior to giving access to the Club kayaks.

- The member had paddled sit-on kayaks but had not paddled a sit-in kayak for a while.
- The weather forecast was not checked before leaving (it was for a change in wind direction with winds increasing to 38 knots, wind against tide).
- No spray skirts were used as the member was used to paddling a sit-on kayak which did not have spray skirts.

*Continued on page 5 ➤*

## **President's Report** – *continued from page 4*

- The hatches and neoprene covers were not checked prior to leaving.
- No bailer or pump was taken.
- No spare paddle was taken.
- No means of communication was taken (mobile or VHF radio)
- No light was taken
- Buoyancy aids were used.
- The police report did include reference to the kayak being abandoned, but that information was not passed on to either the Maritime Police or Coastguard.

### **The Committee discussed the known facts.**

*The contributing circumstances were identified:*

1. New members are asked about experience but it is not positively tested.
2. Access is given to the Kayak shed without a formal safety briefing.
3. The rules for taking club kayaks will be updated and publicised more.

To minimise the chance of a similar event happening again the committee discussed how to encourage members to get the essential knowledge and it was recognised that the message had to be kept simple so that it was easily remembered.

*The following Actions are to be implemented immediately:*

- The combination of the lock on the kayak shed will be changed, and the people hiring storage space for their own kayaks informed.
- All members who have joined in the last 6 months will be considered “new”.
- All new members will be appointed a mentor from the Committee who will act as their advisor and will be able to assist the member's real level of experience.

- Access to the kayak shed will only be given after the new member has been personally shown where the equipment is stored and what equipment is mandatory to take out with a kayak.
- The mandatory list of equipment displayed in the shed will be updated.
- Hatches and neoprene covers will be left so it is obvious that they need to be fitted before taking the kayak out.
- A check will be made to ensure that all club kayaks have a bailer tied in.
- The number of split paddles available for use with the Club Kayaks will be checked.

### **This could so easily have ended in tragedy!**

As is usual in most incidents a number of factors contributed to the event. In this case the member's perceived level of experience did not match reality.

The kayak was taken without the basic essential equipment: secure hatches and covers, sprayskirts, bailer, light, communications device, spare paddle.

The member had not checked the weather forecast, and had not informed anyone where they were intending to go.

After the incident the member had informed the police that the kayak was abandoned but that message had not got through to Coastguard. In hindsight the member should have made sure that Coastguard knew as they are in constant communications with the Maritime Police and the Harbourmaster.

*I ask that all members, new and old, think carefully about this incident and review their own safety procedures.*

- Do you take the correct equipment with you, at all times?
- Do you inform someone where you are going?

*Kayaking is a wonderful pastime. We are very lucky in Auckland to have so many wonderful places to go. Let us all try to ensure that we paddle safely and enjoy our sport.*

Safe Paddling,

*Ian*

## Raid on Rhamnus

Colin Quilter

*Rhamnus alaternus* is an invasive alien plant rapidly establishing itself as a major pest species on the inner Hauraki Gulf islands. Unless controlled it will out-compete pohutukawa on coastal cliffs. It is spread by birds which eat the red berries on female trees; seedlings then germinate from bird droppings wherever they fall. Our club has volunteered to join DOC's Rhamnus control program, and on September 14 twenty club members paddled across to Brown's Island to attack the plants there.

A cold south-westerly wind kicked up whitecaps on the harbour; it wasn't the fine weather we had hoped for, or the weather the forecasters had promised. On these days it is the old die-hard paddlers in the club who always turn up – bless them! I was reminded of the saying, "It's the old dog for the rough road and the pups take the footpath;" this was a day for old dogs.

We split up into pairs and were allocated territories to cover on the island. Colin's map was cunningly drawn so as to minimise the actual size of each territory, (and lacked any scale line which might have revealed the truth). We were also misled by the small number of Rhamnus which could be seen showing their heads above the kikuyu grass; later we were to find many more tiny seedlings lurking along the fencelines and on rough ground.

We dealt with the larger Rhamnus efficiently, cutting them off close to ground level and poisoning the

stump with herbicide. But this method was painfully slow for masses of small seedlings, and I wished more than once for a sprayer full of Round-up. We found that wherever birds perch on the fences, or roost in larger trees across the island, the Rhamnus which have germinated from their droppings are springing up from the ground beneath.

Most of us made our way across to Crater Bay on the northeastern corner of the island for lunch. Comparing notes made it clear that there was still a lot to do, so we resumed work in the early part of the afternoon before slogging slowly back to St Heliers against the wind.

This trip made me realise (not for the first time) what fine people we have in our club. It was a long cold day of paddling and working with no more reward than the satisfaction of keeping the island in its present state. My thanks to Ailsa, Philip & Sue, Trevor & Denise, Ken, Matt, Sigrid & Jack, Brian, Mike, Gary, John, Gavin, Erica, Jocelyn, Paul; and to Gerard and Neil who pulled more than their weight on the trip home.

Some of us are keen to see the job completed on Brown's Island and will make further trips when the weather allows, (and when other club trips are not advertised). I will ask Ian to circulate an email a few days ahead of time; watch out for it if you want to join old dogs on a rough road.

## Moving Prohibited Zone

(Bylaw 31.4)

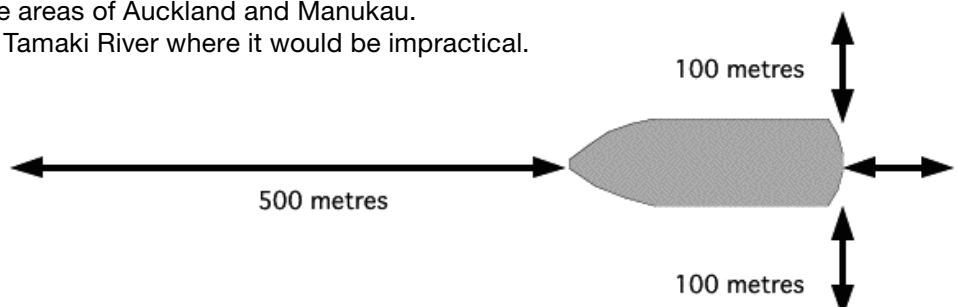
You will have seen the great photograph elsewhere in this newsletter of our intrepid kayakers on the Manukau Harbour.

They say that a photograph never lies, but in this case the use of a telephoto lens does not give a true representation of the distances involved. One could be forgiven for thinking that the kayakers were almost riding the bow wave!

This was not the case and our members were very careful to obey the (sensible) bylaw that prohibits any vessel from coming into the prohibited zone that surrounds any vessel greater than 500 tonnes.

This bylaw applies to the pilotage areas of Auckland and Manukau. It does not however apply to the Tamaki River where it would be impractical. Special conditions apply there.

*Ian Calhaem*  
Safe Boating Advisor  
Maritime New Zealand



## Poet's Corner

*Now I'm a belt and braces man  
My Dad was wont to say  
For if your braces fail you  
Your belt will save the day.*

*I didn't ask what happens  
If the buckle snaps in two  
And why he didn't carry  
A tube of instant glue.*

*He would have said don't worry  
I've got a bit of string  
That's always in my pocket  
I think of everything.*

*All my life I've taken this  
On board where'er I go  
Some snow shoes on a sunny day  
In case it turns to snow.*

*I concur most heartedly  
With all the safety hints  
Printed in our Newsletter  
I've been thinking ever since.*

*My call sign in a magic pen  
Not once but three times o'er  
In case the first two disappear  
When my kayak hits the shore.*

*A safety flag stuck at the back  
One up front to match  
An extra on my buoyancy aid  
And a spare one in the hatch.*

*My kayak hull reflective  
Three beacons for the night  
Port and starboard lamps all set  
A string of Christmas lights.*

*VHF not working  
The spare should be OK  
Two cell phones for my stocks and shares  
You see it's not all play.*

*Three paddles one to power with  
The others keep me steady  
If all of these get lost at sea  
There's an outboard at the ready.*

*Now you and I could banter on  
At length and L.O.L  
At all our witty repartee  
Ne'er dreaming of a shroud.*

*But if this gets me thinking  
About the serious stuff  
Of safety in our little boats  
That seems to be enough.*

Mike Randall

## Carrying a load on your car

- Do not overload your roof rack.
- Your load must not extend more than three metres forward of the front edge of the front seat or four metres behind the rear axle.
- Your load must not extend more than 1.25 metres on either side from the centre of the vehicle.



Illegal load



Illegal load

**Note:** if a load extends more than one metre beyond the back of your vehicle, you must tie on a white flag, or a red, orange or yellow fluorescent flag. The flag must be at least 40 centimetres by 30 centimetres in size. The load must be tied on firmly and must not touch the ground.

## Club Trips – October 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 4 October**

#### ***Warkworth Kowhai Festival***

Meet at boat ramp

Registration from 8:00am, Briefing at 9:45,

Races start at 10:00

\$20 charge

There are three categories:

1. A 20 k big race, for seniors and the slightly serious ones
2. A 10 k Recreational sea kayak and sit-ons, etc
3. A 5 k junior race for non adults.
4. And for the first time a surfski division

The races are run on a circuit that is set up on Warkworth River.

It's a 2.5 k leg, repeated depending on what option race you've chosen.

There are lots of give-aways a sausage sizzle and drinks etc spot prizes and one big prize too.

**Contact Jim Sonerson 09 425 7371**

### **Sunday 5 October**

#### ***Christmas Beach, Herald Island to the Riverhead Pub and back***

A secluded part of the upper Waitemata Harbour. It's a worthwhile trip if you've never done it before, and even if you have. A perfect trip to tone up your paddling arms for a great summer!

From Herald Island, a small and peaceful settlement near the head of the Waitemata Harbour, we paddle a little over an hour with the tide as far as the Riverhead Tavern. Lunch in or near the pub, before returning with the tide. (You can buy chips, burgers, half hour wait if busy, or bring your own lunch.)

Meet 10am at Christmas Beach on Herald Island.

**Call Erica for departure time and trip details – 832 9720 (hm) 021 071 5917 (mob)**

### **Saturday 11 October**

#### ***Ti Point to Leigh***

Let's try this one again. A stunning piece of coastline! 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 an isolated beach and 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**

### **Saturday 18 October**

#### ***Waiau Pa***

Come and experience a time controlled standing wave. Build your confidence and experience something new. Bring your little boats, if you don't have one, borrow or rent on or bring your sea kayak? There'll be something to suit everyone.

High tide at 12:46 at Onehunga.

**Call John Maynard for further details – 626 4096**

### **Sunday 19 October**

#### ***Warkworth to Algies Bay***

Paddle tide assisted down the river out from the undergrowth and into the Mahurangi Harbour. We will be travelling past historic Scots Landing and the Vine House and out into the ocean to lunch break at Big Bay. This is a truly stunning spot on this piece of coast. Then we paddle north up an untouched length of beaches and reefs, until reaching Mullet Point where it's a short paddle into Algies Bay.

**Call Mike for further details – 09 425 5135**

### **Friday 24, Saturday 25, Monday 27 October (Labour weekend)**

#### ***Weekend away at Tauranga Bay,***

A fantastic part of the country with spectacular paddling. From Tauranga Bay it is an easy paddle into the Whangaroa Harbour. The protected Whangaroa Harbour is a special place to paddle, the scenery is spectacular and resembles that of Jurassic Park.

Also from Tauranga Bay is Stephensons Island, and many more rockeries and exploring to be done.

Please advise interest as early as possible for this one so we can confirm numbers with the campground. There have been 4 sites tentatively booked so far.

**Call Jodi for further details – 445 3639**



## A Manukau Meander



Club kayakers Tony Hannifin and Kevin Woolcott pause to watch the Spirit of Resolution outbound off Puponga Point.

PHOTO R LOMAS

There can be an adventure in every paddle, even a quiet Saturday morning meander on the Manukau. Early morning kayakers, Kevin Woolcott, Ryan Whittle, Ian Smeeton, Tony Hannifin and Roger Lomas were all up before dawn last Saturday.

The winding road out along the coast to the Manukau Heads was well known to the lads as they watched the dawn break through the mist that often shrouds the Waitakere Ranges. A gentle surge swept the small sandy beach at the Little Huia launch site. This forewarned us that there was a big swell rolling through the Manukau Heads just around the corner.

Using the incoming tide our group tracked along the coast enjoying the spectacular northern shores

seascape. Nearing Puponga Point the swell surge was rearing up to create large cresting rollers. We changed our course and headed further offshore mindful of the fact that every now and again a bigger set would thunder in.

It was just as well because almost out of nowhere two huge waves loomed up on our starboard quarter. They steepened swiftly and we turned our bows to ride up over the big rollers. Kevin who was paddling at the rear of the group was sure that the second wave had his name on it. He uttered an expletive as his bow rose up its steep face. The wave hissed and sprayed as it crested not far astern from him.

Now we were back out in the tidal current and it swept us around Puponga Point just as an outbound coastal freighter was passing. A crew member came out onto the bridge wing to give us a friendly wave.

In a rocky cove just around the point a quartet of fur seals frolicked on the rocks and in the water. Our cuppa stop was in the next cove. It was sheltered, sunny and had a fine view up the coast towards Onehunga. Working with nature and with timing to perfection the tide turned as we yarned in the secluded cove. We then enjoyed its assistance on the homeward journey.

It was a great feeling to be back onshore just as the wind picked up as it often does on the Manukau. With the kayaks washed and racked on the cars we had time for another cuppa before heading home for family and domestic duties.

Roger Lomas

## Notice to Mariners: 43-08

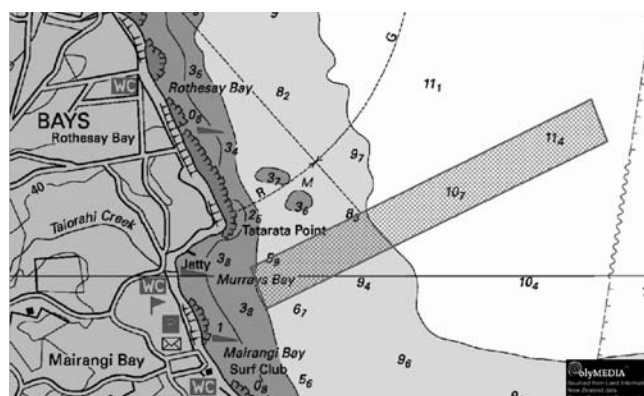
### Mairangi Bay, Rosedale Outfall Dredging Operations, Hauraki Gulf

Marine operations (dredging, drilling and pipe laying) will occur off Mairangi Bay from 7th October 2008 to 31 March 2009. This operation will involve the Seatow 80 barge and various smaller vessels.

The GPS positions (WGS 84) of the project area are as follows:

- Lat 36 44.07S Long 174 45.31E
- Lat 36 43.37S Long 174 47.10E
- Lat 36 44.22S Long 174 45.39E
- Lat 36 43.52S Long 174 47.17E

The area will be marked by buoys and all mariners are requested to **remain well clear of the area.**



Not to be used for navigation.

Christiaan Moss  
**Deputy Harbourmaster**  
**Harbourmasters Office**

## Introducing Claire O'Connor, the newsletter editor

Many club members will be unaware that Claire has been helping with the assembly and layout of our newsletter for some time; lately she has taken on full responsibility for it. I suggested that she might like to write a short piece introducing herself to readers, but she modestly declined; so a few comments from me will have to suffice.

Claire has been sea kayaking for about 5 years, first with a Sequel and lately in a Necky Elaho HV. As for many of us the demands of her job in typesetting and graphic design mean that she doesn't get onto the water as often she would like. Holiday paddling is sometimes on the Bay of Plenty coast at Ohope where her parents rent a house for a few weeks every February, on the Ohiwa Harbour nearby or the Rotorua lakes during the Christmas break.

I asked Claire how club members can make her job easier when submitting articles and photos for the newsletter, but she says there's no preferred format and she can cope with text and images in just about any form – so get writing and send her some copy!

I know from my stint as newsletter editor many years ago that this is largely a thankless job. Each issue takes hours of work, but once it is posted out there is complete silence. It's like shouting into a vacuum; you shout, but nothing returns. So I will take this opportunity on behalf of all our readers to extend our heartfelt thanks to Claire for the excellent job she has done, and will do. The newsletter is what holds us all together, an essential part of the success of our club. Thanks Claire.

*Colin Quilter*



*Leaving St Heliers bound for Rangitoto Island, March 2008. Some of you will be familiar with my collection of hats and the red silk scarf/flag! INSET: On Browns Island, February 2007.*



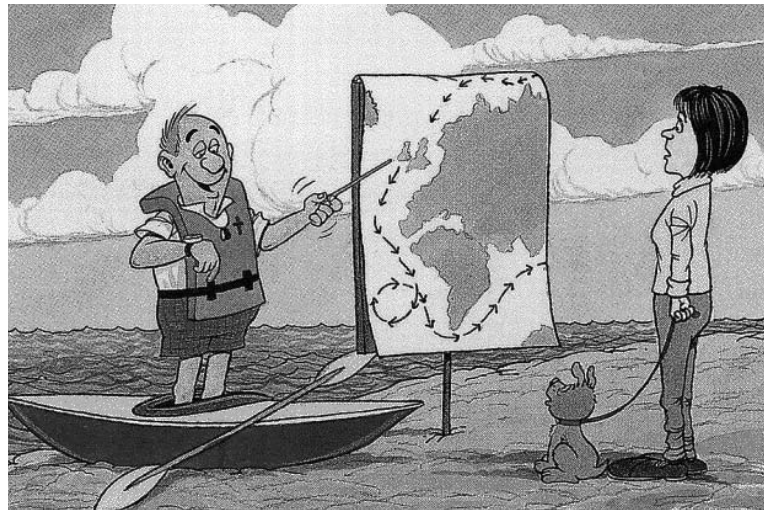
## Ways to ensure safe kayaking.

*Weather Forecast-Life Jackets-Communications*

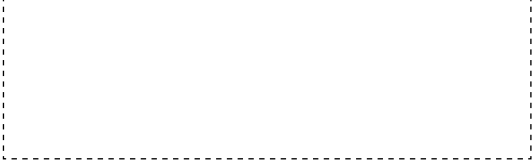
**MARITIME**  
NEW ZEALAND



*Check and heed the local weather forecast. Avoid strong currents and local hazards. Make inquiries locally.*



*Advise someone ashore of the details of your planned trip, including times of departure and return.*



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



To:

