

December 2008/ January 2009



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You have to be up early like Ian Smeeton to enjoy a sun rise like this.

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

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
president@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
secretary@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
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trips@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
publicity@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
training@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
merchandise@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
vinehouse@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
newsletter@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
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 co-ordinator. 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

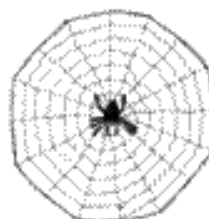
All major banks have set up Auckland Canoe Club as a registered payee for internet banking.

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 Dec/Jan

Password Ruapuke



Deadline for February newsletter

13 January 2009

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 ...

Jennifer Edwards

Kirsty Clancy

and the Atkins/Dodd family

Auckland Central Masters Harbour Swim Dates

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.

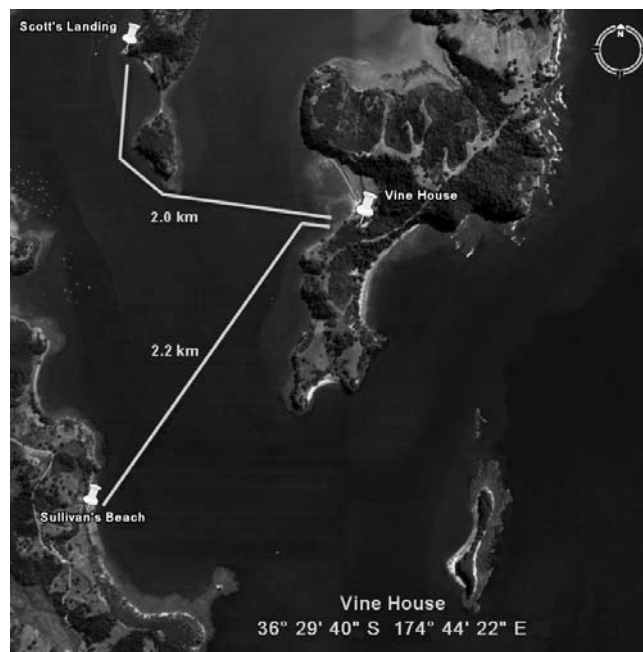
This gem in Mahurangi Harbour is a 2 km paddle from Sullivans Bay, which is the ARC park at the end of the Mahurangi West Road, first on the right past Puhoi.

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.

Note: Paddlers under 18 to be accompanied by a guardian!

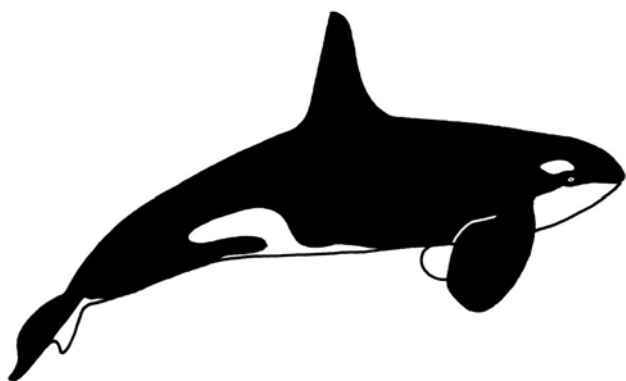
Why you need a waterproof digital camera

Colin Quilter

Three months ago I bought a \$400 compact digital camera, said to be waterproof and shockproof. Ideal, I thought, for carrying in the pocket of my buoyancy aid so that I could photograph all the interesting sights on the harbour.

For the next couple of months I took it with me every weekend. But I saw nothing to photograph. Nothing worth 8 megapixels, or indeed any pixels.

Last weekend I left it at home. Paddled at dawn across to Rangitoto and along the southwestern coast of the island. There I met a group of orca; two big males with their enormous blade-shaped dorsal fins, and between them a baby with a tiny little fin no more than 20cm high. Closer inshore a group of three or four female orca were hunting (eagle rays I presume), dashing through the water in zig-zags at high speed.



All were travelling towards me, so I stopped paddling and drifted, leaving them to decide how close they wanted to come. The two big males with the baby surfaced about 20 metres away, then crossed deep beneath me, while the females passed inshore.

A while later I stopped at a little beach near the Coastguard buoy for a cup of tea. It was flat calm there, and sheltered from the wind. I half-pulled my kayak onto the sand, leaving the stern slightly in the water. Minutes later two eagle rays arrived and spent the next twenty minutes cruising slowly along the edge of the beach in water so shallow that their wing-tips broke the surface.



Eventually one settled down beneath the stern of my kayak, in water barely deep enough to cover it. I puzzled over this unusual behaviour until I made the connection with the hunting party of orca; perhaps every eagle ray for kilometres around had heard the whales' sonar and had headed for the safety of shallow water.

So I sat in the morning sun with my cup of tea and the graceful rays for company, and blessed the absence of my camera. If I'd brought it, none of this would have happened, no orca, no rays, nothing to see and nothing to photograph.

Umbrellas are the same. Take one with you and it will never rain; leave it at home and there'll be a cloudburst. And remember the old Boer saying: "O God, what things a man sees when he goes out without a gun!"

I decided that the camera was worth every dollar I had paid for it. As long as it is left at home, I reckon each trip in my kayak is going to be full of amazing sights. That's worth \$400 of anybody's money!

Happy paddling,

Colin

Canuck in New Zealand!

Hello again from Canada!

I have six weeks in New Zealand starting January 11, 2009!!

Does anyone want to go paddling?

Gary Jacek

Gary.Jacek@telus.net

Tantalising taster of Tauranga Bay

Jodi Yeats



Despite dire forecasts, nine intrepid kayakers had a surprisingly sunny Labour Weekend at Northland's Tauranga Bay and even did some kayaking.

It took some resolve to drive through rain on Friday with a view to spending the long weekend camping at a windswept beach. However, the rains cleared Friday evening and didn't reappear. The reward for our fortitude was being able to park vans and plant tents on the prime beachfront spots in the half-deserted campsite. For the princely sum of \$12 a night we had some of the best holiday real estate in the North Island and awesome free showers to boot.

As planned, we set off around 9am on Saturday hoping to beat winds predicted to rise steadily through the day and enjoy a quick jaunt to Jellicoe Cave and another cave nearby which is fun to paddle through. The caves in the dramatic black cliffs north of Tauranga Bay are impressive and as "trip leader", I was keen for everyone to have a memorable experience on what could still turn out to be the only paddle of the weekend. Six somewhat stressed kayakers made it out through dumping surf without incident and enjoyed a surprisingly pleasant paddle to the cave.

Unfortunately the surf pounding through the caves was a bit much for any of us to risk going through and white caps in the distance suggested it was time to turn around and head towards home. However, once the northerly was behind us we felt renewed confidence and decided to duck into Whangaroa Harbour, where another kayaker told us there had been dolphins that morning. We didn't spot any dolphins but we did enjoy a leisurely display from a solo seal who didn't seem worried by some strange, colourful cousins.

Whangaroa is magnificent with its steep hills covered in bush, and dramatic black bluffs. It looks as if dinosaurs should be roaming around. Instead we met up with Northland kayak club paddlers keen to chat about the local sights. We checked out gun

emplacements and a luxury fishers' lodge before a need for lunch drove us back to the campsite.

Later on Erica Law, Lachie and Rowan turned up in their van and Erica was keen to get out on the water. The wind had picked up, but Vincent and I were happy to go out again for a short blast. And blasted we were. We headed to a small island, now known as "Jodi's Mistake", otherwise called Arrow Rock, which we barely managed to circumnavigate in enormous sea swells and strong winds. I was a little concerned about whether we would make it back and suggested we headed closer to shore. Once we were further in, I felt relieved but three slightly stressed paddlers returned to the campsite.

Thankfully it was time to circle the wagons and huddle inside for hors d'oeuvres. We were able to calm nerves with fine wine and tales of outdoors adventures and Lachie's wharfie Dad's recipe for Tumeric Pickled Onions. This set the scene for convivial travel tale swapping in the camp kitchen after dinner.

Sunday was gusting between 30 and 40 knots, so we all opted for an adventurous low tide walk around the rocks to two neighbouring beaches. It was sunny and pleasant to read, walk and snooze until hors d'oeuvre time rolled around again.

We made a plan to start super early on Labour Day to beat the wind and so we could all drive home after lunch. Monday was calm, sunny and allowed an extensive exploration of the coast south as far as East Bay. It was a glorious paddle, Arrow Rock now unrecognisably benign and there were plenty of rock gardens and peninsulars, such as Frenchman's Rock to play in, not to mention the vast horizon of dazzling ocean to enjoy.

Many people commented they had a taster of a wonderful kayaking area. Stephenson Island beckons only about 5km offshore and we didn't explore the arm of the harbour leading to the lovely Lane's Cove. Accordingly I have booked another four sites for a further club foray over Waitangi weekend 2009.

Poet's Corner

*The chips are down the dealing's done
The cards are on the table
Paddlers of the sea unite
Paddle while you're still able.*

*To paddle free along our coast
To land without restriction
To camp to picnic on a beach
The Queen's Chain is it fiction.*

*The rules and regs of our fair land
Are there to be observed
As long as common sense prevails
Let freedom be preserved.*

*This needn't mean a free for all
Or even all for free
The sea belongs to all of us
And that means you and me.*

*Though some might say it's their domain
To claim it as their own
But just remember this dear friends
This planet's just on loan.*

*Now talking of our lovely home
I hear it's in recession
I only hope She hasn't heard
And keeps turning in her fashion.*

*Forget the doom ignore the gloom
To Tangaroa pay homage
Each heartbeat means a second less
This life just one short voyage.*

*Which brings us to a port of call
Called Christmas here so soon
So Happy Christmas One and All
Let good things call the tune.*

*I waffle on so back to earth
Or sea if you prefer
The place to be is on the sea
Te moana vive la mer.*

Mike Randall

The Swim Escorts from a Swimmer's Point of View

By Alissa Good

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

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

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

Club Trips – November/December 2008–February 2009

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.

Sunday 30th November 2008

Swim Escort – Masefield Beach (Pt Erin) to Chelsea Sugar Refinery

Meet at Masefield Beach, Curren Street, Herne Bay at 8.00am to be on the water by 8.30am for a briefing. Swim starts at 9:00am, 75min, tide 10:04.

Enjoy a barbecue on beach near Chelsea, then paddle back to our cars.

Contact person – Will Henden 021 260 2117

Saturday 6th December 2008

Browns Bay to Dacre cottage

We will launch from Browns Bay and dodge younguns as we paddle past the Sir Peter Blake yachting regatta, then round and along Long Bay and into Karepiro Bay, where lies Dacre Cottage, and the Okura and Weiti Rivers. The tide is perfect for this trip and the destination idyllic. We will stop here for lunch and then head back. It's a real cruisy trip great from novice to experienced paddlers.

Contact person – Will Henden 021 260 2117

Saturday 13th December 2008

Matakatia to Tindalls

It's time for this one again. It's a neat trip circumnavigating the headland of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula. Starting at Matakatia Bay, it's a 20k one way paddle around a coast where cars can't go! Stop halfway round for Christmas brunch of mince pies and mulled wine whilst gazing over towards Tiritiri Matangi Island. Then some good rock gardening awaits as we approach Army Bay, the beautiful secluded Coal Mine Bay and then to Tindalls where it's a short 600m walk across the road to get your car. There can be some great fishing in this area!

Contact person – Jackie Hillman, 634 5042

Sunday 14th December 2008

Christmas Breakfast Party Browns Island

Time for silly hats and mulled beer?, coke and such.

We have the whole deal:

Christmas carols (bring your compact instruments and fold up saxophones)!

Secret Santa so bring a pressie for the Santa sack.

Good food – bring your cooker and usual fryables.

Colour – dress for the occasion – it's Christmas time, colours white red and lime?

Meet at Okahu Bay at 8:30am for a 9:00am departure.

Saturday 24th January 2009

Three peaks

Paddle to and then climb: North Head, Rangitoto Island, and lastly Browns Island. It's a triangulation of the inner Hauraki Gulf! Meeting at Okahu meet 8:00am for 8:30am departure. Bring lots of food and drink, good walking shoes and your camera! Not a full day's paddle, but a full day. A balanced diet of walking and paddling.

Contact person – Ryan Whittle, 419 2672

Saturday 31st January – Sunday 1st February 2009

Overnight Family trip to Rangitoto Island

We can have the use of the scout hut on Rangitoto Island.

Contact person– Alissa 09 269 5888

Continued on page 8 ➤

President's Report

Dear All,

Just look at the upcoming trips!

I know just how busy so many of us are and it is with wonder and appreciation that I read about the various trips that are planned for the Club by members.

As we approach the end of another very busy year we get ready to start a new one. Have you noticed that Club trips are already being planned for January and February?

I am not sure if this newsletter will reach you before the next swim escort, but if it does I certainly encourage you to join the rest of us there. It is always a fun outing and of course a valuable one for the Club as our fund raiser.

I do take this opportunity on behalf of all members to thank those committee members who do so much for their fellow members to make this Club what it is.

May you all have a very happy and relaxing holiday.

Happy and safe paddling,

Ian

Club Trips

– continued from page 7

Waitangi weekend – 5th–8th February 2009

Tauranga Bay again!

A 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 Whangaroa harbour is a special place to paddle; the scenery is spectacular and resembles that of Jurassic Park. Also out from Tauranga Bay are Stephansons Island, and much more rockeries and exploring to be done.

Contact person – Jodi 445 3639

14th–15th February 2009

Motuora Island

Get away from it all. Distance yourself from the hustle and bustle and discover Motuora Island, one of the true gems of the Hauraki Gulf.

Spend the day exploring the local islands and shipwreck or just have a day at one of the beautiful beaches – a particularly great spot set beneath a gentle hillside with pohutakawa and a great reef for snorkelling. Later watch the sunset from the comforts of the well situated DOC campground.

We will leave from Sullivans Bay.

Contact Owen Sposen on 575 5088 for departure details and time.

Sunday 15th February 2009

Swim Escort – St Heliers to Tamaki

Meet at Okahu Bay at 9.30am for a 10.00am departure to arrive at by St Heliers 10.30am. Swim starts at 11:00am, 90min, tide 12:40.

After the swim, gather at the Club for Philip and Sue Noble's famous brie (South African barbecue).

Contact person – Will Henden 021 260 2117

Skills Practice

Skills / Rolling Practice will re-commence after the Christmas-New Year break.

Come along to Okahu Bay on Sundays at 10am to brush up on your skills!!

**For more information please phone
John Williams on 021 131 0516**

On the Worldwide Web!

New Sea Kayak Forum – a great place for paddlers to exchange info.

A new sea kayak forum is up on the web. At present the trips section is Australian-based, but will include a New Zealand section in the future.

www.seakayakforum.com

Sea Kayaking Theory Course



Sea Kayaking A theory course



Bookings:

09 303 9364 or 0508 RESCUE

www.coastguard.org.nz

Saving lives at sea

Sea Kayaking Course

A short course covering sea kayaks, equipment, communication, emergencies, planning, weather, rules and navigation.

Aim: To gain essential knowledge of sea kayaking and safety.

Duration: 3 hours

Qualification: Sea Kayak Certificate

Modules

- 1. Sea Kayaks**
 - Parts of a Kayak
 - Capabilities
 - Maintenance
 - Skills/fitness
- 2. Equipment**
 - Essential Equipment
 - Other Equipment
- 3. Communication**
 - Communication Tools
 - Communication practices
- 4. Emergencies**
 - Judgement
 - Rescues (self & others)
 - Calling for assistance
- 5. Trip Planning**
 - Planning
 - Solo and group paddling
 - Leadership
- 6. Wind, weather forecasts and sea conditions**
 - Wind
 - Marine forecasts
 - Weather forecasts
 - Hazards
- 7. Rules and Regulations**
 - Rules of the road at sea
 - Lights
 - Regulations
- 8. Navigation**
 - Navigating tools and skills
 - Sea Kayak Navigation

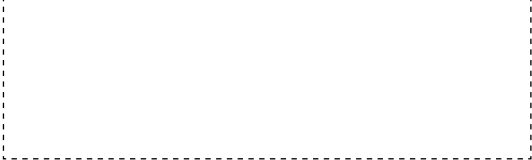
When: 1st December 2008, 7pm—10pm

Where: Browns Bay Marine Centre

Cost: \$50 (includes manual)

For Bookings Contact:

- education@coastguard.org.nz
- 09 303 9364 or 0508 RESCUE
- www.coastguard.org.nz



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



To:

