



March 2009

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**Calling all club kayakers for this year's escort on Sunday 1st March
Rangitoto Wharf to St Heliers – See details on page 9.**



The fleet's in for the big St Heliers Beach BBQ after the Rangitoto Swim 08.

PHOTO D. 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 | 550 3699 |
| <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

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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

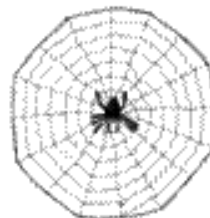
All major banks have set up Auckland Canoe Club as a registered payee for internet banking.

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 March

Password Rotoiti



Deadline for April Newsletter

10 March 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.

Kayaking flatmate wanted

For lovely villa with sea views out to Rangitoto at Narrow Neck Beach near Devonport. A wood fire and bath cheer winter up. Share the 3-bdrm house with Jodi Yeats, while David ward is overseas, until October and possibly longer, \$150 to \$170.

Ph David on 445 3639 or 021 071 7376.

FINAL SWIM ESCORT

Rangitoto Wharf to St Heliers

Sunday March 1

See Club Trips
on page 9 for details!

Regular Events

Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

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

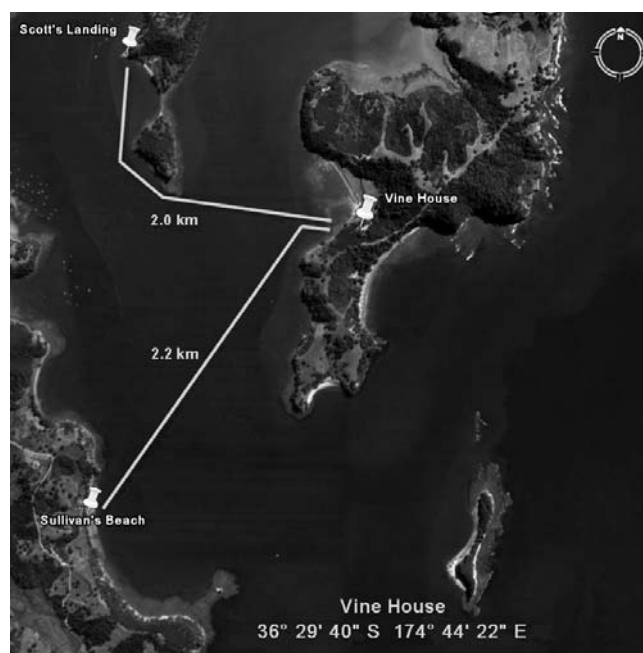
This gem in Mahurangi Harbour is a 2 km paddle from Sullivans Bay, which is the ARC park at the end of the Mahurangi West Road, first on the right past Puhoi.

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!

Short Paddles in the Auckland Area

Compiled by Roger Lomas

Short Paddles in the Auckland Area is a series of informative articles detailing coastal paddles from different launch sites. This series is aimed at assisting newer paddlers who have mastered the basic skills to expand their knowledge and experience. All of the short paddles have been carefully selected to be achievable in comfort and safety when attempted in the advised weather and tide conditions. These paddles do not involve crossing the busy shipping and ferry channels and do not attempt open water crossings. Safety exit points are available on all of these paddles if circumstances necessitate. The launch sites all have access to fresh water taps, toilets and parking.

The best way to gain experience is out on the water paddling. For safety reasons it is not advisable to paddle alone. It is fun to team up with fellow newer paddlers and attempt these voyages of discovery together. Form your own regular paddling group and develop new friendships. It is a good idea to talk about group rescue scenarios with your paddling buddies before you depart. Occasionally practice them in a safe sheltered cove over summer.

Auckland paddlers are blessed with many options having both east and west coast harbours and tides. Our summer water temperatures are warm and remain relatively mild right through winter. Paddling all year round is easily achievable and encouraged.

Short Paddles in the Auckland Area

Paddle #2: Birkenhead Wharf to Island Bay Wharf and Return



Launch Site: Boat ramp at Birkenhead Wharf located at the lower end of Hinemoa St, Birkenhead.

Distance: 13–14km.

Approximate time: 3 hours.

This is an ideal paddle to choose when the wind is from the North or North East. The optimum launch time is 1–2 hours before high tide so as to best utilise the tidal currents out and back.

The launch ramp is sheltered by the ferry wharf and located next to the pleasant grounds of Hinemoa Park. Abundant unrestricted parking is conveniently available just above the all tide launch ramp. Toilets are located both in the park and out on the ferry wharf building. Fresh water taps and an electric BBQ hotplate are also in the park.

As an added bonus for this launch site there is a cafe out on the ferry wharf that must have one of the best views in Auckland. Maybe just the place for a little treat at journeys end?

Launching before high tide will enable a close inshore exploration of the coast on the voyage up the harbour. The first navigation test on leaving the ramp will be negotiating a clear passage past the fishing lines cast of Birkenhead Wharf.

Once safely past these hazards you can cruise around the curve of Chelsea Bay and then out past the historic old sugar refinery complex. Keeping close inshore and paddling behind the Chelsea Wharf will keep you out of harms way if any shipping activity is present at the refinery.

The next stretch of coast is devoid of houses and runs alongside the Kauri Point Centennial Park. Numerous small coves with steep rocky slopes abound. Rounding the cliffs off Kauri Point we enter Kendall Bay some 4kms along the coast from the launch ramp. There is a nice secluded sandy beach here if you need to stretch the legs or have a swim.

Moving on, up along the bush clad coastline you will next encounter the Defence Department warning signs. These inform you that you are approaching the Kauri Point Naval Munitions Storage Area. There is an exclusion zone which extends around their wharf and shore facilities.

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Short Paddle #2

– continued from page 4

It is a frightening thought to realise that not so many moons ago the navy used to stockpile all their munitions in a vast underground tunnel complex at Takapuna Head. This is in the North Shore suburb of Vauxhall. They would trundle truckloads of high explosives through the streets of Cheltenham in the dead of the night to the naval dockyards at Devonport.

Thankfully nowadays the navy warships are towed up under the harbour bridge to this Kauri Point facility to transfer munitions. It is a relatively rare occurrence but give the wharf a wide berth if a warship is present. Once past the wharf you can look back and see all the ammunition bunkers layered up the hillside behind Onetaunga Bay.

More parklands and reserves run down to the coastline almost all the way up to the Island Bay Wharf. As we near the wharf we will have been on the water for over an hour and covered about 7kms, its now time for a cuppa stop. Toilets and fresh water taps are available up behind the boat ramp. This is also the only easy exit point if you need one. Island Bay, as the name implies once boasted an island. This has now been joined to the mainland by a reclamation that forms the carpark area. A short stroll out onto the wharf will enable you to better enjoy the view of the vast expanse of water that floods this upper harbour basin.

Up until the mid 1960s this area was the main runway for flying boats operating out of the Hobsonville Air Base. You can see the tops of the hangers at the old Air Base by looking further up and across the harbour. Just imagine how a modern day sea kayaker would react if one of those great four engined winged leviathans were to come thundering down the waterway through a time warp.

With the tide now ebbing its time to head back to Birkenhead.



Island Bay Wharf and Launch Ramp.

As an alternative this paddle can be attempted in the opposite direction using the Island Bay ramp as a launch site. This ramp is located at the bottom of Island Bay Rd in Beach Haven. The best launch time when using this ramp would be 1–2 hours before low tide. Once again a good paddle option to choose when the wind is from the North or North East.

The paddle down to Birkenhead Wharf will be similar but with the added bonus of a few low tide surprises. These include being able to see the vast expanse of Meola Reef. On a big low tide it will be exposed to its full extent. If you take time to go ashore at Kendall Bay and avail yourself of the walking track up to the lookout on the headland to the left you will be a prime position to view this huge reef. It reaches out for 2.5kms across the harbour from over near Westmere. At low tide the tip of Meola Reef is just over half a kilometre away. The low tide will also reveal a series of small sandy beaches between Kendall Bay and the Chelsea Wharf. One of these could make a great cuppa stop.

Skills Practice

Skills / Rolling Practice – Okahu Bay

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**

Wanted to Buy

Winged Paddle

I am looking to buy a winged paddle.

If you have one surplus to requirements and would like to free up some funds, **please give me a call at home on 550 0466 or text me on 021 41 41 61.**

Neil Scott

Padding with a Canuck

by Peter Sommerhalder

Knowing that Gary Jacek (a paddler from British Columbia) was in New Zealand, I managed to track him down and take him paddling.

John Maynard and I chose a February evening for a "romantic" paddle on the Manukau Harbour to watch the sunset. As any local (or Westie) knows, sunsets over the West Coast can be stunning. However, as we drove from John's house down to the Waikowhai boat ramp, we had our third shower that evening, or possibly even since Christmas. This did not dampen our spirits, and soon we cruised under some heavy cloud into the breeze towards Onehunga.

On John's advice, we headed across the channel towards Mangere. Looking back towards bush clad Titirangi, we did indeed see the large burning disc of the sun disappear behind the ranges. We paddled on, talking and enjoying the trip, as it was getting darker. Eventually we pulled ashore at Waikowhai, where our cars were parked.

Loading up took no time. We drove up the winding road from the reserve and came to a locked gate. John, being a local, explained that in the past the park has been the meeting place for rowdy drinking parties. Understandably, the residents got upset and the ACC dutifully installed solid gates, which get locked at 9pm. Well, we forgot to read the instructions on our way in.

We rang the ACC, who dispatched a security guard and told us to have \$40 ready. So much for carrying mobile phones on kayaking trips! There was no stress at all, as it was a calm, warm night. John handed us his Dolphin torch and pointed downhill, saying: "Try the flying fox down there." Gary and I passed the time having a few exciting rides in the darkness in the children's playground. Soon the security guard drove in, collected the payment and released us.

Over a beer at John's place we learned about Gary's background and British Columbia. He left us a book "The Wild Coast", which is a guide for tramping and kayaking in British Columbia. Gary will be happy to welcome any club members planning a visit to his country, and can assist with advice. To learn more or borrow the book, please contact John Maynard or me.

This was probably a timid trip compared to what Gary has experienced on the much colder waters around Vancouver Island. But it did leave a lasting expression on him, and possibly opened the door for us to Canada. Thanks to his friends in New Zealand, Gary experienced sailing in a yacht to Great Barrier Island, tramping the Tongariro Crossing (with another 300 tourists on the same day), snorkelling at Goat Island, and he is now heading for ten days in the South Island.

Poet's Corner

*I've been putting up a garden shed
A small one do you ken
A place to put my paddling stuff
A one square metre den.*

*It came in a box with a handbook
Just right for a dummy like me
To erect with the aid of a screwdriver
In between the odd cup of tea.*

*Well a PhD in mechanics
Would seem not have been out of place
But eventually it was standing
Without too much loss of face.*

*Now Zen and the Art of Shed Building
Is a subject I know nothing about
So how to relate this to paddling
The answer I'm sure must be nowt.*

*Building your own little kayak
Is something that's quite beyond me
But there's lots of folk out on the water
Whose own efforts link them with the sea.*

*Now John is a bloke among these folk
Who's gone from Mark I to the next
I can only stand back and admire
To wonder what's next on his decks.*

*First the hull then the hatches and rudder
Each stage an improvement on last
A recent addition a sail
Held up with a stout bamboo mast.*

*What I'm trying to say is good on you
You people who Do It Yourself
Yours the spirit that makes us proud Kiwis
Beyond price that gives us our wealth.*

*May this year of nine and two thousand
Be kind to you and your kin
The wind in your back when you're paddling
A soft gentle sun on your skin.*

Mike Randall

Three capes in the far north

Colin Quilter

At the end of January I had six days available for some solo paddling. Where to go? The far north gives the possibility of rounding three big capes within the space of a few days, and miles of remote coast with very limited road access. So I drove north to the DOC campground at Tapotupotu Bay, (pronounced *Taa-pottoo-pottoo*) just east of Cape Reinga. My plan was to round Cape Reinga next day, visit Cape Maria van Diemen and perhaps even Twilight Bay, then return and head east towards North Cape.

Whenever I'm in doubt about the wisdom of paddling somewhere, I climb a hill to get a view over the water. In this case, I drove to Cape Reinga and took in the scene. Below me, just off the cape, was a white turmoil of breakers on the Columbia Bank. However in the deep-water passage between the cape and the bank the swells never broke and I thought that, although intimidating, it looked safe. To the south Te Werahi Beach was closed out by surf but at its distant southern end, protected by Cape Maria van Diemen, I thought I could see a possible landing. Good enough.



Looking along Te Werahi Beach towards Cape Maria van Diemen. The sheltered landing is arrowed.

Next morning the 4-knot tidal current swept me around Cape Reinga at speed. Inshore of the Columbia Bank the swells were a good deal bigger than they had looked from above, but since they were not breaking I was happy enough working quietly through them. An hour later I found, as expected, only one line of breakers dumping on the beach near Cape Maria van Diemen and the prospect of an easy landing. However I treated it too casually, messed the landing up completely, and ended up being tumbled up the beach, both me and the kayak full of sand and seawater. The only damage was to my pride, but getting all the sand out of the cockpit took some time.

From the summit of Cape Maria van Diemen there is a marvellous view over the dune wastelands to the east, and along the coast towards Twilight Beach and (in the far distance) Ninety Mile Beach. It was marvellous, but also alarming. A big southwesterly swell was pushing



Paddling across big swells on the way to Cape Maria van Diemen. Cape Reinga is in the distance; the arrow indicates the lighthouse.

heavy surf onto the coast as far as one could see. Twilight Beach was partly obscured by a mist of spray blowing inland from the lines of breakers which extended about half a kilometre offshore. I decided that visiting Twilight Beach would be better done walking than by kayak. Two hours later, standing on the headland above the beach, I could see that decision was the right one. Even the rip channels at each end of the beach, which I had used to make a landing on an earlier trip, were now closed out by thunderous breakers. How good it was to view this wild scene from on land!

Back at Cape Maria van Diemen I could not find a nice camping spot and decided, late in the afternoon, to return around Cape Reinga to Tapotupotu Bay. I launched with some difficulty only to find that I was unable to lower my rudder; it was jammed up with sand from my clumsy landing earlier in the day. Since I was unwilling to return to the beach I had to exit the kayak, swim to the stern and pull the rudder down by hand. Being confident about re-entering the kayak from the water was a good thing. In the gloom of the evening the rough water inshore of the Columbia Bank looked much worse than it really was, and twice I was spooked enough to spin the boat around to face house-sized waves as they came silently in from the west; but in reality they never broke and the passage was as safe as it had been in the morning. Phew!

East of Cape Reinga the waters are protected, and in settled southwesterly weather this is a wonderful coast which anybody could paddle. At the western end of Spirits Bay, next morning, I landed at beautiful Pandora. Behind the white sand of the beach is a freshwater stream, (the pools at its seaward end warmed to blood-temperature by the sun) and a spreading pohutukawa with enough shade enough for many tents on the grass beneath. What a spot!

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Three capes in the far north

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Mine were the only footprints on the beach. I was tempted to stop just for the pleasure of camping there, but in the freshening southwesterly wind I knew my sail would give me a fast ride across Spirits Bay, so on we went.



Beneath a shady pohutukawa at Pandora

In the DOC campground at eastern end of Spirits Bay a few campervans stood on baking earth in the sun. Compared with Pandora it looked desolate. After a brief stop I continued along the coast to a tiny sheltered cove at Matirarau Bay. This is tribal land; a Maori couple from Te Hapua had tramped out to the campsite which they maintained there, but they willingly allowed me to camp for the night. Next morning I paddled along Tom Bowling Bay (there's an easy landing at its eastern end), then past the Surville Cliffs which are technically the northernmost point of New Zealand, and so to North Cape.

North Cape is a small island connected to the mainland by a boulder spit which is covered at high tide. Shingle beaches both north and south of the cape might offer a landing in calm weather, but surf discouraged me from the attempt. A few kilometres past the cape a fresh headwind started to develop, and I found a landing through easy surf at the northern end of Waikuku Beach. This became my favourite place of the trip. To the south, the beach stretches for several kilometres, backed by golden dunes. In my corner of the beach were shady pohutukawas, a grassy campsite protected by flax bushes (the best possible windbreak), and a stream which, when I followed it up the valley, led to a swimming hole metres deep, with clear water overhung by native trees. Floating in that pool, I was a happy paddler.

I got an early start next morning, hoping to make some progress southward before the wind got up at mid-day. After a few hours I reached the entrance of Parengarenga Harbour. This is an interesting area for kayakers.

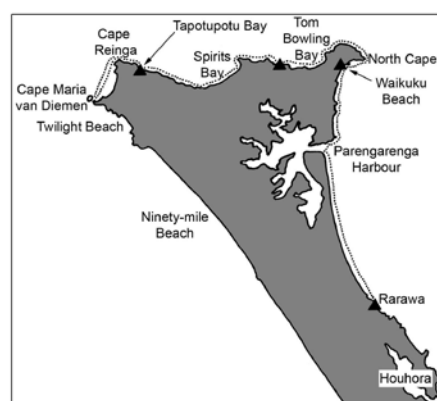
I landed on the northern headland, visited the wreck which projects forlornly from fast-moving water in the centre of the channel, and then landed again on the sandspit which forms the southern side of the harbour

entrance. Even under overcast skies the white silica sand was dazzling.



Ashore at Waikuku Beach. The headland arrowed is the northern head of Parengarenga Harbour.

By now it was late morning. I expected a headwind to freshen at any time, but still had about four hours of paddling along the length of Great Exhibition Bay to the DOC campsite at Rarawa, north of Houhora. Sure enough, at about the half-way point the wind arrived, and the last two hours were a slog. I reached Rarawa weary and was disappointed to find the campground some distance up a small estuary, with access difficult at low tide. I don't recommend it. However one of my fellow-campers there mentioned that he was planning to drive up to Cape Reinga next day; and would I like a lift back to Tapotupotu Bay to pick up my car? It was an offer too good to miss. So perhaps Rarawa is not such a bad place after all.



On this map triangles mark my campsites.

In conclusion: if you want to experience the Northland coast in its pristine state, the part that I have described is perhaps the only remaining section. Further south roads, baches, and powerboats have contaminated all the coast so that what once was wilderness has become a playground for holidaymakers. But in the far north there is road access only at three places, (Tapotupotu Bay, Spirits Bay, and Te Hapua inside Parengarenga Harbour). Between these places there are miles of beautiful and empty coast, where yours will be the only footprints. What more could you hope for?

Club Trips – March 2009

Please phone Wednesday or Thursday to express interest.

Please contact Will on 550 3699 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.

RANGITOTO SWIM ESCORT

Sunday March 1st / Rangitoto Wharf to St Heliers

This is the grand finale of the four swim escorts we do. Remember the swim escorts are a worthwhile trip for the club by bringing us all together and helping another organisation, plus the club gets paid for it – our only regular fund-raisers. They're a great social trip too!

Saturday February 28th – Stay Overnight at the Rangitoto Tourist Centre

The Rangitoto swim has the magic opportunity of staying overnight on Rangitoto at the Tourist Centre the night before the swim. It's a once a year chance to do this and all get together to share a meal then walk to the summit to watch the sunset over the Waitakere ranges and Auckland City. The morning holds more splendors with the sunrise shining into the Tourist Centre and the arrival of the breakfast crew.

Yep breakfast included on the morning of the swim!!

There'll be a group of us leaving St Heliers on the Saturday afternoon to stay overnight.

Contact Will on 550 3699.

Sunday March 1st – Paddle to Rangitoto Wharf

Breakfast Brigade: If staying overnight on the Saturday night isn't your thing, then join the others on the island for breakfast. Leave St Heliers for Rangitoto on Sunday morning at 7.30.

Non-Breakfast Brigade: Leave St Heliers to Rangitoto no later than 8.15am to make the start at 9.00am.

Race Start: The race starts at 9:00am from the Rangitoto Wharf and ends back at St Heliers Beach.

Barbecue Lunch and Icy-Cold Drinks: Another chance to gorge ourselves with Roger's famous barbecue back at St Heliers Beach.

Club Kayaks: Club kayaks will be reserved for this event. Please phone Gavin on 528 5188.

Saturday March 7th or Sunday March 8th weather permitting

Kawau Island

Come along and complete either a circumnavigation of Kawau, or an exploration of the western side of the Island. We will paddle from Martins Bay which is only a few kilometers from Kawau. The round Island trip will be in either a clockwise or anticlockwise direction and will cover approximately 30–35 kms with a break every 1 1/2 hrs or so. Stop at Mansion House Bay set in the protected waters of Bon Accord Harbour – the historic buildings are an added bonus to this trip.

Please call Gerard on 832 9720 for further details, and departure time.

Saturday March 14th

Tawharanui peninsula

Leaving from Jones Bay on the southern side of the Tawharanui Peninsula, we will paddle in and out of some neat rock gardens, around to the north side of the Peninsula and onto the beautiful beach at

Tawharanui Regional Park. Bring snacks lunch togs, towel, fishing gear and a sense of adventure.

Contact Will on 550 3699.

Sunday March 22nd

Rangitoto Lighthouse rockgardening and Gardiners Gap

Meet at Narrow Neck Beach, Devonport at 9.00am for 9.30am departure. Bring lunch, fishing and snorkelling gear. Returning to Narrow Neck Beach late afternoon. Suitable for beginners.

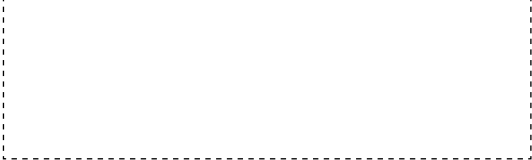
Contact Peter Sommerhalder on 631 5344.

Sunday March 29th

Omana Reserve to Waiheke

Omana reserve to Blackpool Waiheke. With lunch at beautiful Oneroa. There will be an alternative trip planned if the weather doesn't suit the paddle to Waiheke.

Contact Phillip on 575 3493.



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



To:

