



**December 2009/
January 2010**

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The Barracuda Boys at Bream Bay – see page 7.

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>	Jim Mason	
<i>President</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
<i>Secretary</i>	Neil Scott	846 4004
<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	846 4004
<i>Vine House</i>	Trevor Arthur	817 7357
<i>Newsletter</i>	Claire O'Connor	521 1769
<i>Webmaster</i>	Matt Crozier	817 1984

Email addresses

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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.

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

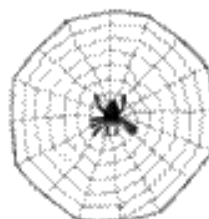
All major banks have set up Auckland Canoe Club as a registered payee for internet banking.

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 ahaaha



**Deadline
for February
Newsletter**

12 January 2010

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.

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

President's Report

Dear all,

I am using the space normally reserved for my President's report to allow publication of an open letter I have written to the people of Auckland. This reflects my own thoughts and not those of the Club, but the matter is certainly of interest to Club members.

Please take the time to read my letter and let me know if you can suggest ways that we can influence our elected representatives on the City Council.

Happy Paddling,

Ian

Regular Events

Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

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

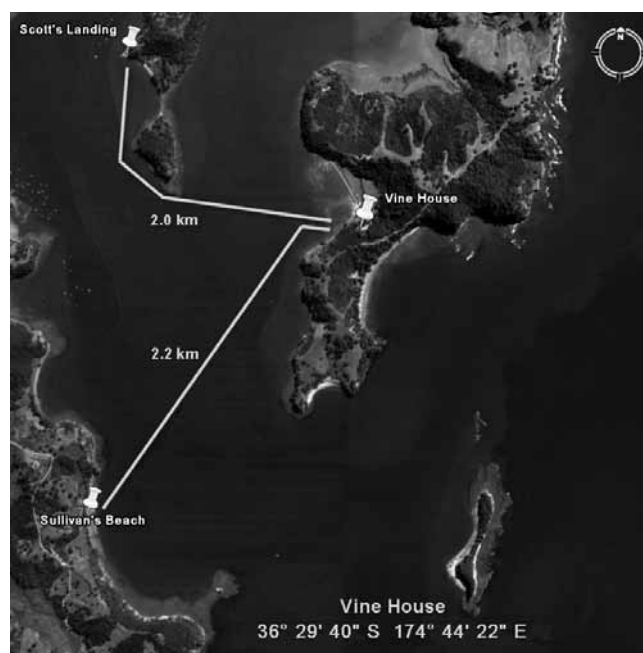
This gem in Mahurangi Harbour is a 2 km paddle from Sullivans Bay, which is the ARC park at the end of the Mahurangi West Road, first on the right past Puhoi.

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!

Club Trips – December 2009 / January 2010

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 you will be left to catch up.

Sunday 6 December – Second Swim Escort

Masefield Beach–Chelsea Sugar

Meet at Masefield Beach at 9.30am for briefing.
Race start 10.15 am.

Once again, cold drinks and a barbecue will be provided for all escortees at the end of the race.

Sunday 13 December

Christmas Brunch Party – Browns Island

Meet at Kohimarama Beach at 8.30am for 9.00 departure. Bring festive mood/dress, a present of around \$5 value for secret Santa, food for a shared meal and swimming togs!!

Sunday 24 January

Waiheke south side, or Ponui Island.

Weather dependant.

Call Erica on 360 2872.

Auckland Anniversary Weekend Friday 29 to Sunday 31 January

Vine House

Avoid the traffic jams be clever and have a local escape to the Vine house. Shorten your drive and get more of a paddle by leaving from a more southern launch spot than Sullivans Bay. Some good suggestions are Orewa, or even the Whangaparaoa-Manly Beach, Stanmore Bay. It's a beautiful paddle north to Mahurangi, and really not far from these launch spots. See details in the Vine house notice in the newsletter.

Coastbusters 2010 and International Kayak Week

Friday evening, February 26 to Sunday,
February 28

See details on page 5.

Impromptu trips

As it is the holiday season, many of you are doing your own thing. If 'your own thing' was a paddle and you thought it could be enriched by the company of other club paddlers, why not let them know about it through the club website forum. Check it out and see if any others may be paddling somewhere you want to go!

See top right hand side of the home page.

Or, send out / watch for email alerts!

What does it mean to be a contact person for a trip?

It means exactly that, a person who people contact. In a recent write up of a trip on Kaukapakapa River, it was written how successful the trip went even with the absence of the person who was "taking the trip". It was a case of club members knowing where to meet and at what time, so they could enjoy each other's company and go paddling together.

A contact person is one who others can call to find out what time and place to meet for a trip, almost like a phone 'notice board'. This person may also have come up with the idea of the trip in the first place.

With no one keen to stick their hand up to take these roles, then club trips can't happen.

If anyone is keen or has trip ideas for the future, that are different to the trips advertised in this newsletter, please email Will – trips@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz

Swim Escort dates for 2010

Saturday 20 February St Heliers to Tamaki Yacht Club

Sunday 21 March Rangitoto Wharf to St Heliers

Poet's Corner – Club Trip Report!

*Tapas on Tapu
Courtesy Justin
Setting the Standard
For camping this year
Erica Rosie Colin and Paul
Ash and the writer
Answered the call
To help diminish the goodies on hand
Camping means comfort
For Justin the camper
A stranger to words like stint
I would say
Over on Motu the Island of Tapu
Opened for camping
DOC work all done
A Saturday paddle
Through the gap Gardener
We stopped for a cuppa
Film crew close by
Filming a sequence
Of Heritage Baches
Wind in our backs
As we head towards East
Round the top Westward*

*Justin is waving
From the beach nearby
He went on the Friday
Now into the wind
Home Bay is waiting
As we enter the Bay
We all settle in
And gather together
Sampling Justin's delights
As we cook
Early on Sunday
A twenty knot Westerly
Conditions quite gnarly
But only as bad as we admit them to be
A saying of Colin borrowed from his brother
A comforting thought that I'll keep in mind
A bit of a chop out there in the Channel
Landed on Browns to rest from the wind
Back home on Kohi
From our little adventure
I reflect on the pleasures
Of camping with friends.*

Mike Randall

Coastbusters 2010 and International Kayak Week

Friday evening, February 26 to Sunday, February 28

International Kayak Week – the rest of that week

Website: www.coastbusters.org.nz

Talk to your kayaking friends and spread the word!

Where: Auckland New Zealand (Coastbusters Symposium)

Auckland – Martins Bay (International Kayak Week) Rotorua – NZ Kayak Builder's Get Together

Who: Novice to advanced sea kayakers

Why: Local & international key note speakers

*Seminars, workshops & panels covering all facets of sea kayaking
Demonstrations & practical sessions on paddling skills & techniques
On-water activities to develop skills & competency
Leisure time to network & socialise with fun like minded individuals*

Benefit: Improved kayaking knowledge & skill base

Increased knowledge of the Hauraki Gulf & surrounding facilities

Kayaking network increased with local & international paddlers Entertaining fun social event

The Red Team are currently scoping out the program and will have this locked down later this year. Now's the time for any content suggestions and ideas to assist in shaping the event. We're all ears.

Input to: redteam@coastbusters.org.nz

At home, at Home Bay

Colin Quilter

On 9 November a group of us celebrated the re-opening of the campground at Home Bay on Motutapu Island by paddling there for an overnight stay. Instead of getting there by the shortest route, (through the Motuihe Passage) we took the “scenic route,” traversing the narrow passage between Rangitoto and Motutapu at high water and then circumnavigating Motutapu to Home Bay in a clockwise direction.

The crossing from Kohimarama to Islington Bay takes about 1.5hr, but it’s a good idea to arrive at Gardiner Gap at least half an hour before the time of HW Auckland because high tide at the Gap seems to occur earlier than at Auckland city; and if you are to float through you need to get there right on high tide. Another curiosity is that the current in the Gap flows northward while the tide is still rising. Given the geography I would have expected the flood tide to set southward through the Gap, and the ebb tide to set northward; but that’s not what happens.

In any case, the northern side of the causeway is always a sunny and sheltered spot for a cup of tea. The causeway was built in 1942 to provide military access between coastal artillery sites on Rangitoto and Motutapu. Perhaps it has led to silting-up of the bays on each side, because it’s said that Samuel Marsden tried to sail a whale-boat between Rangitoto and Motutapu in 1820. He was unsuccessful and got stuck; but presumably he would not have attempted the passage if it had not been wider and deeper than at present. The causeway is also interesting because it links two islands of vastly different ages; Motutapu at about 180 million years old and Rangitoto at a mere 600.



Lunch in a little cove east of Billy Goat Point

For us the following wind continued all the way along the northwestern coast of Motutapu to Billygoat Point. Just east of the point there are some sheltered coves with shade and soft grass; here we stopped for lunch and met Justin who had paddled out the previous day. This brought our party up to seven, (Justin, Mike, Rosie, Paul, Erica, Ash and me). Once around the northern end of the island, and on the eastern coast, we met a headwind and a contrary current, so our progress slowed considerably.



Our encampment at Home Bay, with Justin’s Pleasure Palace at right.

It was good when Home Bay came into view in the middle of the afternoon. From a distance it seemed that a large group were already encamped on our favoured spot at the southern end of the bay; but we found that the tents belonged solely to Justin. The larger was an awning spacious enough to provide a cooking and dining area for our entire party; the smaller (but still commodious) was his personal accommodation. Not only was Justin prepared to shelter the whole party, we later discovered that he was willing to feed us as well. From the cavernous hatches of his boat he produced four bottles of wine and a selection of cheeses, dips and crackers which almost made dinner superfluous. Every kayaking group should include a Justin!

There was talk of a hill-top walk before this repast, but none afterwards. We lay about waiting for our stomachs to empty sufficiently to accommodate dinner. It’s a hard life, but somebody has to live it.

Sunday morning brought grey skies and the prospect of a slog home against the fresh southwesterly wind. Sure enough, as we entered the Motuihe Passage the wind had a discouraging weight to it; but the flood tide pushed strongly beneath us, and although we seemed to be bucking up and down in one place, when we watched the land alongside it became

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The Barracuda Boys at Bream Bay

By Roger Lomas



In early November I had booked a holiday house up north for a paddling weekend. Tucked away in the lower sweep of Bream Bay our base camp would be Waipu Cove. Three potential paddle options were planned depending on the weather that weekend. Plan A was to paddle out to the tip of Bream Head, B was to run down the coast to Mangawhai Heads and C was to explore Whangarei Harbour if the weather was foul.

Five of the regular Saturday morning paddle group had put their hands up for the weekend away. The early bird arrivals on Friday afternoon were quick to bag the best beds. They then had time to wander off and scope the local scene and find a decent restaurant for dinner.

We were all up very early on Saturday morning and the forecast was favourable for the Bream Head paddle. A short half hour drive had us at Marsden Point, our launch site.

Wedged in between the oil tanker terminal and the big new log export berth was a small beach which was perfect for providing easy access to the harbour. The tide was ebbing as we walked our kayaks through a small lagoon inlet to the deep water channel.

Our first task was to cross the harbour and round a



small island on the far side. We had to work hard to keep on track as the strong outgoing tide was at its maximum flow just here, the narrowest part of the harbour. It is this huge tidal flush that scours the deep water channel in this area which allows the giant tankers drawing up to 14.5 metres to berth here.

Over on the northern side of the harbour and out of the tidal torrent we paddled past the remnants of an old wharf, behind which lay the ruins of an abandoned freezing works.

Paddling close to the shore we followed the coast down the harbour. We passed the little coastal settlements at Turikua, McKenzie and Urquharts Bays. At the harbour entrance is Busby Head, keeping sentinel just offshore is Frenchman Island with its mysterious set of old steps leading up to a walled off doorway set into a cliff face.

Around the headland is Smugglers Bay and the last easy landing for a while. From here on the coastal escarpment steepens dramatically and rises up to the majestic rock pinnacles that crown the lofty Mt Lion.

Our forecast was for light Nor West winds in the morning with a change coming through late afternoon. This would swing the wind around to the South West and increase to gusty squalls. There was just the slightest hint of a swell and the water had lovely clear visibility. In these ideal conditions we were able to paddle close to the rocky shore.

On the steep slopes above us we could hear Tui crying out from the treetops. Further on we saw a flock of Kaka parrots fluttering about. Just offshore the Gannets were wheeling above and we enjoyed the spectacle of them plunging into the schools of shoaling fish. In the distance we could see a giant tanker at anchor near the Hen and Chicken Islands.

After a couple of hours of pleasant paddling we rounded a headland and entered Peach Cove. There was a small sheltered sandy beach with a log to sit on. Time for a cuppa.

One of the lads took the opportunity to make a cell phone call to a mate in Auckland. He informed us that a front was just passing through the city bringing with it foul weather. Our plan was to paddle to the tip of Bream Head. We were almost there but with this weather alert our plan changed.

We would now paddle out to the next small headland and gaze down towards the fabled Bream Head and then make rapid tracks back to Marsden Point.

It was approaching slack tide and conditions were still good. We made quick time on the return journey. At Busby Head we opted to cross the harbour and

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At home, at Home Bay

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obvious that the current was lifting us towards home at a good pace. In this wind-against-tide situation it pays to seek out the roughest water, because that is where the favourable current is running most strongly, and that is where the best progress will be made. With a strong head wind it also helps (as Erica found), to stow gear so that one's kayak is slightly bow-down. Being deeper the bow doesn't blow away from the eye of the wind so easily; and being higher the stern weather-cocks downwind which has the same effect.

So, against expectations, we were home by lunchtime. Another happy and rewarding trip down-harbour; my thanks to all who came.

PS. *It is perhaps worth mentioning that there are two options open to a party at Home Bay which is prevented from getting home by a strong westerly wind. One would be to leave kayaks at the DOC cottage at Home Bay, walk over the hills to Rangitoto Wharf, ferry home, and come back another day to recover the boats. The second would be to paddle south-east across the wind to Ostend on Waiheke Island, carry kayaks onto the vehicular ferry, and get back to the mainland (at Halfmoon Bay) that way.*

The Barracuda Boys at Bream Bay

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run in along the outer edge of the giant sandbanks that flank the harbour entrance. The wind change came through during the crossing. White caps quickly appeared on the port beam and we were glad that we had decided to turn back early. It would have been a long slog to windward in deteriorating conditions.

Quite a number of people were out on the sandbanks gathering shell fish. From a distance they appeared to be walking on water. We managed to find a small shallow channel through the inner end of the sandbank. This led us back into the deep water channel.

With the tide now flooding back into the harbour we ducked under the oil terminal berth which was a maze of pipes and hissing steam. It was an easy last leg up the harbour to the launch site. All up we had paddled over 30 kilometres that morning.

Our cars were found safe and sound in the small carpark above the beach. Although isolated it had the protection of security cameras. Before heading back to the cove some of the lads took time to visit the information centre. It had a large and intricate model of the refinery complex.

Back at base camp the chef set to preparing dinner. A good paddle always promotes a healthy appetite. Leg of lamb, roast chicken, new potatoes with peas and gravy. Our wine connoisseur had brought along a selection from the Fine Wine Company.

After dinner it was time to join the locals at the Waipu Pub and watch the All Whites qualify for the World Cup.

It was a great weekend away with good company. Fellow paddlers were Kevin Woolcott, Ian Smeeton, Ryan Whittle and Tony Hannifin.

Some tips re Holiday Homes for paddlers

For some years now I have been using holiday homes for kayaking weekends away and have noted the following.

- It is not important to have beach side accommodation. It is more desirable to find something that is within easy walking distance of cafes, bars, restaurants and shops.
- They are a very cost efficient accommodation option. When costs are shared amongst a group, \$15-20 a night per person is not unusual in off peak times.
- For larger groups of five or more, look for something with 2 bathrooms. It can get very busy at pre paddle departure times,
- Make inquiries about the availability of off street parking. It is comforting to know that your vehicle and kayak are safe and secure.
- Pay particular attention to the bedroom sleeping arrangements. A listing of 'sleeps 6' may mean 3 double beds.
- All holiday homes come well equipped. Generally all you need to bring is bed linen (sleeping bag) and food.
- Most holiday homes require a small bond. There is an expectation that you will leave the holiday house in a clean and tidy condition. It is a good idea to get all hands to pitch in and achieve this before departure.
- You can view a good selection of accommodation on the internet. Look under Book a Bach and Bach Care.

I hope this helps, Roger

Open Letter to the people of Auckland

We like to think that in a democratic society we control the environment in which we live. Obviously because it is a democracy we do not always expect get our own way, as the decisions should be based on the collective needs of the community at large.

To control the wishes of the citizens we elect councillors whose task is to elicit the wishes of the people and present them in a cohesive manner to the Council as a whole. There are a number of formal ways to present the wishes of the people to our Councillors, direct communication, formal presentations to the Committees of Council, and submissions to concept plans created by the Council itself.

After much debate a democratic decision is made by the Council which they believe meets the majority wishes of the citizens. The Council staff is then tasked with putting the wishes of the Council – the collective wishes of the community – into practice.

Unfortunately such a democratic process sometimes breaks down

The Landing at Okahu Bay was created in 1940 for the specific purpose of providing *room for Clubhouses* for the recreational boats moved from Mechanics Bay when the Seaplane base was being established. (*Plan B880-6 submitted to the Governor General under the Foreshore Grants Act 1875*). The plans provided by the Auckland Harbour Board – under whose guardianship the Landing was to be vested, showed a row of 7 sets of haulout rails with the clubhouses at the top of the ramp. (*Plan S461*)

Over the years the facilities at Okahu Bay have provided for the needs of recreational boat owners very well. In 1997 the City Council took over the guardianship role from the Ports of Auckland (formally Auckland Harbour Board) and announced various plans to tidy up the area and preserve it for future Aucklanders. For several years this plan appeared to be proceeding well. The Council staff prepared a number of concept plans and meetings were held with all interested parties, both the users of the Landing and the public at large. In Dec 2005 the Arts, Recreation and Cultural Committee submitted final plans to the Council for endorsement, and these were accepted. It appeared that the democratic process had succeeded in defining the way forward for the development of the Landing suitable to the present and future needs of the people of Auckland.

The plans were complicated somewhat by an additional, but separate, proposal that the Council was also considering – the creation of a new marina at Okahu Bay. This was a commercial venture and itself subject to heated debate by the public. Eventually this was consented to, but with strict constraints and requirements such as public access and the provision of fishing platforms etc. Currently this project is in breach of those requirements but that is a separate issue, the important point is the affect that the Marina development had on the plans for the Landing refurbishment.

The City Council drew up plans for the Landing in three stages. Stage one covered the area adjacent to the new Marina and they argued that this needed to be completed first in order for the Marina construction to proceed in an orderly way. Stage two was the refurbishment of the hardstand area and in particular the sealing of the gravel that had become contaminated over time with heavy metals etc. Stage three was the provision of a new multi-user clubroom to house the various user groups that were currently using the Landing.

It was these plans that were adopted by the Council and given to the Council Staff to implement. ***At this point the democratic process started to unravel.***

Stage one was completed but larger than initially approved. Stage two was broken into 2a and 2b (later 2b was subdivided again into 2b and 2c). Stage 2a provide for the car and trailer parking at the western end of the Landing – again construction exceeded the area defined in the plans and associated resource consents, and Stage 2b was the sealing of the hard stand area. Because stages 1 and 2a had exceeded the areas specified in the original plans, the council started to construct the hard stand area some 40 metres to the east of the original plans, severely encroaching on the area designated for Stage 3, the areas set aside for the small boat users.

This matter was brought to the attention of the Art, Recreation and Cultural Committee in 2007/8 and Council staff acknowledged that they had exceeded the approved resource consents. The Committee then instructed the Council staff to negotiate with all users and rectify the problems. Despite numerous attempts by users to have meaningful discussions with Council staff nothing happened. The Council staff proceeded to build to their own plans and ignored the directive of the Committee. The Council Staff appeared to believe they were outside the democratic process.

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Open Letter to the people of Auckland

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Despite numerous requests to the Council, and to the Mayor it appeared impossible to influence the actions of the Council Staff. They ignored the plans so carefully prepared and approved in 2005, and went ahead to create a hard stand that encroached on the area designated as Stage 3. Furthermore the Council staff announced plans for a million dollar travel lift to support the large hard stand they had built. At the same time the Council staff announced that the Landing project had run out of money and Stage 3 development was to be put on hold indefinitely. Thus the area designated for the largest number of people – the small boat users was not to proceed.

How can what appeared to be such as well designed project go so horribly wrong?

It would be easy to attribute the actions of Council Staff to incompetence but the actions appear to have been deliberate and precise. It is difficult not to conclude that the Council Staff had their own agenda, separate from that of the Committee and Councillors – whom they choose to ignore.

The issue has recently come to a head with the Council demanding that one of the long standing user groups, Okahu Haulage, cease all activities on the Landing. Although the Council is actively trying to deny previous correspondence, the reason given was that Okahu Haulage offered the public a cleaning facility that was far cheaper than any commercial venture run by the Council could offer and therefore they were a threat to the Council run operation. Okahu Haulage even offered their expertise to run the hard stand for the Council but that offer was ignored.

The Council Staff are obviously not working as part of the democratic process which defines them as servants of the elected Councillors and hence of you and I. Council staff should be working for us. They should have expert knowledge and be able to offer us through the Council Committees alternatives to achieve the wishes of the people. They should not be able to pursue their own objectives without approval from the people that are supposed to be serving.

If Council staff are choosing to ignore the wishes of the elected Councillors and through them the citizens of Auckland I have to ask why? What benefits are these staff deriving that we do not know about? It is difficult not to conclude that corruption of some form is occurring. It is public knowledge that the Council staff have permitted a registered company, *Quayside Marina Management and Construction Ltd* to operate from the Landing. What other private ventures are Council Staff involved in?

If the Council Staff are allowed to evict a group with over 30 years impeccable service to the Auckland community, who will be next? What other plans do Council Staff have that the people of Auckland do not know about?

In 2005 the Council Staff, lead by the City Architect Helen Kerr, provided a development plan for the Landing that satisfied the needs of all users and for the ongoing requirements of the people of Auckland. *That plan is still valid and should be implemented by the Council for the people of Auckland.*

As individuals we often think that we have little influence on the workings of local government, but despite the experiences at the Landing I still believe in democracy. As individuals we have the right to be heard, and the right to speak out when things appear to be corrupt. If the Landing is to be preserved for the people of Auckland then we need to make the wishes of the people of Auckland abundantly clear to all. The Okahu Haulage facility was one of, if not the only, remaining haul out facilities left in Greater Auckland. As such it had the backing and financial support of the Auckland Regional Council, yet the City Council is actively seeking to remove it for their own commercial gain. That is wrong.

It is our democratic right to inform the people of Auckland and show the Council that they are wrong. I ask all concerned citizens to start writing to the papers, to the Council and directly to the Mayor. Public concern does influence Local Government.

Ian Calhaem

30 November 2009

Gourmet Kayaking, Kawhia

Labour Weekend 2009

Erica Law

Scene: A home-made museum of old bits of New Zealand past (butter churn, wooden cross country skis, logger's toothed cross-cut saw, snow shoes, campovens, and the list goes on...) in a bach rivalling an Alternative Style home-stay (thanks Justin). Outdoors – hot steaming baths amongst the bush, a growing collection of art work a la Justin Sanson-Beattie, and a range of outdoor 'rooms'.

Put this together with exotic and delicious foods, including pickled shallots, prize-winning cheeses, salami, toasted marshmallows and cherimoya (an exotic sub-tropical fruit) laced with alcohol

AND

great company with entertaining campfire stories, and a raucous, giant-size game of jenga, with off cut blocks from Justin's building site.

RESULT – A memorable weekend of fun and laughter.



With some intermittent and interesting kayaking too.

Saturday – The day proceeded like this:

- One hour paddle from Te Waitere to Te Maika on the south side near the entrance to Kawhia Harbour
- One hour break for morning tea (freshly dredged raw scallops from Kawhia Harbour and orange-almond cake);
- One hour paddle (to Kawhia)
- One hour break for lunch (variously whitebait fritters, paua fritters, steak and chips, salad)
- One hour paddle and explore limestone passages between Okura Point and Manoua Point
- One hour afternoon tea (sweets, cashew nuts, apples)
- One hour paddle back to Te Waitere (Justin's bach)

Te Maika



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Jengaaaa!!



Gourmet Kayaking, Kawhia

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After our day out on the water, we were treated to a four course meal, with a stunning melt-in-mouth chicken, slow-cooked (2½ hrs) in a camp oven over an open pit fire.

Sunday – perhaps a slightly higher energy output to R&R than the previous day.

Thirty minutes drive to explore three lakes on iwi land. We found ourselves man-handling the nine kayaks down a bank into Lake Taharoa before paddling 40 minutes across the lake, chasing black swans and brown teal off the water surface. A bush bash through raupo brought us to the second lake (Numiti). We witnessed some interesting methods of transferring bodies from the floating vegetation into the floating kayaks, resulting in wet buttocks, as the gap between floating kayak and floating vegetation widened!

Ten minutes paddling, and we faced a second bush bash through to Lake Rotoroa. It required twenty more minutes to the furthest end of the lake, and some more manhandling of kayaks through a narrow band of raupo before reaching dry terra firma. Thank you for the services of our fireman, hunter, and host – it's very useful to have men around at times!

We enjoyed lunch in the sun, perched on a hill amidst farm land and forestry, no hint of habitation in sight. It was gloriously relaxing, with much humour and scatological talk led by the males of the party. But it was Judith who provided the gem of advice, long remembered from a nutritionist lecture: fluffy floaties good; stinky sinkers bad.

Perhaps our weekend of kayaking could best be summed up by this little exchange floating through the air as we basked/ dozed/ sunbathed. The conversation had turned to Jodie's flatmate David, who seems to have disappeared off the kayaking scene, overcome by the cycling bug:

Question – *Do you cycle Jodie?*

Answer – *Hell no, it's way too hard! Much harder than paddling in our floating picnic hampers!!*

The eight other somnolent bodies erupted with laughter. Yes, our Labour weekend was rather like that.

We were: Justin, Penny, Vanessa, Jodie, Judith, Rosie, Ash, Gary, Erica – and Locky (support crew/ kayak groupie/ entertainer).

Acknowledgements: Photos 'Through the raupo' and 'Lunch in the sun' courtesy of Vanessa.r



Through the Raupo



Lunch in the sun