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On a remote Manukau Harbour shellbank midway between Weymouth and Clarks Beach, club kayakers (L-R) Roger Lomas, Tony Hannifin and Eddie de Vries enjoy a cuppa.

PHOTO JEREMY FOWLER

Auckland Canoe Club Information

Postal Address

P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

Clubrooms

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

Website

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

Email event reminders

send blank email to

subscribe@aucklandcanoeclub.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

patron@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
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publicity@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
training@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
merchandise@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
vinehouse@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
newsletter@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
webmaster@aucklandcanoeclub.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

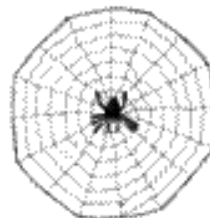
All major banks have set up Auckland Canoe Club as a registered payee for internet banking.

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 March

Password Haupa



Deadline for May Newsletter

13 April 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**

KAYAK STORAGE AVAILABLE

2 x spaces for multisport kayaks

Phone Gavin on 528 5188

Regular Events

Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

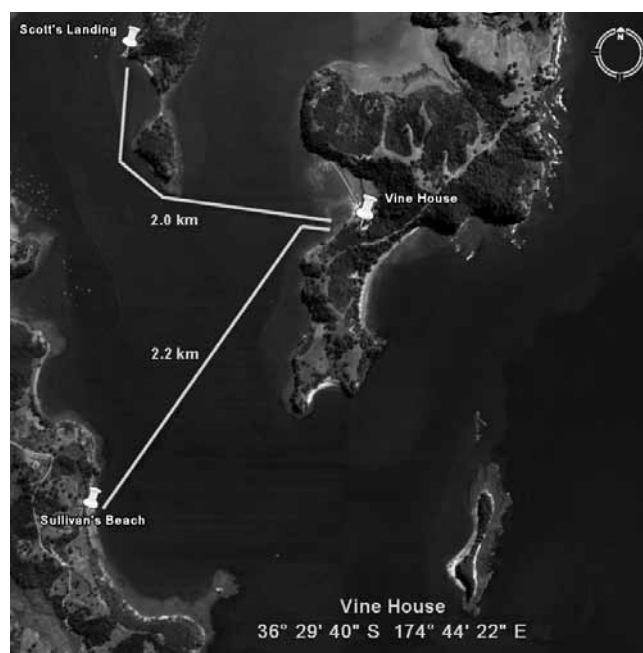
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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.



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 – April 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.

HATFIELDS TO TE MURI

Saturday 10th or Sunday 11th April

Leaving from Hatfields Beach, paddle past Waiwera with a stop at Wenderholm for a break, then on to Te Muri for lunch and hopefully a swim (water temperature pending). Return early to mid afternoon.

Phone Will 550 3699

WAITEMATA

Saturday 17th or Sunday 18th April

Kohimarama to Browns Island, then Motuhie and on to Islington for fitter ones.

For the folk who want a more relaxed day – leave from Kohi and paddle to Islington Bay to meet the others.

Home via Rangitoto wharf.

Phone Gerard Fagan 832 9720 Mob 021 0715 917

2010 NATIONAL CASK FORUM

Friday 16, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 April

Taurikura, Manaia Baptist Camp on the edge of Whangarei Harbour

Accommodation in bunkrooms or camping on site

A SOCIAL FUN WEEKEND WITH PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PADDLE,
SHARE IDEAS AND LEARN ON AND OFF THE WATER

Speakers and instructors from Australia (David Winkworth and Tina Rowley), and New Zealand (Mark Hutson, Steve and Sue Levett, Ruth Henderson, Lynn Burson, Evan Pugh, Paul Caffyn), whose topics include paddle strokes, expedition paddling, trip planning, solo and group rescues, surf landings and launchings, navigation, tidal and sea conditions, photography from a sea kayak, safety practices to reduce risk and tropical expedition padding.

- Great opportunities to take part in practical and theoretical sea kayak training
- A chance to see and share ideas on sea kayak design, gadgets and equipment
- Advice on local conditions, places to go and exploratory paddles
- The KASK AGM, dinner, awards and Saturday night DANCE
- KASK Photo Competition – bring your favourite photo prints to the Forum
- Post forum social paddling week: 19–23 April on the magic Northland coast

See the KASK Website for downloadable registration forms and more details: www.KASK.org.nz

President's Report

Dear All,

Whew! What a month.

I make no apology for this rather long explanation of what is about to happen at the Landing, unless we all do something about it...

You will all know how the Club has kept in touch with the City Council trying to show the Council Staff how much the Landing is used and endeavouring to persuade them to honour the plans that were agreed to back in 2002. It is still my personal opinion that the work carried out then ranks high amongst the Council's achievements. All users of the Landing were consulted and by means of positive and constructive dialogue differences were resolved until all users and the Council came to an agreed Concept Plan. That was then endorsed by the full Council.

A large part of that planning was a trade off between the small boat users of the Landing and the commercial factions who wanted to build the Orakei Marina. The public at large were against this development but eventually an agreement was reached where the Marina development included some very positive facilities for the public – access to the entire marina during the hours of daylight, and a new walkway along the breakwater terminating in a new fishing platform. The coastal walkway from the CBD to St Heliers Bay was enhanced by the inclusion of the walkway as an integral part of the Landing development. Access to the marina was across the Landing and part of the Council requirements was payment by the developer of an easement fee – believed to be about \$3.5M. The small boat users were told that this fund would enable the eastern end of the Landing to be developed and landscaped to make maximum use of the area both by the small boat users and the public at large. On this basis the Council gained support from the many small boat users on the Landing.

There were actually two different projects intertwined – the building of the Marina and the development of the Landing. The Council presented a plausible argument showing that the development of the Landing should proceed in three stages. The first was at the western end so that the marina Development could proceed in parallel, to be followed by Stage 2 – the hard stand, and finally Stage 3 which was for the small boat users. These developments were to divide the Landing roughly into three sections along the ramp. Of course it was Stage 3 that was of most interest to the small boat users, including the Auckland Canoe Club.

Although the Stage 3 had the smallest area it catered for the by far the majority of users of the Landing – perhaps something still not understood by present Council staff.

The key to making maximum use of the eastern end was the building of a new multi user facility encompassing storage for small boats, shared clubrooms with individual storage areas, and an area to be used by Ferg's Kayaks. Planned, but not detailed, was the provision for the display of the Ngati Whatua o Orakei ceremonial waka and with it facilities to welcome and support visiting waka crews.

When the new building was completed the existing buildings: the Auckland Rowing Club building, the Waitemata Rowing Club Building and the newer Sailing Club building were to be demolished to allow the entire area to be landscaped and thus become a focus for Auckland paddlers and small boat users. This concept was in line with the Waka Culture of Okahu Bay strongly proposed by Ngati Whatua o Orakei.

The new multi user clubroom building was to be funded by the Marina Fees.

Work started on Stage 1 and gradually worked eastward until the hard stand was completed. The users brought to the attention of Council that each of the stages exceeded the planned area and the end of the hard stand was going to be built approximately 40 metres too far east into the Stage 3 area reserved for the new multi user building. We were told that the boundary of the hard stand was approximate only and the final boundary was to be determined when detailed planning of Stage 3 and the Clubroom was finalised. This has not happened.

Since 2002 numerous requests have been sent to the Council asking for meetings to finalise Stage 3 but apart from assurances from the mayor, Hon John Banks, that nothing would happen without full consultation with all users, the Council has not responded. Yet the Council has now declared that they have run out of funds and Stage 3 development has been halted indefinitely.

Without consultation or any notification to the many users groups the February meeting of the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee tabled a proposal to:

The Chairperson put the substantive motion:

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President's Report

– continued from page 5

- A. That the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee endorses the principle of rationalising the lease and other arrangements concerning the Auckland Sailing Club, Coastguard Northern Regional *et al*, at the eastern end of The Landing, thereby revisiting outstanding issues related to tenure and enabling the tenants to consider undertaking redevelopment of the facilities on the site.
- B. That the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee approves in principle the formation of a trust comprising of Auckland Sailing Club, Coastguard Northern Region, retaining the right for council to appoint one or two trustees if it chooses, one of which may be a Ngati Whatua o Orakei representative.
- C. That the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee endorses the footprint of the eastern end of The Landing currently occupied by Auckland Sailing Club, Coastguard Northern Regional and Fergs Kayaks being leased to a trust (yet to be formed with trustees from Auckland Sailing Club, Coastguard Northern Regional and council).
- D. That the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee endorses in principle the trust subleasing part of the land and buildings at the eastern end of The Landing to Auckland Sailing Club and Coastguard Northern Region, with provision made in the lease agreements for further sublease agreements with prior approval from council.
- E. That the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee delegates negotiations between council, Auckland Sailing Club and Coastguard Northern Region regarding the rationalisation of the eastern end of The Landing to the Chair of Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee and the Group Manager, Arts Community and Recreation Policy.
- F. That the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee notes that the costs associated with establishing a Trust and lease arrangements for the eastern end of The Landing can be funded from existing Arts, Community and Recreation Policy budget.
- G. That officers report back to the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee on progress.

This motion was carried.

This move is counter to all the verbal assurances that the Council has given to the many user groups since 2002. It ignores the customary use of the area and is definitely not in the spirit of the discussions that have been going on for at least the last 8 years.

The question of leases for the buildings on the Landing raises a number of interesting legal challenges.

Who has the legal right for lease and occupancy of these buildings?

This point amongst others was raised by Moana Tamaariki-Pohe and Donna Tamaariki at the Public Forum of the February Council Meeting and then again at the March Meeting. At that meeting the council even voted against having representation from Ngati Whatua on the proposed Landing Trust Board. (in my opinion also confusing the role of Orakei Water Sports and Ngati Whatua who are separate entities).

The Chairperson moved:

That Donna Tamaariki, representing Orakei Water Sports, be thanked for her presentation to the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee regarding the rationalisation of leasing arrangements at the eastern end of The Landing.

Cr Fryer moved the following amendment by way of addition:

- B. That officers, including Pae Haerenga Tangata, report to the next meeting of the Arts Culture and Recreation Committee on options for the appropriate representation of Ngati Whatua on the proposed Landing Trust Board.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For the Amendment:	Against the Amendment:
Cr Dr Cathy Casey	Cr Ken Baguley
Cr Glenda Fryer	Cr Bill Christian
	Cr John Lister
	Cr Toni Millar
	Cr Greg Moyle

The amendment was declared LOST by 5 votes to 2.

The Chairperson put the substantive motion:

That Donna Tamaariki, representing Orakei Water Sports, be thanked for her presentation to the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee regarding the rationalisation of leasing arrangements at the eastern end of The Landing.

This was carried.

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President's Report

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I return now to question the legality of the Council moves regarding the leases.

The Sailing Club came into existence in about 1966 and built their building on the landing in about 1971 with the blessing of the then Auckland Harbour Board. Thus this is by far the youngest of the buildings, as the two Rowing Club Buildings were built in 1945 with approval from the Orakei Domain Trust Board. (The Sailing Club is also the smallest of all the user groups on the Landing)

The Auckland Rowing Club Building was then used by the Coastguard until they moved into new premises at Mechanics Bay and the building was then occupied by various groups including, Fergs Kayaks, the Multi Hull Club and the Auckland Canoe Club. The Waitemata Rowing Club Building was vacant for a while after the rowing club move further up the harbour, and was used for a while by Ngati Whatua and by the Auckland Canoe Club, who had previously been storing kayaks at the Ngati Whatua o Orakei Marae. For a brief period this building was also occupied by the R Class yacht Club who then joined with the Sailing Club. To date no documentation has been found giving anyone other than the two rowing clubs the original leases of the buildings, and more recently a lease from the Auckland Harbour Board leasing the Auckland Rowing Club Building to the Coastguard. It appears that that lease was not cancelled when the Coastguard moved to Mechanics Bay and has since been paid by Fergs Kayaks even though the Harbour Board gifted the new land at Mechanics Bay to the Coastguard.

For some time the current users of the Waitemata Rowing Club building have questioned the right of the Sailing Club to sub lease that building to Fergs and the Auckland Canoe Club. It appears that the Sailing Club has assumed that they have inherited a lease when the R Class club joined them but nothing has been uncovered to support his assumption.

Research is underway to document the history of the leases of the three buildings on the Landing. A request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act has asked for copies of all leases on the three buildings since 1945 when the Rowing Club buildings were approved.

I intend to challenge the Council over the planned Landing Trust Board, comprising only representatives from the Sailing Club (the smallest and youngest of the User groups on the Landing), Coastguard Northern Region (who were not part of the planning discussions in 2002 and have not had a presence on the Landing since 1991) and the council.

Since 2002 all discussions and assurances from the Council, and the Mayor, have been to develop the Landing as a joint venture between all users groups for the benefit of those groups and for the public at large. It has always been desired to develop the Landing into a true home of Waka Culture. Okahu Bay is historically an extremely important and significant site of waka culture, yet is largely unrecognised by Council or the public at large.

The Landing should be developed as planned in 2002 as a facility for all Aucklanders; as a minimum it should include facilities for...

- Waka taua (ceremonial)
- Waka haurua (double hulled sailing)
- Waka ama (recreational and competitive outrigger)
- Cultural practices associated with waka e.g. ;
 - celestial observations
 - traditional navigation workshops
 - traditional construction methods and materials workshops
 - hosting of visiting Waka crews. (e.g. appropriate welcoming space, place for karakia and other tapu lifting ceremonies, showers and cooking facilities).

It should support the current educational programs of the various clubs, such as Waterwise, Auckland Canoe Club, Fergs Kayaks, Orakei Water Sports and others.

All these groups work well together and given the right environment in which to operate could be developed into an educational facility unique to New Zealand.

The melding of modern and traditional customs into a true waka Culture as proposed by Ngati Whatua o Orakei will be of immense benefit to Auckland City.

It is essential that the Landing remains a multicultural, multi use facility managed by the users for the benefit of all Aucklanders.

I have requested to speak to the next meeting of the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee to put this argument to the Committee as a whole.

If permission is granted I will circulate an email to all in the hope some of you will have time to support me.

Ian

Kayaking Stewart Island (Part 2)

Colin Quilter

I finished the last chapter by describing the rounding of South West Cape; in which it would be more truthful to say I was swept around it by the phenomenal tidal race, rather than that I paddled around it. Less than a kilometre east of the cape there's a small inlet which opens to the south, and tucked unexpectedly into one side of the inlet is a tiny cove called Flourcask Bay (named after a rock supposedly of that shape). Being at the extreme southern tip of Stewart Island, Flourcask Bay is perhaps the most remote beach in New Zealand, and I wanted to camp there for that reason alone. I was also in a state of nervous tension after an hour in the tidal race, and needed to relax. As I rounded the corner and sighted the bay it looked like paradise: a bush-clad cove with a shingle beach, tranquil in the afternoon sun, and a complete contrast to the big swells outside.

But unknown to me, at that moment, two different world views were coming into conflict. I thought the cove was mine, at least for one night. The bull sea lion who lived on the beach thought it belonged to him; (this species is endemic to New Zealand, and used to be called Hooker's Sea Lion, now the New Zealand Sea Lion). Bull sea lions are highly territorial, bad-tempered, have big yellow teeth, weigh up to half a tonne, and they DON'T like kayakers trespassing on their property. So while I floated peacefully at the mouth of the bay, congratulating myself on finding such a haven, the sea lion was heading towards me, deep underwater, at a speed of about 20 knots. The first indication I had of his presence was when he erupted out of the water close alongside with a hissing roar, mouth agape and bloodshot eyes rolling. My heart stopped. Then after a few seconds my brain rebooted and I decided that, sea lion or no sea lion, I had to land. There was nowhere else to

go. So in to the beach I went, paddling furiously, with the sea lion protesting at every metre, and doing everything short of actually hitting me.

Once on shore I found a shaded and pleasant campsite in the scrub at the eastern end of the beach. After a cup of tea and a wash in the stream I was completely happy, in contrast to the sea lion who patrolled the cove all afternoon, not coming ashore but casting baleful looks in my direction on each circuit. I met sea lions several times during the following week, and never lost my fear of them. Judging from my experience (and comments from fishermen) I think it's unlikely they would make actual physical contact with a kayaker, but they are such big and aggressive animals, with such formidable teeth, that the consequences of an attack would be serious indeed.

The forecast next morning was for 20-knot headwinds later in the day, so I started early in spite of having the tidal stream against me. However I found that by using eddies close to the rocks I made surprisingly good progress; it was just the headlands that were a struggle, where I paddled at sprint speed to creep past them against the sluicing tide. Then at the southern entrance to Port Pegasus I was enveloped in fog, and had feel my way in using GPS. However by mid-day the fog had cleared, and I found myself in an expansive harbour so well enclosed that from most places the open sea is out of sight, and you might as well be on a lake. On every side the bush comes right down to the water, and to the west bare granite hills lift themselves above the forest.



Camped in enemy territory at Flourcask Bay



Entering Port Pegasus in fog

I expected that there would be many beaches and camping spots in Port Pegasus, but that is not the case. All the beaches are backed by rocks, and on many of them at high tide the water covers the sand completely and laps at the rocks, so that the beaches are only exposed at mid and low tides. Moreover,

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Kayaking Stewart Island (Part 2)

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since Port Pegasus was created when the sea flooded an ancient valley, it is the old ridges and hill tops which now make up the foreshore, and these are generally steeply-sloping. There's little flat land close to the water. I wandered around the harbour for several hours looking for a campsite without success, but late in the day found a DOC hunters' hut (the North Pegasus Hut) on an attractive white-sand beach in Pegasus Passage, inside Anchorage Island. The hut was empty, clean and homely, with 8 bunks and a potbelly stove, and I decided to make it my base for the next few days. (Note: both DOC and the Rakiura Maori Land Trust have established a number of hunters' huts on Stewart Island. Hunters have priority in booking them, but if they are empty then recreational users are welcome. Judging from entries in the hut books, many of the huts are used by only about ten parties each year).

I spent the next six days in Port Pegasus. That was enough time to explore most arms of the harbour. The day I enjoyed most was spent climbing Bald Cone, a 230-metre summit overlooking South Arm. The hill is so named because its granite core is exposed on the summit, and the naked rock has been weathered into spectacular slabs and boulders, some of enormous size. The track up Bald Cone begins in a little creek on the southwest side; once I had found the beginning of it the rest was easy to follow. Near the summit the route ascends a steep, bare rock chute but someone has helpfully hung a rope down the gully which turns a rather exposed climb into an easy scramble. The view from the top – of mountain, sea and shore – is stunning. I wandered around on the warm, bare granite in a happy daze, certain that this must be one of the best views in New Zealand, and feeling privileged to be standing alone in such a place on a glorious February morning.



Overlooking Port Pegasus from Bald Cone

If I had seen nothing else, that hour on top of Bald Cone would have made my Stewart Island trip worthwhile.

(Note: it might have occurred to the reader, as it did to me, that there's an element of risk in clambering alone among empty hills when no-one else knows of one's intentions or location. However on these walks I always took the 406MHz radio beacon from my kayak and carried it with me as insurance against a broken ankle or other injury. EPIRBs work as well on land as they do on the water).

From Port Pegasus there's a 25km stretch of coast where landings are few or absent, heading eastwards towards Port Adventure. I started early (of course) and reached Big Kuri Bay by noon. The hunters' hut there sits on the edge of a white-sand beach; it looked so inviting that I declared the afternoon to be a holiday from paddling. Now that the west coast was behind me I felt much more relaxed, and lying in the shade of a tree behind the beach I recalled the words of the baseball player Satchel Paige, "Sometimes I sits and thinks, and sometimes I just sits." Paige must have known a thing or two about sea lions, because another quotation attributed to him was, "Don't look back; something might be gaining on you."



"..... and sometimes I just sits."

Leaving Big Kuri Bay next morning I stopped briefly at the mouth of Lords River. Anyone serious about seeing the coast would have explored upriver but a holiday mood was upon me, and I so I paddled on along the coast to Little Kuri Bay where another hunters' hut sat just behind the white sand. It was barely 11.30am when I arrived there, and one could not possibly justify stopping travelling so early in the day, but it was such a nice spot that without hesitation, I did. Just as well I had no companions to reproach me for such laziness. Another afternoon was spent doing... nothing, and very pleasant it was too.

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Kayaking Stewart Island (Part 2)

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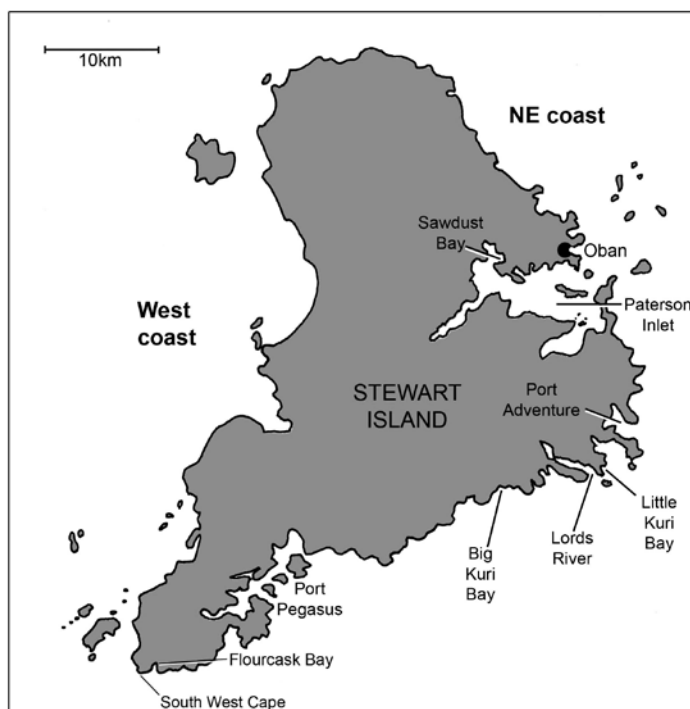
Heading east, the next headland was Shelter Point, with a 2-knot tidal race running in my favour; and beyond that, Port Adventure. The reader can probably predict my activities here (or lack of them). I paddled slowly around the harbour; wondered how the inlet called Abraham's Bosom had got its name; landed at the DOC hunters' hut in North Arm, which I disapproved of because it was south-facing and lacked a shady tree suitable for a contemplative kayaker; and then found a second hut at Kelly's Beach on the western side of the harbour. This one was so beautifully sited in a sunny, north-facing cove that I declared a holiday for the afternoon... again.



Not Tahiti, but Kelly's Beach

By now, although progress was limited by my unwillingness to paddle beyond lunchtime each day, I had reached the eastern end of Stewart Island. I headed northwards. About 9am next morning, after a couple of hours on the water I reached Chew Tobacco Bay where there is another well-sited hut on a lovely beach. I confess that I very nearly stopped to spend the rest of the day here, but then I wondered how I could explain such indolence to friends at home, and with several backward looks I continued northwards. By noon I had rounded Bullers Point, with Paterson Inlet open in front of me. In the distance, for the first time in a fortnight, I could see boats, houses, people. Oban was just a few kilometres around the corner. What to do? I didn't want the trip to end. When in doubt, make a cup of tea. Over lunch in a little cove just east of Bullers Point I looked at the map and decided to explore the far western end of Paterson Inlet, perhaps including the Freshwater River which enters from the northwest.

During the afternoon I worked my way up Paterson Inlet, past Native Island and Ulva Island, and eventually landed at the DOC campsite at Sawdust Bay. A cold front preceded by strong northwesterlies was forecast, and as predicted the next morning dawned grey and windy. This end of Paterson Inlet is very shallow, with extensive sand and mud flats exposed at low tide.



At about mid-flood tide I tried to find the mouth of the Freshwater River, but ran aground on mudflats 2 kilometres seaward of where I thought it must be. Assuming that somewhere the river must cut a channel through the mudflats I left the canoe and trudged some distance in what might or might not have been the correct direction; but if the channel exists I couldn't find it. By now clouds had hidden the hilltops and a stiff northwesterly was making life on the mudflats unpleasant, so without regret I settled into the boat and with the wind behind me travelled swiftly back down the length of Paterson Inlet. Once around Ackers Point, Halfmoon Bay opened up ahead of me, and before I could really accept what had happened I found myself standing on the Oban foreshore, 16 days and 354km after I had left it.

To summarise my impressions about Stewart Island: it is a kayaker's dream, being remote, beautiful and seldom-visited. The northeast and southeast sides of the island contain so many sheltered bays and inlets that, with the possible exception of the 25km stretch between Port Pegasus and Big Kuri Bay, one could always find a landing and somewhere to camp if the weather required it. Even on the west coast, the southern one third is well supplied with sheltered harbours (Doughboy, Three Legged Woodhen, Easy, Nicholson's).

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Night Paddle Round Rangitoto – 17 March

Eddie De Vries

During this summer a few of us have been going on a night paddle from Okahu on a regular basis. This includes Jimmy (the hose critic), Steve Davy and myself.

Tuesday seemed a great night for a decent paddle although the wind was up (SW), but not too strong; 12–13 knots. Tide was half and still coming in.

What shall we do tonight? Fergs had a number of kayaks out on the landing ready for a Rangitoto Trip and that sounded like a good destination to us too. Let's go round Rangitoto!! Jimmy was fast asleep at home instead of getting his gear ready meaning only Steve and myself would be going.

Which way to go? Take the channel first and then against the wind all the way from Islington Bay or Islington first and against the wind in the channel but tide with us?

On advice from Steve we decided on the latter as we could always find shelter along the Shore coast. I had my doubts about this as Steve has in the past shown me some of his weather forecast skills which I can say could be ignored at best.

The paddle started off very comfortably. Wind from behind. Not too much tide. But a little sloppy. We had some nice swells between Bean Rock and Islington Bay though. Great to pick up a swell and go so fast that you overrun the swell and get over the next and the next. I am learning. This time I managed that without capsizing as happened a few weeks ago off North Head.

Islington Bay was its normal serene scene. A few boats at anchor. The sound of soft spoken words carried across the still water. Otherwise quiet except for paddle noise. The gap was dry. The tide was not in far enough yet. This meant a short carry. 200m perhaps?? Was good to stretch the legs.

At the bridge we had a snack and some fluids, discussed fishing for flounder – the bach at the bridge is called Flounder Inn – and set out again. We had concerns that this side might also be dry, but there was enough water to paddle again. There was no wind to speak of in the leeward of the island

although I am told that the wind can often be against you all the way round Rangitoto. Beautiful as the sun was setting.

By the time we reached the far northern point of the island it was dark. Some ships at anchor over to Tiri side were nicely lit up, decent swells were bouncing off the rocky shore of Rangitoto, exposing hidden shallow rocks you had to keep an eye out for. It was great!!

By the time we rounded the island it was truly dark. We could not see the light house, but navigated by lights on the Shore and channel markers. The light house eventually appeared against the horizon and we aimed for that and then over towards Wilson Home while the channel seemed clear and it suited us to head straight into the swells caused by wind against tide. Once we were well across the channel we went straight for North Head. The wind had dropped by this time which made life a lot easier.

Had a small tinny zoot along the shore well ahead of us. It could initially only be picked up because of its noise. It had very little light going.

Eerie feeling when suddenly one realises there is a larger vessel also heading for North Head although well to our port side. Wind was from ahead, so sound was blown back. We only notice it because of its lights; but for that you have to have eyes in the back of your head; the exact reason why we stayed out of the channel. But it does teach one not to be complacent.

We timed our dash across the channel from North Head to Okahu after two ferries crossing as we left North Head well ahead of us. The channel seemed clear but then a cargo vessel appeared from the port in the shipping lane as we came closer. Best to give that a lot of space too. The wind had completely disappeared by now and we had beautiful flat water across. My first time having to aim for the club house from North Head in the dark and went too far west, but only by a few hundred meters as Ngapipi Bridge and then the marina gave me direction.

We had left Okahu at 5:30 and were back at 9:30. What a great night for my first proper night paddle.

Poet's Corner

*It was good to see Des
Back in the saddle
Hands on a paddle
Looking just fine
And that's the cool thing
About escorting swimmers
Meeting old buddies
Not seen for some time
Even one absent
Sent a text message
To the Club via Rona
Good luck with the swim
Forty eight kayaks
And four eighty swimmers
Braved Te Moana
Rangī to Heliers
Not many heart attacks
Very few shark attacks*

*Comfortable zephyrs
Sunshine and cloud
Keeping some swimmers in line
Was a problem
If it were my decision
I'd let them just go
Following closely
To where they would flow
Keeping them safe
From themselves and the sea
'Till they got where they wanted
Where'er that might be
So swimmers of Auckland
Rest assured in the future
We'll always be there
To join your adventure.*

Mike Randall

Fergs Kayak Sale

As you may have heard in the news recently, Fergs Kayaks have incurred a massive fine. This was a result of court action taken after an unfortunate mishap at their Wellington indoor climbing wall facility. The upshot of all this is a need to release capital tied up in stock at the two kayak shops to pay off the fine. A major kayak sale will take place.

The Okahu Bay shop will be awash with heavily discounted kayaks and associated gear. It will be a good opportunity for club members to upgrade or renew their kayaking needs.

Our good neighbour Fergs have been very supportive to our club over the years. Why not call in and see if you can help them and maybe pick up a bargain at the same time.

Kayaking Stewart Island (Part 2)

– continued from page 10

The three major problems that I see in a trip around the island are:

- 1) The cost and time required to get oneself and kayak to and from Oban (more than \$1,000 and 6 days of driving if you take your car from Auckland with a kayak on the roof).
- 2) The northern 30km of the west coast from Cave Point to the south end of Mason Bay. On this stretch there are no harbours and the southern ocean swell creates such a heavy surf that landing, if it becomes necessary, will almost always be a desperate measure.

- 3) Tidal races around the major headlands, especially South West Cape; but the solution is to traverse these at slack water, especially if that occurs early in the morning before the wind gets up.

As always, I took plenty of photographs and if Roger gives me a spot during his program of winter social evenings, I'll show them to you.

Happy paddling!

Colin

Mimiwhangata or Bust

Garry Schroder

All fired up by the newsletter with Will Henden's trip plan for 'adventurous types and good rock gardening' to Tutukaka, I loaded up and headed north on the Thursday planning on checking out the fabled Mimiwhangata coast then heading back to Tutukaka.

This was precious R&R time begged, borrowed and stolen, so once Wiakahoa Bay camp was found there was no point in leaving as it was all there in abundance. There are modern composting toilets and the photos on the sign show it's popular over the silly season, but when offpeak as now – perfect hardly anyone else there!

If you've got a copy of Vincent's kayaking guide it needs a footnote as facilities exist there now 'a la' DOC camp for \$8 off season pp per night, and the farm manager/rangers kids sell ice.

There were only two couples there on arrival and met Dave and Diane, Erica's Fiordland trip friends from Wellington on their final night there after attending Coastbusters International Kayaking week and exploring parts of Northland coast.

They had encountered the aftermath of a tropical cyclone – big ground swell that limited things – but it was settling, so sea conditions improving. The radio was promising 25-35 knot SW for the first couple of days, so precluded going offshore round the peninsula, but back to Helena, Teal Bays. Inshore up into Whangaruru was plenty of massive scenic paddling, fishing to be had.

The Mimiwhangata Reserve allows some fishing, no sinkers and selected species, but the area around seemed prolific.

One morning I headed out reasonably early to find the whole bay teeming with Kahawai schools voraciously feeding on small smelt, but not that interested in my lures. On stopping to try another plastic troll lure, I picked up a good snapper scrounging under them – game on! Two more followed, into the threader and deck chilly bag, then on around the peninsula to explore further out.

Sneaking South in the lee of the headlands through amazing reef structure, rock gardening, got enough searoom to ferry glide out then head NE with stern quarter seas to have an exhilarating surf out round Rimariki and the other Wide Berth Islands with the Poor Knights in the backdrop – "Priceless!"

Nearing the NE tip of the group had to watch out for Boomers from the swells over the reefs, but easily spotted with good speed on (planing down the 2 mtr seas) then rounding to the W past fishing boats anchored in the lee.

They reckoned the fishing was slow, didn't brag about my bag full, and continued back along the sheltered side with amazing rock spires, reefs etc. to seal the deal.

Back to Mimiwhangata Bay for a short slog back across to the camp as the wind was building again. Followed a maple leaf flagged cruising yacht coming in to anchor then when filleting out my fish met the Canadian couple and their infant son who'd camped the night on their way out and offered them some. They seemed a lovely family (he had the grizzly Adams beard) and were enjoying wintering over in our warmer climes, so were rapt with the fresh fish and gave me a sealed tin of maple syrup from their community in Vermont.

The last day duly arrived with the best sea conditions, so off out to some spots I'd decided needed more attention to have a fish. A few squalls of light rain came through then it died to glassy calm – it's the first time I've sight-fished snapper – you could look down and see them going about their business! Then wham, a solid hook up to one of the best conditioned, fighting snapper yet who put skills to test on the light gear around the bricks and kelp. Lucky the solid drag on my reel allows you the advantage of winching yourself above the fish to keep his head up out of the foul, but he took me for a good tow and a fair bit of fast kayak manoeuvring was called for.

Whoops of delight on a well fought battle then a couple more fish for good measure to appease the hunter/gatherer role then home again, home again, jiggedy jig.

All in all one to file in the annals of absolutely fantastic for a relaxing stay and play expedition.

Garry

Weekend away at Tutukaka

Will Henden

On the weekend of the 13th and 14th of March, four paddlers, Helen, Paul, Chantal and me (Will), drove north in the near darkness up to Tutukaka. We had a deadline of getting there by 9:00 pm before the gates on the holiday camp shut.

We settled in for the night, tents up, teeth clean and bed.

The next morning we woke to a good looking day, not many clouds and a slight breeze. The campground is positioned about 400m from the boat launching ramp. It's set in a valley of farmland and is not too large with good and tidy kitchen amenities and toilet blocks.

We set about getting sorted for a day's paddling, and lifted kayaks onto trolleys. Then repositioned some of them back onto their trolleys after going over the judder bars!

Cheapsakte kayakers – all 4 ignored the \$2 boat launching fee and swiftly eased our boats off the end of the ramp, packed trolleys, tied hats, adjusted straps, life jackets and boarded our vessels.

By this time the wind had increased in strength, and as we exited the bay white water could be seen between the south bluff and a large rock/island. As we approached this area it became clear that the white water was breaking about the various smaller rocks in the area, but we had clear deep water passage through. Paddling south towards the southern bluff of the outer bay, the water was flat in the lee of the wind and two of us found a narrow, and slightly surgy channel through to the other side bluff. This put us in an exposed area with by now a southerly of about 15–20 knots and good fun seas which kept us focused. Chantal and I had been the first through the gap, Helen we thought was following, Paul thought wisely and came around the outside of the bluff, with Helen chasing him up after deciding against the gap.

We all regrouped and Chantal, Helen and I decided we would have a peek around the next point to the south, while Paul went back around the bluff into the bay to try some fishing. The waves were fun, but care had to be taken to avoid large rocks that became exposed as the swells passed.

We three made for the next point and once I had reached the point where I could see around the point I pointed to what I could see which was (as is often happens) another point! So we decided that it was pointless to round the point we were at just to reach another point, at which point we turned and paddled pretty much back the way we had come except for rounding the bluff rather than returning through the gap, as by this point the tide was still going out.

We met up with Paul again and were all keen to explore some more. Across the bay it was hard to tell if there was a gap through to the next large bay to the north. Once we got closer we were able to paddle up a short channel and around a corner into a small beach. I jumped onto land, had a squiz and found only a 10m or so walk over a 1m sandy rise into the next bay, which was flat, being in the lee of the wind.

We had an early lunch there and then spend the next couple of hours paddling in and around some gorgeous rock gardens with visibility in the water of about 8m seeing lots of kina and starfish on the rocky bottom. There are terrific channels and passages to race in and out of with gentle pushes from the less than a 1m swell forecast for that day. At this stage snorkelling gear would have been the thing to have. We didn't cover much distance on the one day's paddling we did, but for me it was great just to see a new area, a place I hadn't paddled yet. It is a place that offers good rock gardening, interesting geographical features, for us a seal spotting, and some good star-(fish) gazing.

Had the weather been a tad less windy, we could have covered more distance and got around some other points to the nearby beaches – to the north Matapouri, and to the south Whangaumu, Ngungaru and Wharewa Bay and Pataua Bay further south again.

With careful planning, one could even combine a great paddling day, with another day tripping to the Poor Knights for a bit of world class snorkelling/diving.

Happy paddling.

Will

AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



- New Member**
 Rejoining

Surname: _____ **First Name:** _____
Family Name(s) _____

Address: _____ **Suburb:** _____ **City:** _____
Phone (home): _____ **Mobile:** _____ **Fax:** _____
Phone (work): _____ **Email:** _____

Rate your Experience: I have completed a basic skills course.

- No Experience**
 Novice (confidently forward and backpaddle, paddle for 30 mins without rest)
 Intermediate (able to brace, perform a deep water entry, paddle for at least 2 hours or 25 km)
 Advanced (self rescue in all situations, off-shore paddling experience)

Do you own a kayak? **Yes** **No** **If YES list type(s):** _____

Please select the types of kayaking your are most interested in:

- Sea kayaking Touring Sea kayaking racing
 Whitewater Surf/rodeo/polo MultiSport

Kayak trips: Are you interested in co-ordinating kayak trips? **Yes** **No**

To comply with the Privacy Act 1993, please read and complete the form below.

I Agree **I Disagree**

To let the Auckland Canoe Club publish my name, address phone Number or any other information concerning me in the Club Newsletter or to National Canoe Associations. I accept responsibility for correcting this information where applicable.

The Auckland Canoe Club and its officers take no responsibility for any injury any person may suffer, or any damage to equipment, while participating in the Club's kayaking activities. Any Person, who does participate, acts at his or her own risk.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Fees for the year ending 31 March 2011

- Member \$30** **Family \$35** **Life Member**

Post to: Auckland Canoe Club, PO Box 9271 Newmarket, Auckland

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