



July 2010

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Winter Lecture Series – Intrepid explorer, Ian Calhaem will share his experiences of sailing the Pacific in a schooner to rarely visited atolls of the Northern Cook Islands. *Marine Rescue Centre, Tuesday 20 July, 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.*

See page 4



SS Southern Cross – my transport for 3 weeks.

PHOTO IAN CALHAEM

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>	Eddie de Vries	480 5623
<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>		
<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@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
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trips@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
publicity@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
training@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
merchandise@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
vinehouse@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
newsletter@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
webmaster@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz

Club Trip/Event Policies

Visit the Club website for details of safety and other important policies.

Contacting trip/event organiser

You must notify the trip organiser in advance of your intention to go on a trip. Organisers need to know numbers and to be able to contact you if the plan changes.

You must also discuss with the organiser in advance any medical or other conditions (such as your experience and ability) that might affect the progress of the group.

Cancellation

If the weather looks uncertain call the trip co-ordinator.

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.

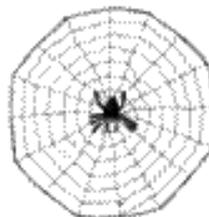
Internet Banking

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 July

Password Piako



Deadline for August Newsletter

20 July 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

Crosswind # 2 For Sale

LAST CHANCE FOR INTEREST FROM CLUB MEMBERS

*This kayak will be
advertised publicly in August!*

\$1,800.00

Good Condition Orange colour
2 used ex-Club Spray Skirts available if required.

Phone Gavin Baker on 528 5188

Regular Events

Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

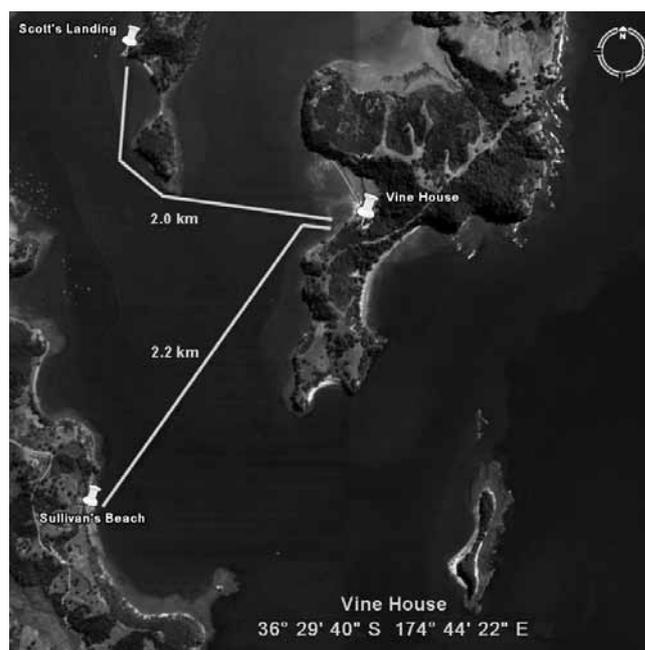
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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!

President's Report

Well folks I suppose it is fitting that I should be writing this from Rarotonga as it gives me time to reflect on the trip that I will be talking about in the next Winter lecture. It does not feel like winter up here with a pleasant 27 degrees with a full moon shining over the calm lagoon. Still it is work and someone has to do it! I am just glad that it happens to be me.

I was disappointed that I was unable to get to the Annual General Meeting. I was laid low with the flu, but this is an opportunity to thank those who took over. To me it is a very positive sign that the Club is working well when we have so many dedicated people who "Just make things happen".

There are two people in particular that I want to recognise publicly – our Newsletter editor, Claire, who most people seldom see but who manages to coerce or otherwise obtain the material to go into the newsletter each month. I know that this is not an easy task but Claire makes it seem simple.

The other person is Roger and in particular the job he does to organise the Winter Lectures. This has to be arranged months in advance and it is my privilege to accept Roger's invitation to speak this month.

I will see you all later this month,

Happy and safe paddling,

Ian Calhaem, President.

Winter Lecture Series – Tuesday 20 July

Our club's winter series of informative talks continues on Tuesday 20th of July. Club President Ian Calhaem will be along to recount his South Seas adventure voyage.

Do you know where Palmerston Island is? How about Suvarrow? Our July winter series lecture will reveal all as intrepid explorer Ian Calhaem shares his experiences of sailing the Pacific in a schooner to the rarely visited atolls of the northern Cook Islands. Last year Ian had the opportunity to visit these islands as part of a Cook Island Government trip and will share with you the remoteness of these islands, the people and the scenery.

The winter series is held at our clubrooms at the Marine Rescue Centre which is next to the harbour side heliport. It provides the ideal venue to catch up with fellow club mates and is also the perfect place for newer members to become more involved.

This year's series will run from June through till September and is scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month. Our usual format is to meet at **7 pm for a 7.30 start.**

The Winter Lecture Series is open to everyone so feel free to bring along friends. A small door charge of \$2 will cover your supper and a gift for the presenters.

The company of fine friends and the useful knowledge garnered at these evenings is priceless.

For further information contact Roger Lomas on 846 6799



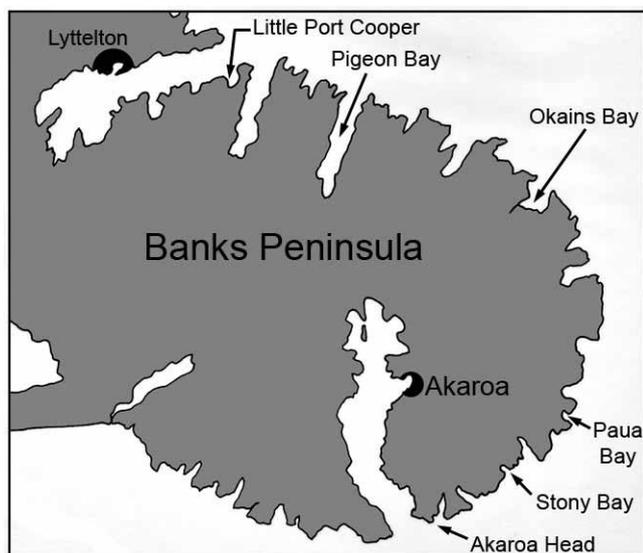
A busy day on Palmerston Island.
PHOTO IAN CALHAEM

Around the big volcano

This time with pictures!!

Colin Quilter

We Aucklanders are used to paddling around volcanoes. For us a circular trip around Rangitoto is routine: morning tea at Gardiners Gap, lunch at McKenzie's Bay, keep the mountain on your left, and 4 hours later it's done. There is one other place in New Zealand where you can have a similar experience, and that is Banks Peninsula. In March this year I spent a few days exploring the coast there. This is an account of my trip.



To understand Banks Peninsula from a kayaking perspective, you need to know a little bit about its geology. Banks Peninsula began as an island formed by two overlapping volcanoes. The Lyttelton volcano erupted first, about 11 million years ago; then the Akaroa volcano about 8 million years ago. Subsidiary eruptions occurred so that perhaps more than just two volcanoes were involved; but the result was a volcanic island about six times larger than Rangitoto, circular in shape, with two major craters. As time passed the two volcanoes were eroded to about half their original height, and the streams draining their flanks carved deep valleys in a distinctive radial pattern. These valleys were flooded by the ocean, (making the present bays and inlets) and about 6,000 years ago so were the two volcanic craters. The northwestern crater formed Lyttelton Harbour, and the southeastern crater Akaroa Harbour. At some point the alluvial plains on the eastern side of the Southern Alps extended outwards to touch the volcanic island, and it became a peninsula, joined to the South Island by the flat gravel plain on which the city of Christchurch is now built.

The result of all this geology is that a paddler expects to begin in one flooded crater and end in another; and follow two-thirds of a circle in between. I decided to paddle from Akaroa to Lyttelton; but first had to wait out some wicked weather. As I arrived in Akaroa an active cold front marched in across the harbour, lashing the water white with spray. The manager of the campground offered me his prime site, on a grassy promontory with a fine view, but in that position only a tent made of sheet iron would have lasted for

long. Anything made of fabric and cord would have been blown across the hills to Lyttelton within minutes. I searched the campground and found a sheltered place with a thick hedge to windward, and there I stayed for the next two days. It was no hardship, because there is plenty of good walking to be done on the crater rim that surrounds Akaroa; and of course one can also wander among the trendy cafes and boutique shops in the village.

On the third morning, after an early start, I paddled out to the mouth of the harbour. It was a cold grey day with a biting southeasterly wind, and – more significantly – there was also a heavy swell left over from the gale of previous days. I hesitated at Akaroa Head, watching the waves explode on the black cliffs below the lighthouse, but decided to continue because if necessary there were several pull-out points ahead. So I worked my way slowly northeast along the rugged coast. The swells reflected off the cliffs to generate a very confused sea (clapotis), and concentration was necessary. Nor was there much of a view; the cloud ceiling was low, so that the hills on my left were hidden in mist. Black cliffs, black headlands, grey cloud and grey ocean were my lot.



Grey skies and big swells on the southeast coast

What made this paddle pleasurable was the wildlife I met. Four different pods of Hector's dolphins diverted from whatever business they were on to visit me. One group spent several minutes playing around the kayak, which I thought was unusual because when I've met these dolphins before (off the Kaikoura coast) they ignored me. And flocks of seabirds worked the

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Around the big volcano

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Hector's dolphin playing beneath my bow. Note the distinctive rounded dorsal fin.

coast, wheeling past like bullets in the cold wind. My favourite was the Buller's mollymawk, a small albatross with beautiful grey feathers on head and neck. Much larger was a Wandering Albatross which came slicing in at mid-morning to look at me. These birds travel crosswind in a series of graceful arcs at tremendous speed, (measured in another species at about 130km/hr), and all without a single wingbeat. It made my progress, labouring among the swells, seem pitiful.

Hours passed and I looked for a rest stop, but finding a landing was not easy. I passed one inlet after another, but they had beaches only at their distant heads. At the mouth of each inlet were sheer cliffs with none of the little coves I had hoped for. The small inlets such as Stony Bay and Paua Bay had dumping surf on the beaches at their heads. The deeper inlets were more protected but to get a landing I would have had to paddle several kilometres into the distant head of the bay, which I was unwilling to do. Eventually after 8 hours on the water I had seen enough of cloud and swell, and I came ashore through small surf at Okains Bay. About two-thirds of the journey to Lyttelton was behind me.

The campground at Okains Bay is among pine trees on a sandspit which separates the sea from an estuary behind the beach. All the land is low-lying and has historically been vulnerable to tsunami damage. In 1868 a tsunami created a tidal bore which advanced up the estuary and washed away a road bridge 3km inland. However I didn't worry about a tsunami; of more pressing concern was another cold front expected overnight. Sure enough, two days of bitter weather followed with the wind roaring through the pines overhead. A caravan near my tent had one of its windows blown in during the night, but I found a sheltered spot in the lee of a big pine, tied my kayak to the same tree, and rode out the weather in reasonable comfort.



The campground at Okains Bay is beneath the pines. A small channel into the estuary is at the far end of the beach.

When the wind eventually relented I found conditions on the water transformed for the better. The northern side of the Banks Peninsula is protected from a southerly swell, and I paddled out of Okains Bay in sunshine and calm seas. During the morning I worked quietly along the coast, able to relax and let my mind wander for the first time on this trip. The inlets here are long and narrow; I floated at the entrance of Pigeon Bay, half-tempted to paddle in for a tea break, but the beach at its head was 7km away and actually below my horizon! A 14km paddle just to get a cup of tea was too much even for me, so I paddled on. Late in the morning I entered Lyttelton Harbour, and just inside the eastern headland unexpectedly found a delightful bay, Little Port Cooper.

This is a lonely and beautiful spot. Nestled in the centre of the bay is a single building, a quaint schoolhouse which was built 125 years ago for the children of the signalmen on nearby Adderley Head. Of the cluster of signalmen's cottages which once surrounded the schoolhouse, nothing remains. I had



Soaking up the sun at Little Port Cooper, after days of cold weather.

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Around the big volcano

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a leisurely lunch in the warm grass beneath trees nearby, and enjoyed the place so much that I decided to spend the afternoon walking and to camp there overnight.

In the morning I had just a short paddle in glassy conditions into Lyttelton Harbour. At the yacht club I was offered a hot shower, and somewhere safe to leave my kayak while I travelled (by bus) back to Christchurch and then out to Akaroa to get my car.

In retrospect, I think that in settled weather this would be a really pleasant and undemanding two-day paddle. Even better, make it a 3 or 4-day paddle with as many landings as possible.

My memories of the trip are mostly of wind and swell and grey skies; but that is to be expected given the weather I encountered. In kayaking, as in life, one can only agree with Dolly Parton who observed that, “If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.”

Happy paddling!

Colin



Historic schoolhouse at Little Port Cooper

A midwinter paddle

Last year around midwinter the weather forecast was for absolutely foul conditions. Gale force winds and torrential rain were predicted to thrash the Auckland region over the upcoming weekend. The early morning kayak group lads were still keen to have their Saturday sunrise paddle though. After all the relevant information had been entered into the paddling computer the call was made. Meet at the Mercer boat ramp for a foray on the Waikato River.

Driving down the Southern Motorway in the pre dawn darkness the next day proved to be a daunting task. Yes the fearsome forecast was true and there were but a few fellow fools out on the road that morning. Forward visibility was marginal and it was a slow and cautious crawl through the relentless horizontal waterfall. In severe gale buffeting conditions one is always thankful for that secure kayak bow line tether. A precautionary stop was made at the Papakura motorway BP to check all the tie down lashings. Onward, up and over the Bombay Hills. Thoughts now of how many loose litres of stormwater could be sloshing about in the kayak if the cockpit cover had come off.

On arriving at Mercer the wild weather had only relented slightly. When dawn arrived it revealed just two kayak topped vehicles at the boat ramp carpark. Well we sat for a while enjoying a hot cuppa together and swapped our tales of terror on the wet and wild road to the Waikato.

The rain was still hammering down on the hood and in the cosy warmth of the car cab we applauded our effort in making it here. Of course we had to make

some disparaging remarks about our wimpy mates who had not arrived. One had already sent a text to advise that it was no contest. The warm bed had won. He may had been snug but we were feeling very smug and somewhat superior.

Outside in the half light of dawn we could see the river running high, rainswept and cold. Another cuppa seemed like a good idea and over it we plotted an appealing plan. We would temporarily postpone the paddle and retire instead to the warmth and comfort of the nearby Pokeno Bacon Shop Cafe. There over a large plate of their famous bacon and egg breakfast we would ride out the storm and then perhaps possibly go for a paddle.

As we slurped the last dregs from our cuppa a car pulled into the boat ramp carpark. Two young lasses, young enough to be our daughters left out into the driving rain and disappeared into a nearby shed. They emerged minutes later with a double rowing skiff. We watched in disbelief and awe as they calmly went about prepping it for a row. Oh bugger, our male masculinity bubble had just been burst.

A feeling of guilt crept into our cocoon of comfort and without saying a word we both stepped outside somewhat sheepishly and made ready to go for a paddle.

Later after a good brisk midwinter run up the river and into the wetlands of the Whangamarino, the weather eased and the rain relented. That plate of bacon and eggs tasted much more deserving when we returned.

Fellow paddler and storm rider was Tony Hannifin.

Roger Lomas

Poet's Corner

*The bicycle and kayak
Seem to go together
Well one at a time I mean to say
Depending on the weather.*

*They're both propelled by muscle power
Reasonably green to boot
Uplifting in the wellbeing sense
Models galore to suit
The large the small the aged
Chicks and blokes alike
When all else fails you're feeling low
Just get on your bike.*

*It's coffee time on Saturday
The Kohi group is nigh
But it's blowing twice a gale
Water's gushing from the sky
You sit and ponder what to do
Cup of coffee by your side
A brilliant thought comes to the mind
Great weather for a ride.*

*You could always play your violin
Catch up with the mail
Write a poem read a book
Make a kayak sail.*

*Now all these things are admirable
Activities in their way
But after a week of working
You require some outdoor play.*

*So the paddle's out the pedal's in
They are just so complementary
Too wet and wild for paddling
Ride out towards the country.*

*Justin's off the paddling
His right hand in a cast
Left hand ok for biking
He needn't go too fast
He needn't even leave the house
With a static bike to ride
A tele screen with a moving scene
A mind to roam world wide.*

*The sun is shining sky so blue
Calm and windless heavens
To cycle or to kayak
Decisions decisions decisions.*

Mike Randall

Club Trips – July/August 2010

Please phone Eddie on phone 480 5623, mobile 027 271 4679 or email Eddiev@blacktop.co.nz Wednesday or Thursday to express interest in any of the trips listed below.

Tuesday 20 July

Winter Lecture Series, Marine Rescue Centre 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

Ian Calhaem will tell us about his recent South Seas adventure voyage.

A small door charge of \$2 will cover your supper and a gift for the presenter.

For further information contact Roger Lomas on 846 6799

Saturday 24 July

Red Beach

Easy paddle along Orewa beach front, past Waiwera and Wenderholm to Te Muri DOC camp site.

Bring lunch.

Call Eddie 027 271 4679

Weekend of 31 July/1 August

Vine House Weekend

Another opportunity to enjoy good company at Vine House!

For information contact Trevor Arthur 817 7357

Saturday 28 or Sunday 29 August

St Heliers to Motuihe Island

Outgoing tide from St Heliers, via Browns Island to Motuihe. Check out progress made with establishment of native bush.

Bring lunch. Back at St Heliers mid afternoon.

Call Phillip Noble 573 3493

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

Print Form

Submit by Email

Total Payment

- Cheque** **Bank Transfer**

Bank: BNZ, Newmarket
Acct: 02-0100-0023453-000
Name: Auckland Canoe Club
Particulars: **Your name & initials**
Code: **Subscription**



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



To:

