



August 2010

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It's early August and these lads were all up before dawn for their Saturday sunrise paddle. Enjoying a cuppa on a Manukau Harbour beach up past Laingholm are (L-R) Matt Crozier, Eddie de Vries, Tony Hannifin, Roger Lomas and Kevin Woolcott.

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

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>	Matt Crozier	817 1984
<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>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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vinehouse@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
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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.

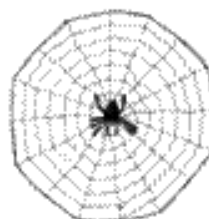
Internet Banking

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 July

Password Waitakaruru



Deadline for September Newsletter

17 August 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**

Regular Events

Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

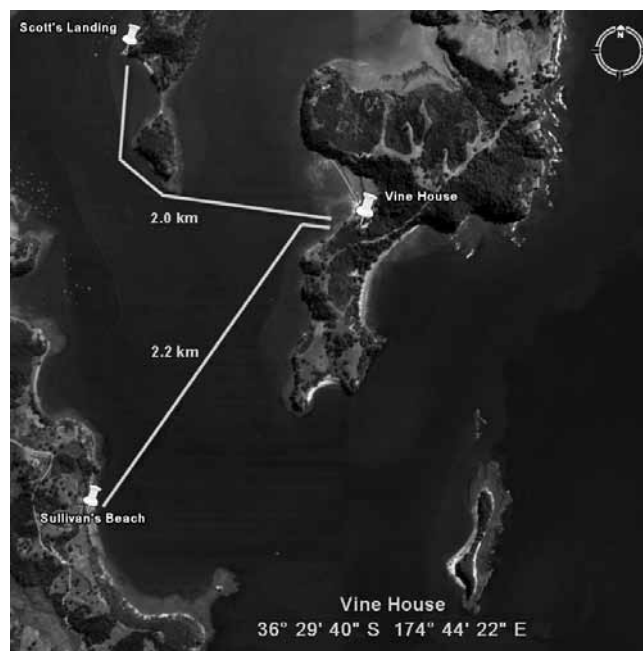
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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!

Winter Lecture Series

Our Club's winter series of informative talks continues on Tuesday 17th of August.

Kevin Woolcott will be along to tell us about his recent cycling adventure in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Gerard Fagan will then show us some of the highlights of his recent Hauraki Gulf escapades.

On 4th January this year, Iris and I had planned to paddle from Birkenhead Wharf over to Coromandel, ending up at Matarangi. Rona and Peter would join us for the first three days but not the crossing of the Firth of Thames. But the weather gods had other Plans

– Gerard.

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 7.00 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: 846 6799



GIBB RIVER ROAD & MITCHELL PLATEAU CYCLE TOUR

Darwin, Northern Territory
to Broome, Western Australia

Cycling and 4WD through the remote Kimberley region.

PHOTO K WOOLCOTT



Deadman's Bay.

PHOTO G FAGAN



Leaving Motuihe.

PHOTO G FAGAN

Poet's Corner

*It wasn't too bad up in Welly
It wasn't as bad as I'd thought
The rain was just about vertical
Wind speed less than it ought.*

*You might wonder the phrase UP in Welly
Well from here to that place is quite clear
From the tail to the mouth is apparently up
Think downing that cool glass of beer.*

*That digression was needed to fill up the page
To show I'm well versed in the Lore
It doesn't much matter when all's said and done
Please don't ask to explain any more.*

*So not much to write about Wellywood
Up there for the grandson's birthday
A solitary kayak seen on the swell
The sun on Oriental Bay.*

*Back in the City of Sails
Waiting in some Waiting Room
On the wall a large screen showing movies
Of our coastline in all of its moods.*

*So I dreamed as one does when confronted
With pictures of beaches and sea
How to paddle those coasts in a kayak
Where to land for that good cup of tea.*

*With the mind full of virtual paddling
Got to thinking how nice it would be
When I finally come to Fall off the Perch
To be plugged into scenes such as these.*

*If I'm lucky enough be able
To dream of a following sea
A warm gentle breeze caressing my back
Drifting Towards the Light gently.*

*But back in the world of the Living
In Auckland where paddling's king
Or wherever your kayak will take you
Take note it's just four weeks 'till Spring.*

Mike Randall

Club Trips – August/September 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 17 August

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

Come along and listen to Kevin Woolcott tell us about his recent cycle trip from Darwin to Broome, then Gerard Fagan will talk about his recent Hauraki Gulf escapade.

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

For further information contact Roger Lomas on 846 6799

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 575 3493

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 August

Vine House Weekend

A chance for a laid back couple of days with good company and good food.

Call Trevor 817-7357 to book a bed and for detailed directions.

Saturday 4 September

Red Beach to Te Muri Beach

Easy paddle along Orewa beach front, past Waiwera and Wenderholm. Bring lunch

Call Eddie 027 271 4679 if interested.

Saturday 18 September

Beach Haven

Depart Island Bay Road. Paddle along the coast towards Chelsea Sugar Works, maybe across to Herne Bay (weather depending), along the coast to the reef, and back to Island Bay

Call Eddie 027 271 4679 if interested

Coromandel Peninsula – 420ks

by Evan Pugh

Lucky as I am to have a wife (Linda) who is glad to drop me off (get me out of the house) at short notice and Thursday April the 29th was to be that day. Opal Hot springs just past Matamata on the edge of the Waihou River was the start point for a trip that would finish only 20ks away in a straight line but taking 10 days and 420ks to complete.

I arise to the alarm going off and get sorted making sure nothing is left in the cabin and wheel my kayak across the road and through/under the gate and roughly erected fence to get in beside a bank. I have a rope for this purpose as the need to slide the kayak into the current from the metre high edge could easily steal the kayak from your grip, hence making for a very bad start to the day.

No problem and the water is low as no rain has fallen for some time and getting in is fairly easy. Before I depart as daylight gets going to allow me to see my way along this very windy river, sometimes you're heading North sometimes you're heading South, corner after corner. The couple of trees across the river from our last group trip down here were gone but unfortunately replaced by about 8 others, some leaving only a small gap to get around on one side before having to scarp like mad across to the other bank to get around the next one which had fallen the opposite way before you are swept into the branches by the current. A bit nerve racking for a while but all fine and no real issues.

Even came across a small rapid near where a side stream joins in, not usually there but due to the lowness of the water level I shot through at 24 kilometres per hour on the gps, very shallow though. There were heaps of ducks due to duck shooting season starting in a couple of days and a lot of kingfishers darting from log to log along the river.

I camped on the left bank about one and a half kilometres before the Paeroa road bridge, dragging the kayak up the grassy bank before erecting my tent for the night and having my well deserved dinner.

Covered 88ks starting at 6.40am finishing 5.10pm calm weather all day.

Friday up and away in the dark I knew the incoming current would be against me soon but it was calm and pleasant, and as it gradually became light I paddled on down the river. The wind slowly came up and the current finally started coming in, so was against me as I slogged on, and on at about 4 kph for about 4 hours until the current started heading out and assisted me on my way again but still into the headwind before exiting the river into the firth of Thames. Then since the tide level was low you

need to keep heading out and not follow the shore as you will end up walking for a long long way. It can be shallow for several kilometres off shore until you get further north.

I headed off to near Tararu and followed the coast to Tapu, stopping on the beach and wheeling the kayak the couple of hundred metres to the camp and booked a caravan for the night. There is a pub across the road so I got a steak meal which went down very well, the waitress was new I was her first customer so a bit of fun was had.

Covered 59ks starting at 6.05am finishing at 5.05pm on water time just under 10 hours, headwinds nearly all day.

The forecast for Saturday was 30 knot SW winds and it was, so I booked another night and stayed put as I was knackered after the long hard day the day before. When I approached a group of fishermen in camp and commented that they had a great catch of snapper they went deathly silent and gawked at me, I sauntered off thinking they must have thought I was a fisheries officer perhaps. Got a steak burger this time for tea and a fresh loaf of bread from the local shop to take with me.

Sunday southerly winds and I was off heading North and once up to Dead Mans Point and across Te Koumu harbour. I island hopped (there are many camping spots around here) past the Western end of Whanganui Island and directly north till off Papaaroha where I ducked in behind an island for a rest and a bit of shelter before continuing on to just North of Colville Bay where I intended to camp, but once there I decided to carry on to Fantail Bay with the following waves and wind, a lot of the waves



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Coromandel Peninsula

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earlier had me scooting along at 14 and 15 kph for a time which was thoroughly enjoyable. The road follows the coast nearly all the way up here but is still reasonable paddling with rocky outcrops and bouldery beaches.

You can easily find Fantail Bay as there is a rocky piece of land sticking out with a rough stony boat ramp facing south which I pulled up at and after fitting the wheels it is a hard drag for 20 metres up a loose stone beach before crossing the road to set up camp away from the numerous campervan, house buses that are always there. A nice quiet bunch though, one chap asked if I fished (as everyone does) and I explained my plans he was amazed and said "we all do different things on the water don't we" which is correct.

Today covered, again 59ks starting at 6.20am finishing 3.15pm, good tailwind all day, six hours at one stage without a stop today.

Monday Forecast was 2 metre SE swells on the East coast so wasn't looking forward to that as I sauntered on leaving late as I needed to get the tides at Cape Colville. Nice up this part as the road goes inland away from the coast leaving only the rugged shore with wild goats here and there scattered about the hillside.

It doesn't take long to get to Port Jackson before carrying on to Cape Colville where the tide would be turning and heading out and Eastwards from here. There is a reef at Cape Colville and to the East of Fletchers Bay but since it was nearly high tide they caused no concern, the tides when big can cause a fair bit of a tidal stream across these two reefs but not today. In fact after a quick stop at Fletchers Bay I had a back eddy with me as I went through the nearby reef and past Square Top Island and to the Pinnacles where once around the corner I was anticipating some hard paddling but was glad to have only perhaps one metre swells and a little clapotis off the cliffs.

All this top part is lovely with steep cliffs and not many landing spots as I carried on and paddled past Stony Bay before heading across Port Charles past more cliffs with a few landing spots on a calm day and down to the DOC camp site in the southern corner of Waikawau Bay. Landing right in the corner allows you to wheel the kayak up the boat ramp through the gate and into the camp site. Memories flooded back from a group trip where we became stranded here for three days, the group choose two different areas to camp and became known as the coasters and swampys. I stayed strong and camped as last time in the swampy area, which I had to

myself. By laying the solar shower out in the sun, I found this was the best way to make the sun go away and it worked within about five minutes it had gone for the day. I found a great spot to camp with no sheep poo within about a foot of the tent so quite lucky really then boiled some water later for a shower which I had after dinner.

Today was 35ks in fine weather, started at 7.40am, off water at 1.30pm

Tuesday, packed up and standing at the beach awaiting daylight then out onto flat calm water and past the rich peoples houses at Little Bay (helicopters and all), heading south past more great coastline and once to Kennedy Bay I actually angled (ferry glide) into the bay as there was quite a westerly blowing out and I felt a tad uncomfortable with it full side on. Once I turned back out I was away and surfed back out then a quick stop at the lovely New Chums Beach then down past Whangapoua and had the tail wind start kicking in allowing me to surf the next 20ks. The few ks before Otama were a handfull as our last trip with lots of clapotis and mixed up waves going in all directions. I was glad to have a stop at Otama in the sheltered corner before the trip around the end past Opito Bay. After Opito there are some great caves off the southern point but not for exploring today, since of course I now have a major struggle the last few kilometres into a westerly to the camp site on the Southern side of the Peninsula at Waitaia recreation reserve. I landed fitted the wheels then thought bugger (or something like that) I'm at the wrong spot. I later worked out I was at the correct spot but wasn't leaving anyway and pitched the tent on the sand at the back of the beach. I knew it wasn't a big tide so felt pretty safe there. I couldn't find my bread but discovered that I had pushed it right up the back with my bed roll when packing that morning, the good news it wasn't squashed as I thought it would be, I enjoy my sandwiches for lunch and have found a complete lettuce lasts very well wrapped in a tea towel, I finished one on this trip after eight days and it was as good as a fresh one. Along this coast you get some ripper sun rises, that's another real good reason to be on the water early.

Distance today 45ks fairly windy, had started at 6.20am, finished 2.10pm.

Wednesday I left the beach again just as the visibility was enough to see, and the third metre high wave got me full on, broke just in the wrong place and whacked me pretty good to get my full attention for the day ahead. Out past the reef protecting the bay

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Coromandel Peninsula

Continued from page 7



and into 2 metre waves coming from the SE again as the wind had turned around a lot during the night, I had to get a couple of kilometres off shore before the washing machine effect settled and the rest of the short day consisted of 3 out of 10 waves being around two metres and some breaking so on I plodded aiming directly for Hahei so I was far from shore and aware of my position being all alone etc.

I finally got to Hahei and thoughts going through my mind of camping ground (cabin) cafe (food) and showers (cleanliness) but I was stronger than that and paddled on to the end of the beach to have a break and a feed. I then proceeded out to the point and around it before seeing it was pretty rough then turning around and going back to the camp ground for a shower, cabin and a feed. Safety first even though I felt good.

I give the camp ground lady credit for her help and offer of two duvets and not laughing or the likes since when I had a look in the mirror later I had salt caked all over my face from the morning paddle. I had washed my hands and feet well before I went to the office but should have done more. I walked up to the store for fresh supplies and to the cafe for lunch, store has plenty of goodies but of course the cafe wasn't open on a Wednesday so off I sauntered like a kid that had lost his candyfloss.

Only 13ks today starting at 6.30am finishing at 9.20am.

Thursday I found the best place to get a kayak up on wheels to be at the far southern end of the camp ground where there is a hard walkway rather than the soft sand along further so used this in the morning to relaunch and off around the corner to find it had settled a lot and was calm for the first hour before a lite head wind came in, again left over swells bounced around near the rocky shoreline as

I ventured on past Pauanui. There are a few options of camping along here but I carried on to Onemana scenic reserve for my intended stop but decided to push on to set up for the next days tides and harbour trip.

Waimama Reserve just North of Whiritoa was a fine spot to camp on a bit of grass up the back.

Covered 52ks starting at 6.30am, off water 3.40pm.

Friday in the kayak and heading south on flat calm water with the hint of a swell on the beaches, caves and arches along here but not for me today as I carry on the 24 kms to the Bowentown entrance to the Tauranga Harbour. Always get anxious entering through here, this is the first time from the north as the other ten times or so have been from the south side, new territory but not a problem as only small waves were rolling in and none breaking so in I go and stop just around the point for a well earned rest.

High tide at Tauranga is 1.45pm so that makes the centre of the harbour an hour later as I slowly make my way with current helping I know I will be quite early so have another stop along the way. I try to follow the channel as much as possible as this definitely helps with your speed getting the added extra current.

I get to the middle early and have to get out and walk in the few inches of water for a couple of hundred metres but don't mind too much, it's fascinating as you drift in the shallows you can see the water heading the same way as you then suddenly you're past that invisible line and its going the opposite way.

Decisions, shall I carry on to the mount, camp at the camp ground there, it's Friday night in town and noisy, good things would be a hamburger, and pub to watch the league test. I would catch the incomming tide then to bring me back up the harbour a wee bit and onto my finishing point.

Never camp on the 24 kilometre long Matakana Island the owners, locals will not allow it and we have been abused big time on a day trip so that was out of the question, but across the harbour I see a spot perhaps so I paddle the three kilometres across to it and find not a bad spot to base from on the northern corner heading up the Wairoa River.

Covered 51 ks started at 6.30am finishing 3.50pm.

Saturday I knew in the morning it would be shallow and I was correct as I had to paddle no less than 3ks around a sand bank before heading up the Wairoa River. Again following the channel I ended up walking

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President's Report

Hi Folks,

Just a very quick note this month as I am snowed under with work and even the kayak has not seen me all month – a sad state of affairs!

I am however continuing to work actively with Mike Lee regarding the movement of a shed from Queens Wharf to The Landing. Obviously no promises but I am trying to arrange a meeting of all interested parties to make this happen.

It can only translate into a reality with the support of all users, so each one of you can be an ambassador and spread the word.

A tender has been published for the dismantling of Shed 11 and we need to ensure that it is relocated and not “stored”.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Neil Scott who is stepping down as Secretary for all his hard work and we wish him well. Our new secretary is an old friend to many of you – Matt Crosier. We thank Matt for taking up the challenge and I am sure that he will ensure that everything runs as smoothly as it has in the past.

Happy paddling, *Ian*

Membership Update

The Club is updating its accounting system and as part of that process we are checking the accuracy of our membership database. Whilst we send out a membership renewal form each year, few of us actually fill it in and send it back to the secretary. We are interested in keeping your details up to date so we can contact you about events etc.

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Family Names: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ City: _____

Phone (home): _____ Phone (mobile): _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Experience: none novice intermediate advanced

If you own a kayak (type): _____

Your interests: sea kayaking touring racing whitewater surf/polo etc multisport

Please help us to help you by taking the time to provide us with confirmation of your details.

Coromandel Peninsula

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a hundred metres but after that I was off, the tide was going out too which didn't help but I had all day and Linda wasn't picking me up till 4pm and I was going to stop at the coffee cart near the main rd bridge for a steak sandwich, of course why would they be there today, then I stopped at Waimarinos kayak shop to see Blair, but he wasn't there either, seems like no one cared anymore.

Between the rail bridge and main rd bridge I had seen a bittern, fairly rare I have only seen two before, quite a neat heron type of bird you will normally find in or near reeds.

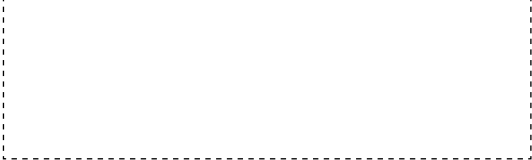
On I paddled till I got to the pick-up spot about one

kilometre from the dam, I dragged the kayak up the bank and found a tree to shelter under, my book to read and some food to eat. Linda was very early to collect me and off home for a real dinner.

Covered 18ks from 8am till 12.05 pm

The trip completed I covered 420ks over 10 days, 9 paddling days, no rain, 2 windy days 6 3 hours and 20 minutes on the water, averaging 6.6 kph.

On those 9 paddling days I had stops totalling 6 hours and 10 minutes, with others you usually stop for longer but on my own a quick stop if I can get one is fine.



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



To:

