



February 2011

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Motuihe Island – see page 5

PHOTO PETER SOMMERHALDER

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>	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

patron@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
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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.

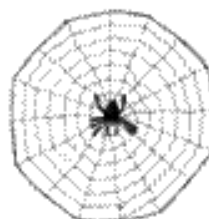
Internet Banking

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

Password Turanga



Deadline for Next Newsletter

20 February 2011

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

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome

The Committee extends a warm welcome to the following new members ...

Elaine Newton
Christopher Dentith
Jenny Tizard

Regular Events

Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

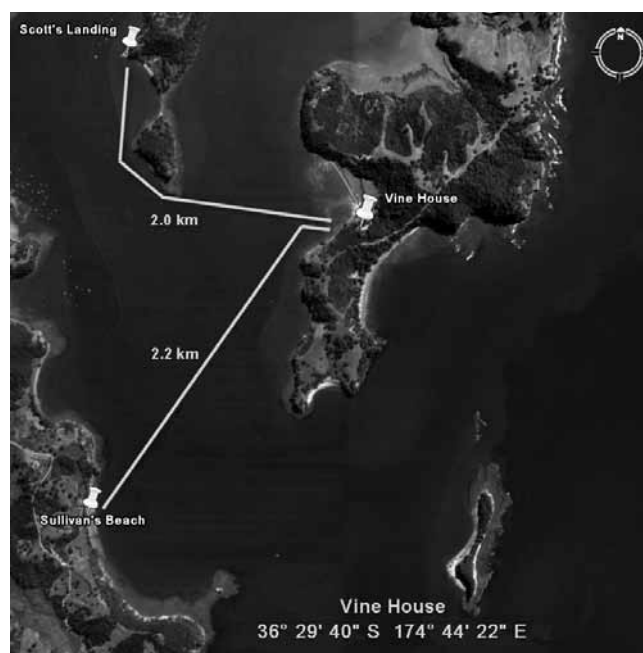
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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!

A visit to the Maori Carvings at Lake Taupo after a bit of cycling

Jackie Hillman



We invited Ryan for a BBQ that evening but after initial enthusiasm the tiredness beat him and he couldn't get up off his bed after his punishing 160km ride.

Our hosts took us to Spa farm for a soak in the springs the next morning – 'wonderful', before we packed up and headed for the shore to launch our kayaks. Four of us headed out for a far off headland watching out for jet skis and motor boats as we passed Acacia Bay. It took us about 1½ hrs to reach the carving. There were a few boats around so we headed to the beach for lunch before paddling back for a closer look and a few photos.

The contemporary art works were carved over 2 years by master carver Matahi Whakataka and four friends between 1978 and 1980. I'd seen a few photos of the main carving but not the other figures.

An offer of a weekend in Taupo with members of the Auckland Tramping Club seemed a great idea especially when they said they planned to paddle out to the Maori carvings which I had never done. As I'm training for a bike ride in April I needed to do an 80km ride that weekend. It transpired that it was the Round Taupo cycle race that same weekend so it seemed silly not to go in the same direction as everyone else, so I entered the race with the plan to pull out after my 80kms.

I happened to see Ryan lining up for his start looking fit and keen with a faster group. (You pick your estimated finishing time when entering so you can cycle with a similar fitness group.)

It was an extremely hot day and picking up enough water proved a challenge when a few drinks stations ran out. I completed my 80kms and after a picnic decided to press on and see how much further I could go. The 120km interchange point where the final team members start was enough for me, (also I missed Hatepe hill!) I was happy to hang up my bike and climb on the bus returning to the finish.

The sky clouded over and a little head wind developed for our return paddle. Although the visibility was OK I did think it might have been prudent to take a bearing when paddling away from shore with the possibility of a cloud or mist descending. So easy to get slack at times. A fabulous active weekend thanks to Carol Exon of ATC.



CAMPING AT MOTUIHE ISLAND

Friday January 14 to Monday January 17

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY PETER SOMMERHALDER

Iris Wegmueller



We met after lunch at the Kohimarama Beach Ramp – some of us kindly dropped off – others had driven there themselves. The forecast was for 10 knots variable, but the wind had already picked up with small breaking waves coming into the beach and quite a wind blowing as we prepared our kayaks to spend two or three nights away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Upon launching into the waves with all necessities and goodies on board, the group consisted of Peter Sommerhalder, who had kindly organised the trip, Will and Chantal Henden and myself. Sue and Philip Noble were going to join us later.

A while later we arrived near the wharf on Motuihe Island and those of us who had our trolleys with us, wheeled them up to the campsite, which only had one other tent on it. The others got to share the trolleys brought along by others, of course.



We were greeted and our bookings checked by the friendly DoC ranger and soon after had put up our tiny little group of tents. We were still expecting Sue and Philip Noble, who arrived well before dark in time to join us for dinner. Someone said that Colin Quilter would join us later, which was the case indeed to our delight and joy.

We had been looking forward to this little journey abroad, as you might call it, and we once again counted ourselves lucky to live in such a fabulous spot on the globe and have this immense playground of sea and islands available to us any time, well, when we are not at work, those of us are still slogging away somewhere.

As a passionate kayaker, old age and retirement is not to be dreaded, you see, as you get to go out there any time you fancy, including when nobody is on holidays and you would get a solitary isolated camp site any time and anywhere you like, doesn't that sound divine? It is!

Upon nightfall I crawled into my tent, anticipating a couple of beautiful days on the water, while some of the others were still chatting and enjoying the evening over a glass of wine or two.

The next morning looked promising, sunny, light winds, 15 knots maximum. We decided to paddle to Oneroa and back. No, not to buy wine (see previous trip report that tells the story of a group of kayakers keen to get some wine from Oneroa and read what happened!), just because it seemed like a fine destination in the conditions we had. Philip and I fished on the entire trip, but had no luck whatsoever.



Oneroa Beach, Waiheke Island.

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Camping at Motuihe Island

Continued from page 5

There was quite a bit of movement on the water, especially along the coastline of Waiheke Island and some of us enjoyed rock gardening and surfing the waves, before getting into very calm waters in the bay of Oneroa, where we had lunch and a swim. The water was luke warm!

By the time we paddled back, the wind had dropped a bit and we were now on an incoming tide and pushed by a tail wind, just fantastic. Peter paid a visit to a friend at Matiatia on the way back which gave us a chance to get out and stretch our legs before paddling back to Motuihe in the evening sun. Another gorgeous day and beautiful evening!

I nearly forgot to mention the two Oyster catchers that had just hatched the day before we arrived on the wharf side of Motuihe. DoC staff had cordoned off the nesting area, and all of us would go down whenever we had a moment to observe the two tiny, grey and very competent Oyster catcher chicks – boy, if human babies developed that fast and came out like that, I would have had a dozen of them!



The seagulls nearby seemed to make a sport out of simulating attacks on the family of Oyster catchers, but the birds did not come to harm and Peter told me on one occasion he was down there, it was one of the Oyster catcher adult birds that launched a surprise attack on a group of temporarily quiet seagulls nearby. Go Oyster catchers!

Sunday dawned and I realised that it would be a rather futile exercise trying to convince anybody to paddle to the Noises with me, so we jointly made a plan to meet Rona and Gerard who were on their way to Browns Island and just take it easy today. So Colin, Peter and I set off on the eastern side

of Motuihe and paddled around the back over to Browns Island, where we met Sue and Philip again, who had left the camp that morning, Rona and Gerard, and some people in a couple of double kayaks whose names I do not recall.

It could not have been planned more perfectly. After an extended morning tea and catch up we parted. Colin, Rona, Gerard, Sue and Philip back to Auckland and Peter and I back to Motuihe, completing the circumnavigation upon our return. By the time we came back, Will and Chantal were about to leave to go back to Auckland too, and all of a sudden, we were alone with our two little tents and lots of space, as most people had left by the end of Sunday.

After an ice cream and a swim we were just enjoying the peace and quiet, reading, resting, recharging.

The forecast was not good for Tuesday but reasonable for Monday, so we decided to return to Auckland on Monday, planned to have a leisurely swim-walk-read morning, pack up and paddle back in time with the incoming tide and the north easterly that was still blowing at about 15 knots.

Monday afternoon came and with it the clouds promising rain. Peter suggested paddling over to Emu Point and then along the coast of Rangitoto to the wharf, where he had to take his compass out that was stashed somewhere in a dark corner of the back hatch.

Compass, you say, what for? Well, you would hardly believe it, but after we crossed over to Emu Point, we witnessed the disappearing CBD, then Browns Island vanished beside us and the rain started falling on us. It would have been foolish indeed to attempt to cross in these conditions, as you really could see no landmarks anymore at all, and no big ship would have spotted us either!

After our landing on Rangitoto, where a lot of very wet people were waiting for the ferry, it somehow cleared a bit, enough to make out the coastline of Kohi, and we happily paddled on, pushed by the tide and the wind. I do not remember an easier journey back to Kohi, ever! Sue was already waiting for us and by now it was time to get out of the wet gear, the wind and the rain.

After a delicious afternoon tea and coffee I left Peter and Sue's place, happy to the core, yet again, after another awesome kayaking experience. Thank you Peter, for making it possible!

Poet's Corner

*The perfect summer day we found
With little wind and lots of cloud
We left the jetty, heading east
To be with our friend we planned to meet*

*An interesting trip so far
With unexpected patches rough
Fascinating, but not too tough
For two young ladies from our Club*

*We paddled on, a lunch spot to find
Ladies Bay soon came to mind
And there we sought to eat in peace
The food we'd stored within easy reach*

*But peace was to be short lived
When from overhead a chopper visited
His daily chore, to drop his cup
Into the sea to test and measure up*

*From our friend we soon departed
Different directions we had charted
Our plan to cross the harbour
To carry on talking and with much laughter*

*At North Head a wedding we gave support
Then paddled around to Devonport
Where we stopped for afternoon tea
Before our final push into the sea*

*On our run past the naval base
By a naval rating we were chased
It appears we were too close to his charge
Did he think we fair ladies could do him harm?*

*Eight hours spent doing what we love most
Interesting, exciting, I don't want to boast
Thanks to my friends, club members both
What a wonderful day. It was just the most!*

Rona Patterson

Exploring Hobson Bay

Jackie Hillman

I have friends living near Shore Road, so a 10.25 high tide meant putting to kayaks in by the mangroves from Shore Road reserve was possible.

We left about a 1½hrs before high tide. With the drain now removed the paddling options have been extended and we passed into Hobson Bay heading for Purewa Creek. It's disappointing seeing the extent of the privet infecting the bush on both sides of the creek.

We pushed on winding our way through the mangroves until we were following the path in Kepa

Bush Park. Eventually we reached a dead end and by now we were in fresh water. There is still a real variety of bush there but it would be wonderful to see it all returned to native bush.

Another easy paddle but fun to do, especially with favourable tides.

We had a look at climbing up the weir into Orakei basin but decided to leave that adventure (and a likely swim while exiting the boat I suspect) for another time.

KASK FORUM, ANAKIWA – 1, 2 and 3 April 2011

Held at the Outward Bound facilities near Picton in Queen Charlotte Sound, this is a great opportunity for Sea Kayakers of all levels to participate with others at this great location, guest speakers, training and paddle opportunities.

See www.kask.org.nz and go to the events page for more information
or contact **Evan** at sheepskinsnstuff@xtra.co.nz

Club Trips – February 2011

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.

Motutapu Island Concert

There is a concert on **Saturday 12 Feb 2011** on Motutapu Island to raise funds for the Motutapu Restoration Society. This starts at 12.30pm and has artists such as Anika Moa and many others. This will be followed by the ZM AfterParty until 10pm.

For information [http://www.arktour.co.nz/index.php?id=83&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=76&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=34&cHash=a0fc9e9e59c1d94118f8d1228fd63b2e](http://www.arktour.co.nz/index.php?id=83&tx_ttnews[backPid]=76&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=34&cHash=a0fc9e9e59c1d94118f8d1228fd63b2e)

Paddle over to Motutapu either Friday night or Saturday morning. Concert 12:30pm to 10:30pm. For AA members there is a \$5 discount if you book your concert tickets prior to 30th November. You can book sites at the back of the campsite at Home Bay. The front ones are where the concert will be. Suggest booking your site early.

To book your campsite, check out the DOC website <http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-stay/conservation-campsites-by-region/auckland/auckland-area/home-bay-motutapu-island/>

This trip is suitable for strong and competent beginners. Distance is about 15km each way, and includes an open water crossing which could be windy and bouncy. Home Bay campsite has basic facilities of long drop toilets and cold water supply. You need to be fully self sufficient with camping and cooking equipment and all food etc. If crossing at night you will need a deck light.

Additional risk factors include ferries on the harbour, crossing the shipping channel, increased boat traffic from people going to the concert, possible night paddle. You need to be highly visible with bright clothing, safety flag, reflectors on your paddle, deck light etc.

February 26 and 27

Vine House Weekend

A chance to get away from the crowds for a laid back Christmas or New Year celebration with good company and good food.

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

2011 Harbour Swim Dates

Auckland Central Masters Swimming Inc advise that they are planning to hold their annual open water swims on the following dates:

Swim	Date	Start	Duration (approx)	Tide
St Heliers to Tamaki Yacht Club	6 Mar 2011	8:00am	90 mins	9:28am
Rangi Wharf to St Heliers	10 Apr 2011	9:50am	120 mins	11:51am

Browns Island Picnics

Jackie Hillman

A sunny day before Christmas, a flat calm sea provided an easy paddle to Browns Island from Buckland Beach with Ryan and Nicole, who was over from Fiji and keen to get in her kayak again after washing off the snails that had made it their home.

Once out of the shelter of the Island the sea picked up so we had a lumpy circumnavigation before catching a few waves to take us to the beach for our picnic.

Ryan excelled himself providing the picnic which included a picnic set with napkins and grape juice in champagne flutes. It was good to see Nicole again and I repeated the trip after Christmas this time from St Heliers taking another friend new to kayaking.

We are very fortunate to have such easy relaxing paddling options on our doorstep to take advantage of.

President's Report

Dear All,

As most of you will already know, the Auckland Canoe Club is still in occupation on The Landing despite the events of December when the Sailing Club sent an email saying that they were taking over the Waitemata Rowing Club Building.

The fact that we are still there is due in no small part to the efforts of the Auckland Council staff.

Ian Ferguson and I had a meeting with senior staff immediately before Xmas and they promised to look into the situation with the purpose of finding a solution. They contacted the Sailing Club who agreed that no action would be taken until the matter is fully investigated.

Throughout the negotiations with the Council we have been very fortunate to have the legal services of one of our club members, Rick Norris, of Jackson Russell Lawyers – to him I wish to express the sincere thanks of the Club. Rick contacted me to offer assistance after reading the article in the December Newsletter.

I am sure that I speak for everyone when I say that it is our intention to find a solution that will allow all users of The Landing to continue their activities and to thrive; and that includes the Sailing Club. It is hoped to resolve matters without having to resort to legal arguments.

During the meeting with Council staff Ian and I raised the sad state of the toilet and changing facilities in the Waitemata Rowing Club building and the need to upgrade the sewerage plumbing which is clogged by tree roots. It was very pleasing to discover in early January that the Council had already acted and the contractor currently sealing the car park area had examined the plumbing to determine if it needed attention before the sealing.

Meetings are scheduled with the Council staff this month and then later in the month we will meet with the Sailing Club to work out a way forward.

Hopefully next month I will be able to report how the issues were resolved. Meanwhile, enjoy your paddling,

Ian

Jet boat trips on the harbour

I recently received an email advertising jet boats on the harbour.

This was accompanied by a promotional video which I viewed with interest.

I was concerned however when I saw the boat obviously exceeding the 12 knot limit – as shown in the video frames below...



It would appear that the driver has limited visibility to see a kayaker when the boat is up on the plane and therefore it would be difficult to see a kayaker sitting low in the water.

I spoke to the Deputy Harbourmaster, Jim Dilley, who informed me that this operation does not have any special exemptions, so must obey the 12 knot limit in the harbour, apart from the high speed shipping lanes.

Jim Dilley tells me that they use the shipping lane by Bayswater and also by Fergs Kayaks.

If you do observe activities that you believe are potentially hazardous then please let the Harbourmasters Office know the details.

Safe Kayaking,

Ian