



March 2011

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A short stop on a shellbank out near the Otago Harbour entrance. Former Dunedin boys Ian Smeeton, Roger Lomas and Tony Hannifin were out exploring the Otago Peninsula late last month. PHOTO R. LOMAS

Auckland Canoe Club Information

Postal Address

P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

Clubrooms

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

Website

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

Email event reminders

send blank email to

subscribe@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz

Officers

<i>Patron</i>	Jim Mason	
<i>President</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
<i>Secretary</i>	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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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.

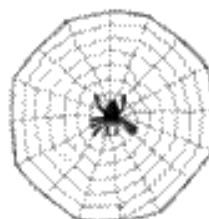
Internet Banking

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 Whakatiwai



Deadline for Next Newsletter

14 March 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**

EPIRB – Accidental Activation!

If your EPIRB is accidentally activated, **leave it on** and immediately advise Maritime Radio on Channel 16, RCCNZ (0508 472 269) or the Police (111) and let them know what has happened, they will instruct you to turn it off. No prosecution or cost is involved.

Note – even if accidentally switched on for a moment, if you turn it off, RCCNZ will assume that the vessel and EPIRB have sunk and will mount an urgent search.

Regular Events

Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

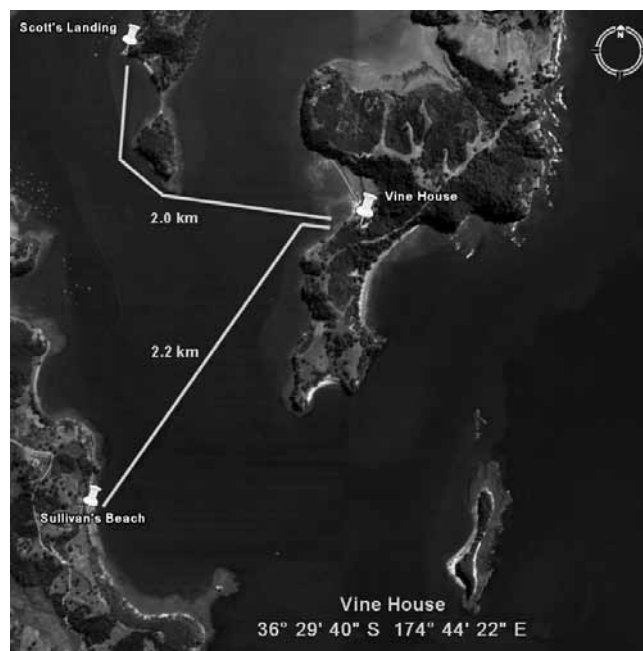
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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!

Canoe Club Hosts Kayak Training Course for Voyager Museum

Ian Calhaem

In January I ran a kayak course (theory and practical) for the Voyager Museum. The theory course was the Coastguard Sea Kayaking Course which several members attended last year.



The practical was run over two days. The first dealt with basic skills such as paddle strokes, equipment, getting in and out of kayaks, and then the second day was a planned trip.

The availability of Hobson bay as a “trip” venue after training in Okahu Bay proved essential during the adverse weather conditions, but that added to the reality of the situation.

If Club members would like this course to be run again then please let me know. We need about 10 people per course to make it worthwhile.

Ian.

The practical was based at Okahu Bay and was a trial Coastguard course which is proposed will accompany the theory course. The practical course is designed to complement the theory and is an opportunity for participants to practice their skills. It was based on the practical course run last year for our members and was developed in conjunction with Fergs Kayaks who are planning the syllabus for Coastguard Boating Education. My thanks to Peter Sommerhalder who assisted me with the training.

Even though the weather was not the best, 30 knots at Bean Rock, the practical was able to be run because of the flexible location offered by Okahu Bay.



Who watches the Watchman?

Ian Calhaem

I wonder how many of our Club members read the article in the in *The Aucklander*, 27th January, 2011, "Who watches the Watchman?"

Contrary to the comments attributed to the Department of Conservation and to the Auckland Council, this island has a very significant role in the early history of Auckland.

It forms an integral identifier in an early New Zealand Statute that is still in force, and therefore has a role in New Zealand Law.

The earliest reference that I have been able to find is in 1859 when it was mapped by *Dr Ferdinand van Hochsetter* in his famous map *The Isthmus of Auckland*. He mapped it as Sentinel Rock.



Extract from 1859 map – Dr F von Hochsetter

However in 1875 this rock is given its dual names of Sentinel Rock, or Watchman in the *Auckland Harbour Foreshore Grants Act 1875*.

This Act specifies three areas of Auckland foreshore that can only be developed after gaining approval from the Governor General by submitting plans and specifications before any work is commenced. This includes "any quay, wharf, jetty of other building thereon"... This Act is still in force and was reprinted in 2007.

The areas are defined by a survey line between Sentinel Rock or Watchman, and Bastion Rock. The latter is now occupied by the Tamaki Yacht Club on Tamaki Drive.



Bastion Rock from Okahu Bay, pre-1920. Flag pole just visible.



Areas defined in the 1875 Act measured from the survey line between Watchman Island and Bastion Rock.

Watchman Island and Bastion Rock were two very prominent landmarks in early Auckland and were used as a survey line since they could be seen from each other. A trig point was erected on Watchman Island (and was still there last time I visited), whilst Bastion Rock had a trig point and a flag pole.

Poet's Corner

I MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEA AGAIN

APOLOGIES TO JOHN MASEFIELD

*I MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEA AGAIN,
TO THE CROWDED SEA AND THE SKY,
AND ALL I ASK IS A KAYAK AND A PADDLE
TO PROPEL IT BY.....
AND A PFD AND A SPRAYSKIRT
A GPS AND A VHF, A MOBILE PHONE AS
WELL.
A LOCATER BEACON AND A DECK MOUNT
COMPASS,
AND A HAND HELD COMPASS IN CASE.
A RESCUE MIRROR AND SIX MINI FLARES
ORANGE SMOKE AND A PADDLE FLOAT
AND A PUMP AND A BAILING SCOOP
A TOWROPE, A HARNESS, A THROW BAG
AND ALL
A HI-VIZ HAT AND A HI-VIZ VEST
AND A MAST WITH A LITTLE FLAG.*

*ANOTHER MAST WITH AN ALL ROUND
LIGHT, HAVE TO BE SEEN AT NIGHT!
A DOLPHIN TORCH AND A VERY SHARP
KNIFE.
PADDLING JACKET AND POSSIBLY POGIES
SUNCREAM, DIMP AND A MEDICAL KIT
DRY CLOTHING, EMERGENCY BLANKET
PLUS TENT.
ENERGY BARS, COOKER AND FOOD
TO SPARE
NOT FORGETTING LOTS OF FRESH WATER.
I MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEA AGAIN,
TO THE CROWDED SEA AND THE SKIES,
AND ALL I ASK IS A KAYAK AND A SHIP
TO CARRY SUPPLIES!*

Gavin Baker

Swim Escort – Sunday 6 March

The next harbour swim is on Sunday 6 March.

The swim will start at 8am St Heliers and end at the Tamaki Yacht Club approx 90 minutes later.

Auckland Canoe Club will as usual provide kayak assistance on the water.

Please advise Eddie de Vries on 480 5623, mobile 027 271 4679 or eddie.devries@arma-west.co.nz as soon as possible if you will be able to attend. We need approximately 30 kayaks on the water

Please advise if you have a VHF radio. We need approximately 6 of these.

The Swim Association need an indication of kayak numbers and we also need an indication for catering

purposes. We will finish as usual with sausages and a cold drinks.

The briefing will be done at approx 7.15 at St Heliers. Please be at the start at that time, allowing for final instructions, arrangements etc.

Please do not decide by yourself that the swim may be called off due to weather conditions. It will be very sad if the swimmers do turn up, but the event has to be cancelled due to too few kayakers having turned up.

Looking forward to another successful event.

Eddie de Vries

Club Trips – March and April 2011

Please phone Eddie on 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.

Sunday, March 6

Swim Escort St Heliers to Tamaki Yacht Club

Swim escort No. 3 for the season.

Meet at St Heliers at 6.45am to be on the water for escort briefing at approximately 7.15am. Swim race starts at 8.00am.

See details on page 6.

March 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.

Sunday, April 10

Swim Escort Rangitoto Wharf to St Heliers

The last swim escort for the season.

Timing – 9.15am Pre-race briefing for kayakers at Rangitoto
– 9.50am Race start

There is the option to **paddle across to Rangitoto on Saturday evening** and stay the night on the

landing there. You will need sleeping bags, cookers and food for the drinks and meals you intend to have. There is access to drinking water.

This is a *once a year* opportunity to sleep over at Rangitoto, with an evening walk to the summit to see the sun set before bedding down under the visitors shelter (no need for a tent!)

The **second option** is to **paddle from St Heliers to Rangitoto on the Sunday morning**.

Meet at 7.45am to leave at about 8.00am to be ready for the pre-race briefing at 9.15am

The **last option** is to paddle from **Okahu Bay to Rangitoto on the Sunday morning** making it a nice round trip for the day – Okahu Bay, Rangitoto, St Heliers, Okahu Bay.

Meet at 7.30am to leave at 7.45am to be ready for the pre-race briefing at 9.15am.

Club Kayaks: Club kayaks will be reserved for this event. **Please phone Gavin on 528 5188.**

This is the grand finale of the four swim escorts we do. Remember the swim escorts are a worthwhile trip for the club by bringing us all together and helping another organisation, plus the club gets paid – our only regular fund-raisers. It's a great introduction for new members to the club !

Barbecue Lunch and Icy-Cold Drinks Roger's famous barbecue back at St Heliers Beach is a highlight of this trip – and very much appreciated by all!

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

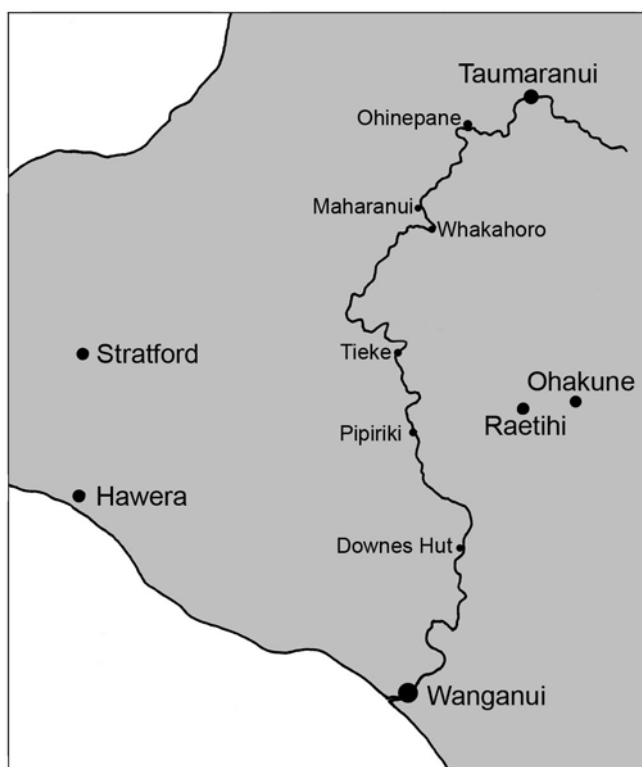
Held at the Outward Bound facilities near Picton in Queen Charlotte Sound, this is a great opportunity for Sea Kayakers of all levels to participate with others at this great location, guest speakers, training and paddle opportunities.

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

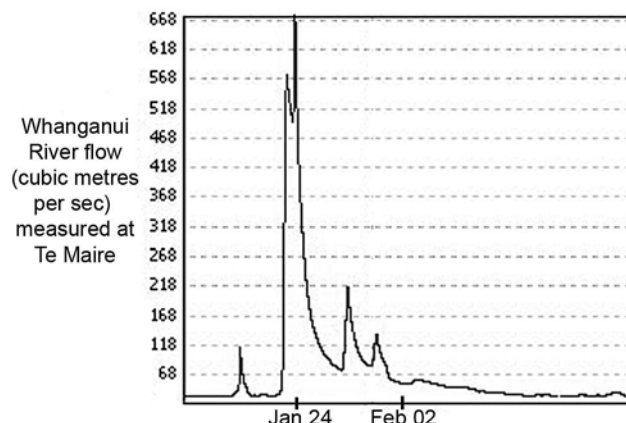
Taumarunui to Wellington (Part 1)

Colin Quilter

It's often said that too much of anything is bad for us. Too much to eat, too much to drink, too much work, too much television..... all detrimental to health. What to say, then, about a fellow – such as me – who has spent the holidays of the past 26 years paddling the same old canoe around the same old coastline? A lack of imagination, at least, downright unhealthy at worst. So this year I decided to try something a bit different. A trip along New Zealand's longest navigable river and then a paddle along what is arguably our longest beach (115km from Wanganui City to Paekakariki near Wellington, a continuous stretch of sand interrupted only by the mouths of a few rivers).



I started in Taumarunui, feeling like a novice because I've had little experience of rivers. There is a pleasant campground (the Taumarunui Holiday Park) on the Whanganui riverbank about 6km upstream from town, and after I had stayed a night there the owner agreed to let me leave my car there for a nominal sum. One could not normally start paddling at the campground because the river is too shallow and rocky; the usual start point is at Cherry Grove in Taumarunui itself, or (if the river is low) at Ohinepane 21km downstream of Taumarunui.



(River flow data from the Genesis Energy website)

However a week before my arrival the Whanganui had experienced its biggest flood in six years. Data on the Genesis Energy website shows that at the peak of the flood on January 24 the river flow reached more than 20 times its usual volume and the river level rose about 10 metres higher than normal.

When I arrived on February 2nd the river was still carrying about twice its usual summer flow, so I was able to launch my kayak at the Holiday Park itself. Even so the first few kilometres required care, especially as my old plywood Seabear is not well suited to bouncing down shallow rapids; and in one place where the channel ran beneath willows hard against the right bank I got out of my boat and waded cautiously past them in shallow water. The "Guide to the Whanganui River" (now in its 18th edition, and available from DOC or the I-site in Taumarunui) warns that "low-hanging willow branches are perhaps the greatest hazard in the river." The risk is that you can get swept beneath them, knocked out of your boat, and then held under water by the river flow, pinned against branches or roots.

As I travelled downstream several tributaries added their water to the main river and it quickly became wider and deeper. I soon discovered that the deepest channel is always on the outside of each curve in the river, and I found that my Seabear, loaded with camping gear and food for a fortnight, cruised through the rapids with ease. The current was running, on average, at about 2km/hr which added to my usual paddling speed of 5km/hr so that even though I was in no hurry, and made many stops for photographs, the landmarks on the river began to slip past. By mid-afternoon, with little effort, I had

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Taumarunui to Wellington (Part 1)

Continued from page 8

reached Maharunui Campsite (5km upstream from Whakahoro and 58km from my start point), and I stopped there for the night.

Like all the huts and campsites on the Whanganui, Maharunui was high above the river. Anything lower down on the riverbank would be washed away in the floods. Canoeists are warned to drag their boats high up the riverbank in case the river level rises overnight. As a solo paddler I was at a disadvantage, having no-one to help me drag my kayak up to a safe height. The best I could do was to pull it a metre or two up the bank, face it upstream, and tie a long rope leading upstream from the bow to a tree high on the bank.



The middle third of the river is entirely surrounded by forest. The rapids (mostly small) are separated by slow-flowing sections, as here.

Next morning in mild, overcast weather I reached John Coull Hut at lunchtime and stopped there to have a chat with the hut warden Esther. I asked her why there were so few people on the river, (having seen just one other party) and was astonished when she told me that 37 people had spent last night at the hut. The explanation, of course, is that since everyone is moving along the river in the same direction it is quite possible to paddle for long periods without overtaking or being overtaken.

During the afternoon I reached the landing for the "Bridge to Nowhere" track. I was tempted to leave my kayak afloat there while I did the walk, but the sight of a large branch floating downstream caused me a sudden loss of enthusiasm. I could easily imagine my boat entangled by the branches and swept away downstream; so I left the landing and paddled steadily on. The Mangapurua campsite came into view, its approaches washed out by the

flood; and then later in the afternoon I reached Tieke. A dozen Canadian canoes were hauled up on the beach and the sight of people milling about there persuaded me to cross to the run-down campsite at Ramanui on the opposite bank, where I had the grassy terraces to myself and a peaceful night.

Below Tieke the river enters a splendid gorge, Te Wahi Pari ("the place of cliffs"). Here the brown water was deep and slow-moving, confined between rock walls with overhanging ferns on each side. In the early-morning mist it was a scene that might have remained unchanged for centuries. Since I had made an early start I had it to myself. After a while the river opened out again and I encountered the five big rapids (the largest on the river) which lead down to Pipiriki. As expected the old Sea Bear sailed through them like a battleship. I can't take any credit for this, I just pointed her vaguely in the right direction and let her do the work.



In the gorge below Tieke, ("the place of cliffs").

Pipiriki, where I stopped for morning tea, is the place where most parties leave the river, (it's 145km downstream from Taumarunui). I assumed that most trips end here because the next 100km down to the sea would be comparatively dull and not worth the effort of paddling, and so my expectations for the remainder of the river journey were not high; but I was in for a pleasant surprise. I paddled steadily onwards and despite a period of heavy rain towards lunchtime, thoroughly enjoyed the trip. The river had enough rapids to make it interesting, and plenty of drama in the surrounding hills and forest as we wound our way southwards. I nearly missed seeing

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Taumarunui to Wellington (Part 1)

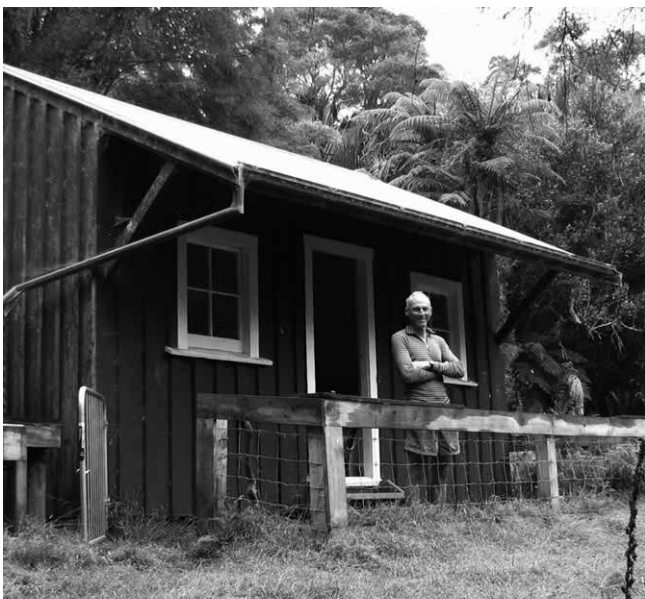
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The flood had either scoured out large sections of riverbank, or - as here - had deposited great mounds of muddy silt which made access to the bank difficult.

the settlement at Jerusalem because only the spire of the church lifted above the riverside willows, and almost nothing of Ranana and Matahiwi could be seen from river level.

Just as I was starting to feel like stopping a tiny red hut came into view high on the right bank, and I realised it was Downes Hut, a historic cottage renovated by DOC and available to canoeists and trampers. I landed downstream and carried my gear a couple of hundred metres up to the hut. It was charming and seemed to be seldom used, so I settled down happily for the night. The cottage was



At Downes Hut. The fence in front is to stop wild goats from camping beneath the eaves of the hut.

built by T E Downes, a River Foreman employed by the Whanganui River Trust which was established in 1891 to promote steamer travel on the river, and to create and maintain deep channels through the rapids for that purpose.

I slept in the next morning, and lingered over coffee. There was no point in hurrying because at Parakino, 50km from the sea, the tides begin to affect the river and the ebb tide would not commence until 2pm. So I dawdled downriver and landed for lunch at Hipango Park. This turned out to be an excellent campground, deserted and empty; it would be another good place to stay on the lower river. Below Hipango Park I started to see more houses and the river ran in long broad reaches between willows; this was perhaps less interesting, but it wasn't long before I reached the Wanganui Top 10 Holiday Park on the right bank at Aramoho, 6km upstream of Wanganui city and about twice that distance from the sea.

I had covered 233km in four easy days, and average of about 60km per day. This was much faster than I expected; in fact reading the DOC pamphlet about the journey from Taumarunui to Phipiriki, it seemed that I had been travelling at about twice the speed of most parties on the river. I can put this down to three things. Firstly I started early each morning out of habit. Secondly the river was running a little higher and (I suppose) faster than usual. Thirdly, and most importantly, a sea kayak is so much faster than the fat and heavily-loaded Canadian canoes used by most people on the river. Based on my experience, I think that a sea kayak (preferably plastic) is the ideal boat to use on the Whanganui. It makes easy work of the long slow sections between rapids, and easy work of the rapids themselves.

So, somewhat to my surprise, I found myself on the outskirts of Wanganui City just four days after leaving Taumarunui. The campground was clean, pleasant and shady; just as well, because conditions on the coast were windy and rough, and the forecast was not encouraging. I took a bus (actually two buses) out to the coast at Castlecliff and looked mournfully at three lines of surf rumbling in to the beach, and at the whitecaps offshore. Then I went to the cinema. Next day I looked at the forecast, then went to the museum. Next day I looked at the forecast, then went to the art gallery. Next day I looked at the forecast, then went to the public library.

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Taumarunui to Wellington (Part 1)

Continued from page 10

Next day, with the forecast still unsettled but feeling that unless I did something soon I might take root in the campground for ever, I launched my kayak and headed for the sea. It was salt water or bust for me. A couple of hours downriver I turned the final corner so that the North and South moles came into view with the rivermouth between, to be greeted by the dismaying sight of breakers right across the main channel, wall to wall, and plenty of whitecaps beyond. Too much for an old guy. I retreated back into the river, found a boat ramp, and wheeled my kayak 2km through the streets of Castlecliff to a campground just behind the beach. I would not be comfortable there (the manager regarded trees as a Health and Safety issue, "They might fall on campers," so there was no shade available), but at least I could visit the beach several times each day to keep watch on conditions at sea.



A depressing scene on the beach at Castlecliff.

In the next issue I'll describe my trip down the coast of the South Taranaki Bight, into Cook Strait, and finally to Wellington. Happy paddling!

Colin

President's Report

Dear All,

It is pleasing to be able to report that negotiations are well under way for the future of The Landing.

We have had many meetings with various interested parties and I am able to report that the Club's future on The Landing is secure.

It is too early to give you the details yet as we are still working out the finer details, but we have been on The Landing for many years and it looks increasingly likely that we will be there for more years to come.

The Landing is a great training ground for paddlers and gives access to sheltered water under most conditions.

Many of our members already know that I teach the Coastguard Kayak Theory Course and participants are increasingly asking for a practical course to allow theory to be put into practice.

The Practical course is not yet an official Coastguard course, but in order to refine the content we need participants...

The next Course will be held over the weekend of the 26/27 March at Okahu Bay from 0900 to 1500 hrs each day.

This is a free course for Club members, so take advantage as join in. Experienced paddlers may like to join in to assist the novice paddlers.

So we have an idea of numbers please contact me by phone on 579 0512 or email – president@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz

If you want to use a club boat then you will need to book one as I expect they will be in short supply (if we run out that approach Fergs Kayaks for a good deal).

Safe Paddling,

Ian