



## April 2011

Club Information .....	2	Taumarunui to Wellington (Part 2).....	5
Club Trip/Event Policies.....	2	Puketutu Island Paddle and Portage.....	8
Club Banking Details .....	2	Hutchwilco Boat Show 2011 .....	10
Website Password .....	2	President's Report.....	11
Kayak Hire .....	3	Training Course Report .....	11
Regular Events.....	3		
EPIRB – Accidental Activation ...	3		
Club Trips .....	4		



**Puketutu Paddle and Portage 2011** – Back in 2003 a group of club kayakers boldly went where no kayak had been for over 45 years. Last month another group had a go. (L-R) Jeff Amsden, Matt Crozier and Tony Hannifin on a **Boys' Own** adventure. See trip report page 8.

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](mailto: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](mailto:patron@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[president@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:president@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[secretary@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:secretary@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[treasurer@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[trips@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:trips@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[publicity@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:publicity@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[training@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:training@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[merchandise@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:merchandise@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[vinehouse@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:vinehouse@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[newsletter@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
[webmaster@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto: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.**

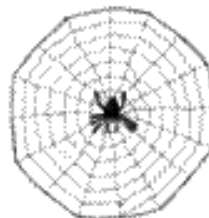
### Internet Banking

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** waikopua



## Deadline for Next Newsletter

**19 April 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

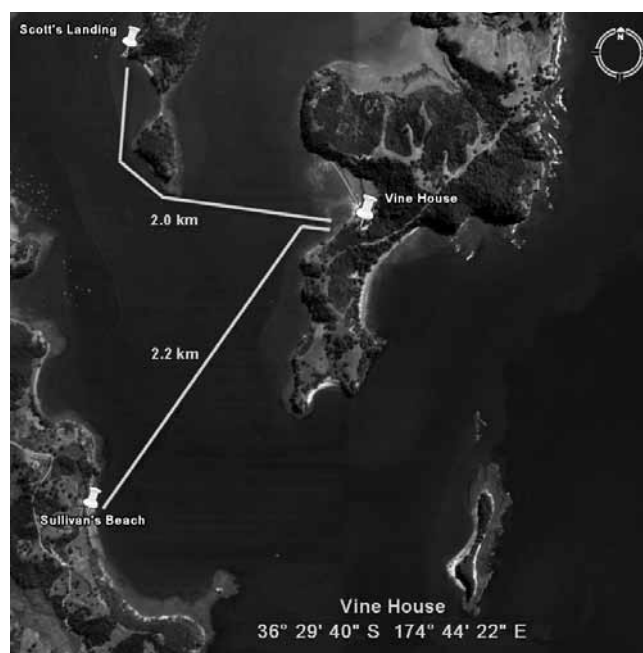
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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!

## Club Trips – April / May 2011

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

### 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! Please feel free to invite friends and/or family to join us under the pohutukawas for the barbecue!!

We would love to see any Club members, unable to paddle, join us for a catch-up.

This year, it has been decided by the committee, that all funds received by the Club for this event, will be donated to a charity (yet to be decided), involved in the Christchurch Earthquake relief. If you are running late, for any reason, as long as you can make it to the Rangitoto Wharf just before the race start, please do so!

### EASTER

#### Friday, 22 – Monday, 25 April

There is still time to organise a trip for this long weekend. Get your thinking caps on, then send out an email alert or phone like-minded friends and *just do it!* as they say on the famous footwear brand ads.

#### April 30 – May 1

##### 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.

#### Thursday, 12 – Sunday 16 May

##### Hutchwilco Boat Show

See Ian's article on page 10.

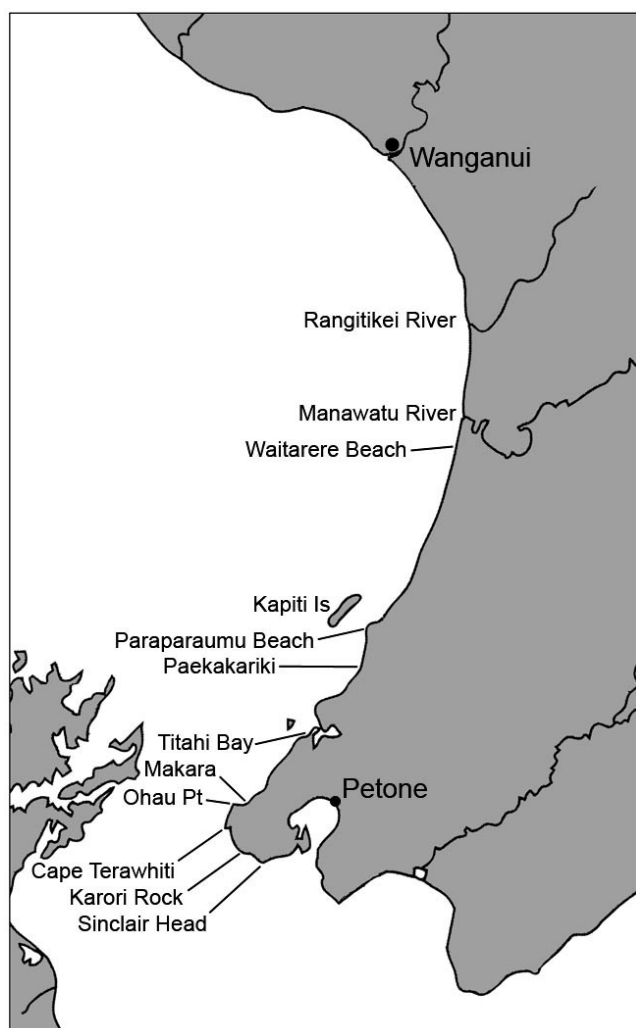
**Call Ian on 579-0512** if you are willing to offer your services on Club Stand or volunteer to demonstrate kayak skills in the heated pool.



## Taumarunui to Wellington (Part 2)

Colin Quilter

I have earlier described how I travelled downriver to Wanganui unexpectedly quickly, and settled into a more or less contented life in the local campground while I waited for conditions on the coast to improve. After four days I grew impatient and attempted to leave the river in spite of bad weather; but the sight of breakers right across the river-mouth caused me a sudden loss of enthusiasm for the open sea, and I retreated overland (kayak-on-trolley) to a campground at Castlecliff Beach. Another three days passed there, land-bound. But at last, after I had been ashore in Wanganui for a full week, the gods relented. I had served my sentence.



The wait ashore had been useful in another way, because when I arrived at Castlecliff the beach had been so thickly strewn with logs brought down-river by the recent flood that no-one could have launched a kayak through them. They were tangled, in their thousands, along the high-tide mark as far as the eye could see. However the council sent a bulldozer which spent two days clearing about 100 metres of

beach in front of the Surf Club, and it was through this gap that I dragged my kayak early on the eighth morning.

Though conditions were much improved there were still three lines of breakers, (indicating two shallow bars offshore) and getting through them took some care. I guessed that the surf would diminish as I travelled south, so I decided to stay in my boat and paddle for as long as I felt comfortable, without attempting to land for a break. The day passed easily enough as I paddled south. I had a light headwind, just enough to keep me cool. The coastal scenery was, to be honest, boring; an endless beach, backed by dunes and (usually) pine forest. As far as I could see there is not a rock, not a point or headland, nothing but sand between Wanganui and Paekakariki 115km to the south.

I paddled for 9 hours, covering 43km before, quite suddenly, I had had enough; and landed through gentle surf. My landing place was the same as every other part of the beach. I found a flattish spot in the dunes and camped on top of a patch of marram grass. Not an ideal campsite, but the evening was still, the sunset magnificent, and I had a pleasant night.



Camped among the dunes on the endless beach of the South Taranaki Bight

On along the coast next morning, more of the same. But sunny and calm and hot! There was no escaping the heat. At 3pm I found myself at Waitarere where there is a campground, so I pulled ashore and retreated into the shade of a big macrocarpa tree. A skinny tabby cat begged me for food there. She pulled a face at the first mouthful of spicy salami but she was too hungry to turn it down.

Rain during the night. I walked to the beach at 6.30am, didn't like the look of the grey sky and whitecaps, and went back to my tent for coffee and the morning news on the radio. The cat had tuna for breakfast (which she told me was a great deal better than salami). However conditions improved after a couple of hours and by mid-morning I was on my way again.

Continued on page 6 ➤

## Taumarunui to Wellington (Part 2)

Continued from page 5

This was an interesting day. The wind was a light NW breeze, coming in from behind my right shoulder. I hoisted my sail without great hopes but immediately the boat felt lighter. As my speed lifted the apparent wind shifted forward so that it was now coming from slightly ahead of the beam, (a point of sailing which a yachtsman or woman would describe as a “tight reach”). Since my kayak lacks a centreboard or keel this is not a point of sailing which she should in theory be able to sustain, but as long as I kept paddling (“motor-sailing”) then along she went. The GPS showed that my speed had increased by about 40%, (from 5 to 7 km/hr) so I motor-sailed happily southward for about 6 hours and knocked off another 42km.

The campground at Paraparaumu was so well concealed among houses behind the beach that it took me some time to locate. Once there, I found that every tent site had its own little utility building with shower and toilet, a unique arrangement which I approved of. On a neighbouring site I met Reg who was an 88-year-old retired bookbinder living there in a permanent caravan. We struck up a friendship which was good because a fresh headwind kept me at Paraparaumu an extra day.



A tent-site with its own toilet and shower!

When the wind relented I paddled south, soon meeting a rocky coastline, (for the first time since Wanganui) at Paekakariki. From there to Titahi Bay there are coastal settlements familiar to anyone who has driven along State Highway 1; but south of Titahi Bay the coast becomes much wilder, with grand headlands clad in bare rock and desiccated scrub. There were few places to camp, (just one good site on the southern side of Green Point) so I paddled on, reaching Makara Beach 10 hours (52km) from Paraparaumu. I camped there on the roadside

reserve, 200 metres up a fetid and sulphurous stream which emerges onto the beach; but it was a quiet enough night, so no complaints.

Makara was a critical point in my trip, because the next headland to the west (Ohau Point) is the gateway to Cook Strait. The forecast suggested that delaying my entry into the strait might be helpful, so I spent a contented day on the coast between Makara and Ohau Point, landing at every little beach and taking long walks up into the surrounding hills. There's much of interest here, for example the huge wind turbines which dominate the hill tops and ridge-lines (and which I thought rather graceful as their enormous blades carved silently through the wind). On a hilltop west of Makara I found the site of “Fort Opau”, where two 6-inch guns were installed at great expense in 1941 to guard the northern approaches to Cook Strait; the guns were removed in 1944, having fired only the shots necessary to calibrate them. Nothing remains except the concrete emplacements, and the wind sweeps endlessly across dry grass and stunted gorse. I camped that night in a little cove just east of Ohau Point, thoroughly happy after one of my best days on the coast. It would be worth living in Wellington just to visit and re-visit this part of the coast by kayak or on foot.



A futuristic scene on the hills above Makara

Next morning in calm conditions I rounded Ohau Point and entered Cook Strait. I had three major headlands to get around; in order they were Cape Terawhiti, Karori Rock, and Sinclair Head. The best guide to this part of the coast is “*The New Zealand Cruising Guide – Central Area*,” written for yachtsmen by Murray & Von Kohorn, and it made sobering reading. I was interested in the authors' comments about northerly winds, which were forecast for the day I was there. “*The area from Cape Terawhiti to Sinclair Head is known by local yachtsmen as*

Continued on page 7 ➤

## Taumarunui to Wellington (Part 2)

Continued from page 6

*“the wind factory.” It is aptly named as the various V-shaped valleys accelerate N sector winds which blast out over the area at speeds up to 20 knots stronger than in the centre of Cook Strait. Yachtsmen should reduce sail before entering the area.”* Added to that was the problem of tidal currents which run at up to 4 knots past the big headlands, a speed which I could not paddle against. Of course, if one were to believe all the dire warnings written about some parts of the New Zealand coast one would never leave home, so I carried on (but with a degree of caution, and having timed my trip so that I would reach Karori Rock at slack water).

Off Cape Terawhiti the northerly was beginning to gust heavily down from the hills, but fortunately I was able to pass well inshore of Karori Rock and the reefs that surround it, so gaining a measure of shelter from the cliffs above. I landed east of Karori Rock, climbed a headland, and looked along the coast towards Wellington. True to the warnings in the *Cruising Guide* a river of wind was pouring out of the mouth of each valley along the coast ahead, the torrents of air marked by tumbling whitecaps. I got back in the boat and managed to cross the first river by paddling at sprint speed at a slightly oblique angle to the wind; but that one experience was enough. The wind was now at such strength that if through a momentary error I had let the bow swing too far away from the eye of the wind, I would have been forced into a side-on position from which I could not recover, and would have been blown offshore into Cook Strait, out of control.



The view westwards towards Cape Terawhiti from Cape Karori. The hills of the Marlborough Sounds are visible in the distance.

I needed a landing, and a shingle cove on the western side of Sinclair Head provided it. It was a desolate little bay, just shingle scree and wind-blasted scrub, not somewhere you would normally give a second glance; but what a happy place it seemed to me!

Staggering in the gusts, I pulled my boat up the beach and into shelter, changed into dry clothes, and made a rock windbreak to shelter my gas stove. In rough weather the best place for a seafarer to be is on dry land with a cup of tea and a piece of chocolate in hand; so once that was achieved I was indeed a happy paddler.

The afternoon was great. From a comfortable seat in the scrub I watched the williwaws lifting spirals of spray, like smoke, across my bay. At intervals I declared an intermission in the show and made more tea and chocolate; so I suppose the only danger in this situation was that if the wind continued I might have gone home a good deal heavier than when I had left it.



An afternoon at the opera: scenes of sound and fury viewed from the safety of the beach near Sinclair Head

At nightfall the gusts eased enough to allow me to put up my tent, and when I launched my kayak in the grey light of dawn next morning, it was onto a flat calm sea. Within an hour I was passing the suburbs of Owhiro Bay and then Island Bay; and soon afterwards I landed briefly near Seatoun, inside the Wellington Harbour entrance. From there it was 12km to my destination at Petone on the northern shore of the harbour, (the only camping ground near the waterfront at Wellington is the Top 10 Holiday Park at Petone), but while I contemplated paddling that final distance a southerly breeze came in from Cook Strait. So I hoisted my sail and flew across to Petone with hardly a paddle stroke needed, an easy end to a satisfying trip on river and sea.

The distances covered overall were 245km by river, and 220km by sea, and readers can judge from my account what are the merits of each part of the journey. For me the coastline between Makara and Island Bay was probably the highlight, and I envy Wellington paddlers who have this as their backyard. Although this part of the coast is exposed to some wild weather, none the less there are so many small landings that I think one could always get ashore if that becomes a necessity; and the hills and shoreline have a wonderful rugged grandeur which would lift anyone's spirits.

Happy paddling!

Colin



## Puketutu Island Paddle and Portage

Roger Lomas

Puketutu is the largest island on Auckland's Manukau Harbour. Our *Boys' Own* adventure one Saturday morning mid-March was to circumnavigate it. The challenge of course would come when we attempted to cross the road causeway that links the island to the Mangere coast. This in itself is not an insurmountable task, but the roadway also parallels an outfall canal. The waters of the canal come from the nearby Watercare Sewerage Treatment plant. So there would actually be two portages (canal bank and then the roadway) and also that short paddle across the canal. Yes it would be sort of like paddling up the proverbial creek.

Contacts from within Watercare had assured me that the canal was safe to paddle in. One even suggested that the water was technically drinkable but this of course was optional. Watercare publicity people probably socialise with those Tui Brewery advertising men!

Anyway, Matt, Jeff and Tony joined me at Hillsborough Bay on a sunny Saturday morning. The tide was still rushing in as we paddled away from the bay towards the Cape Horn headland just along the coast. We had launched three hours before high tide and the

sandbanks out in the harbour were still being flooded. There is a deep water channel that runs from Cape Horn across towards the western tip of Puketutu and we turned out into it. We were going to circumnavigate the island in an anticlockwise direction.

Puketutu has volcanic origins and black lava rocks were waiting to greet us. The strong Manukau Harbour tidal flow was rushing in through the rocks. The big 4.3 metre tide was now well over halfway in and carrying us down the Southern side of the island.

We were soon approaching the area where the now long gone former oxidation ponds previously presided (removed by 2003). These were the largest sewerage ponds in the world and occupied the entire sweep of the channel that runs between the island and the Mangere shore. They also closed off almost half of the island's shoreline.

The Mangere coast has now been rehabilitated and it looks fantastic. We saw white sandy beaches protected by small rock groynes. Grasslands with regenerated bush were beyond the beach and in the hinterland, the historic Otuataua Stonefields. We made use of one of the nice sandy beaches.

*Continued on page 9 ➤*



*Matt and Jeff on the rehabilitated beach.*

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS



## Puketutu Island Paddle and Portage

Continued from page 8

We sat in the sun enjoying a cuppa as we reflected on the world's woes. A flotilla of black swans bobbed offshore. Almost an hour passed, there seemed to be a reluctance to leave. Perhaps it was because of what awaited us on the next leg.

We were now approaching the causeway and the canal. Our first portage point was located and we paired up to assist each other up and over the canal bank. The lads had all gone strangely silent now as they peered down at the dark water of the outfall canal. It was time to take the plunge. The only other option to avoid the canal was to paddle to the island end of the causeway, find a landing and then trek the kayaks over a canal bridge and out along the causeway to a suitable launch point. Over a kilometre of slog on shore. No fun in that.

Almost in unison, perhaps feeling that there was strength in numbers, the kayaks slid into the mysterious dark water. The trip photographer hovered ever hopeful of capturing an accidental immersion. But the three nervous paddlers were having none of that. They all managed a perfect departure from a rather tricky place.

Matt was the first to get underway and made the observation that the water was actually clearer than the seawater we had just vacated. Jeff commented that it was quite tepid too, almost body temperature. Tony, who lives within sniffing distance of a similar facility on the North Shore, seemed quite relaxed, at home almost.

So we made our way some 250 metres upstream and there was time to contemplate. Few would have paddled here before, but why not? We would have all helped to pay for this very expensive waterway. Some of us were still making regular contributions to it.

Our next portage point was located and it was another scramble up a rock bank. We crossed the road and made ready to launch for the final leg. Matt also legged it along the causeway to seek out a local geo-cache and Tony took a tumble and



About to cross the canal, Jeff (foreground), Matt and Tony.

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

dented his shin on a large boulder. Like the good trooper that he is, his first aid kit (don't leave home without it), was quickly deployed and an amputation was avoided.

Paddling away from the island we headed over towards Ambury Farm Park. The coast along here is renowned for its migratory bird roost. Jeff spotted a variety of birds and some bird watchers. We too had to keep a good lookout as submarine rocks leached with oysters were lurking around every promentry.

As we crossed the shipping channel leading up to Onehunga we enjoyed a few small wind against tide waves. These helped speed us along the final few kilometres to Hillsborough Bay. We landed and then lingered over another cuppa before heading home.

On the drive home I mused to myself with this consequential thought. If I had been of the Hindu faith, I would now have to undertake a month of reciting mantras and possibly even a pilgrimage to the Ganges for purification.

Fellow paddlers and Untouchables were Matt Crozier, Jeff Amsden and Tony Hannifin.

*Roger*

# Hutchwilco Boat Show 2011

Ian Calhaem

They say that time moves quick as one grows older, but it really does not seem like a year ago that the Club was at the 2010 Boat Show.

Thanks to the organiser, Dave Gibb, the Auckland Canoe Club has again been donated a large stand in the Logan Campbell Hall (where we were last year). In addition, there will be a new area this year specifically for Water Safety Education. Thanks to our many dedicated canoe club members our Club is synonymous with Kayak Safety and we have again been invited to promote this message.

What is new this year is a second 10 x 5 metre pool in the Education area.

But wait – there is more – **this pool will be kept at 28 deg C!**

Now if that is not an incentive to come and demonstrate your kayak skills I do not know what is.

The Show is on from **Thursday, 12th May until Sunday 16th May.**

On Thursday and Friday during the day the heated pool will be used by various school groups, but Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday it is available for Club activities. The organisers are approaching other organisations to present a variety of activities but I am sure that the Canoe Club could enthral the public with displays of rolling, wet entry etc in the heated water. If you want to practice getting back into your kayak what better place to practice those skills with tuition provided free by other club members.

## The Message

In case you have not already got the message – we are looking for...

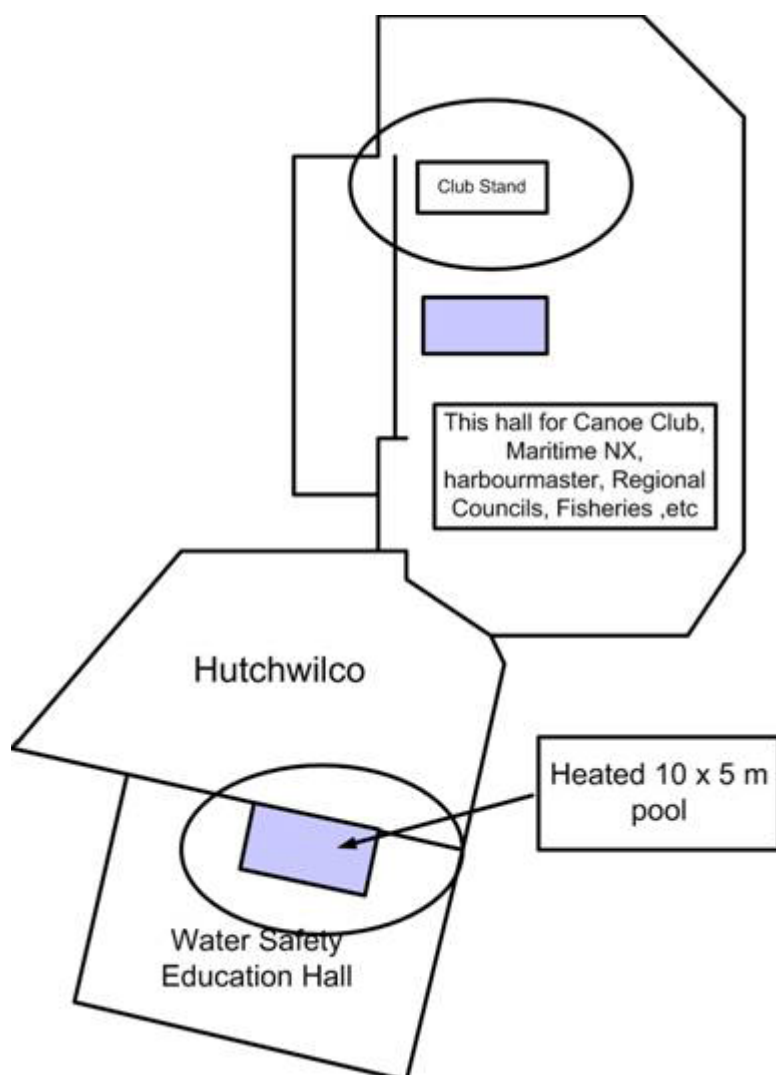
- Volunteers to man the stand throughout the Show – Thursday to Sunday
- Volunteers to demonstrate kayak skills on Saturday and Sunday in the heated pool
- Volunteers to come and be the pupils so that our instructors can teach you and show the public how it is done.

Please contact one of the Committee members to offer your services and say what you can offer.

The Education Hall will have additional display space if we over flow the main display stand. So if you have an interesting kayak, a custom built sail that you can proudly show others please let us know.

*Ian Calhaem*

09 579-0512



## President's Report

Dear All,

I can report that negotiations with the Council and the Sailing Club over the buildings on the Landing is still progressing. Various proposals have been put forward but so far we have not been able to find a solution that everyone will agree to. However the positive side is that everyone is still talking, and it has been agreed that the Club's position on the Landing is secure. It is the conditions of the tenure that we are now working through.

You will have read elsewhere in this newsletter, the exciting offer made to the Club by the Hutchwilco Boat Show, so if you have an opportunity to support the Club and show how the Club promotes Kayak Safety please join us there.

Safe Paddling,

*Ian*

## Training Course Report

*Ian Calhaem*

Last weekend we held a practical training course and fortuitously the weather was bad.

Now you might think that this is a strange comment, and that as participants you would want beautiful calm conditions, the sun shining and no wind, or perhaps a wind that was always behind you!

Think about it – in ideal conditions what would you learn? You might get familiar with paddle strokes and the elementary techniques of getting in and out of your kayak in calm conditions, but would that teach you how to manage when the wind came up, or the waves were crashing onto the shore?

In adverse conditions with an experienced instructor to ensure that you were always safe – even if you did not feel so – you learn a lot and achieve far more than you thought you were capable of.

That was the case last weekend. Novice, or near novice paddlers took the opportunity to come and learn. We went through a little bit of theory and then whilst the wind was not too strong ventured out onto the water. As is so common with novice paddlers, their kayaks will not travel in straight lines. They go round and round in circles. Eventually the kayaks were tamed – at least sufficiently to make progress into Hobson Bay, and our adventure began.

Under the Ngapipi Bridge, having positioned ourselves in a suitable position to observe if any

power boats were coming in or out of the outdoor boating club, we ventured into the calm waters of the bay. Plenty of space to practice our paddle strokes and after an hour or so, everyone was able to paddle confidently up the stream on the incoming tide.

Lunch in Judges Bay after some strenuous towing practice and then it was home to Okahu Bay.

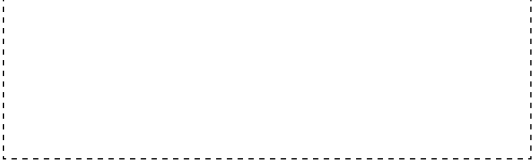
By that time the wind had picked up a little and turned to the North blowing straight through the Ngapipi Bridge. It did not look so inviting out in the open sea and participants needed some coaxing to paddle steadily against the wind and under the bridge. Were they happy – no! Did they learn a lot – most definitely? They learnt in a safe but unfamiliar situation just what they were capable of. They learnt the need to keep paddling steadily against the wind in order to maintain steerage, and they learnt that it was within their capabilities.

Our novice kayakers who had left Okahu Bay just hours earlier paddled home, tired but with smiles on their faces – happy to be safely home, but also paddling with confidence that would not have seemed possible when they started out.

As their instructor, I congratulate the participants for their determination and their dedication to increasing their skills so dramatically.

*Ian*





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



To:

