



November 2011

Club Information	2		
Club Trip/Event Policies	2		
Club Banking Details	2		
Website Password	2	Ha long Bay, Vietnam..... 4	
Kayak Hire	3	Back to the Rivers	
Regular Events.....	3	The Ferry Glide	6
New Members.....	3	Club Trips.....	7
		Upcoming Swim Escort Dates ...	7

First Swim Escort – Sunday 27 November ***See details on page 6***



Ha long Bay, Vietnam (see page 4).

PHOTOS JACKIE HILLMAN

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>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>		

Email addresses

patron@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
president@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
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treasurer@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
trips@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
publicity@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
merchandise@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
vinehouse@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
newsletter@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
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.

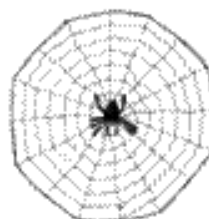
Internet Banking

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

Password Rotopiro



Deadline for Next Newsletter

20 November 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.

CLUB KAYAK FOR SALE

CROSSWIND DOUBLE SEA KAYAK
For Sale at **\$1800.00**

As is where is

For more information please phone
Gavin Baker on 528 5188

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome

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

Glenn Broadbent
Sam & John Cottrell

Regular Events

Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

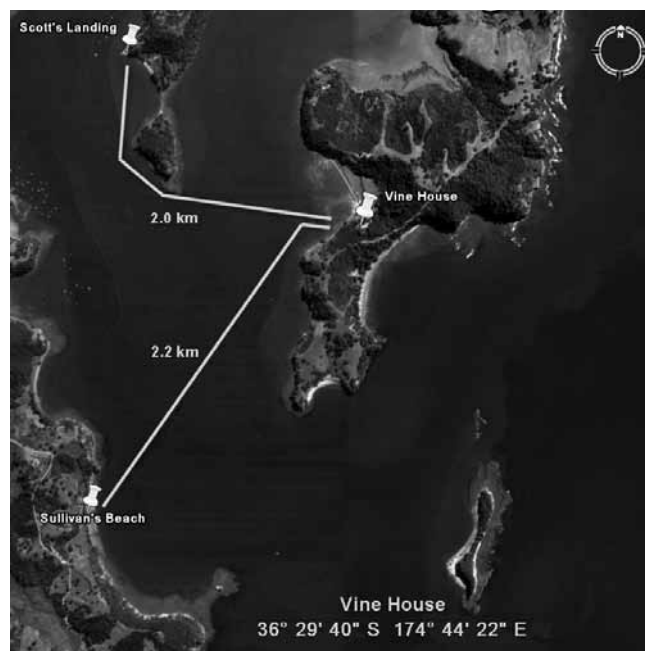
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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!

For more information, go to:

<http://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/view/127561>

Ha long Bay – Vietnam

by Jackie Hillman



Lying on a wicker lounge sipping Saigon beer from the deck of a traditional Junk while quietly motoring (sadly not sailing) through steep limestone cliffs I agree doesn't sound much like a kayak trip.

It is day 3 of my trip to Vietnam. I arrived a few days prior to the start of a 15 day bike/ bus tour of the country so I could visit Ha long Bay in the Gulf of Tonkin, north east of Hanoi. This World Heritage site (UNESCO designated in 1994) offers the opportunity to kayak around some of the 1900+ incredible limestone islands rising out of the blue water.

Morgan advised before I left to spend as many nights out on the water as I could fit into my trip. There are plenty of day and overnight trips offered from Hanoi but it's a 4 hour bus trip each way which doesn't allow much time to enjoy the area. I chose a two night / 3 day trip which included kayaking using plastic Necky kayaks.

For purest kayakers this wasn't the trip for you, with little opportunity to paddle independently. However a good local guide gives so much insight to the area and history that would take much research to source, and you would miss out on the delights of explanations in English spoken as a second language!

We left Halong City and arrived at a floating village where the kayaks were stored, I was disappointed not to see a single kayak. So I shared with the guide and after three gentle paddle strokes we had left the group behind much to the shock of the guide. Women clearly aren't supposed to know how to paddle!

We cruised between steep cliffs covered with dense vegetation. It was an area known for monkeys that travel in large groups but sadly we saw none. There was surprisingly little bird life just a constant buzz of cicadas.

By now we were desperate for a swim. Approaching a sandy beach we prepared to dive in. On landing the guide had a fit as we dropped into the water, realizing he hadn't mentioned swimming is restricted to certain areas of the bay and he could be fined if we were caught.

Wet, we returned to the kayaks and paddled a different route back to the village with the promise of a swim later and visits to caves and extended kayaking the following day. We had paddled for about 2 hours and returned to the Junk before sailing to the night's mooring spot.

Here we were allowed to swim, so the water around the Junks was surrounded by bobbing heads. All tourist boats gather for the night for security. Ha Long Bay borders China and the Chinese Navy patrol the area arresting local fishing boats regularly to ensure their presence is noted.

The weather was stunning while I was there and bays well protected, offering a very comfortable sleep as the Junks are very stable. All food was included and we enjoyed a fabulous feast of seafood dishes.

Next day we headed out on a smaller vessel towing our kayaks to a new area.

I spied a single kayak this time which the guide proudly advised was for me (clearly I had proved myself the day before!)

The morning was spent exploring caves and different bays, passing steep limestone outcrops and cliffs. We entered a huge lagoon through a rocky arch and later a secluded bay through a narrow cave. The kayaking was fabulous just what I had hoped for.



Continued on page 5 ➤

Ha long Bay – Vietnam

Continued from page 4



After lunch we moved to another area with a small beach resort where we could swim and climb a hill to view other bays full of fishing boats and traditional Junks. We had the option to paddle again but by now it was very hot and swimming seemed too bigger draw.

We returned to the same night anchorage and enjoyed another comfortable evening squid and crab fishing under the boats flood lights.

The last morning was spent visiting a floating fishing village. Locals paddle you around and collect rubbish with nets along the way. The World Heritage status and the revenue derived from tourists provide the motivation to keep the bays rubbish free. This hadn't extended to oil/diesel spills which sadly pollute the area. All the houses have generators and enjoy TV and mobile phones as seen throughout Vietnam.



Visiting independently

It would be quite difficult to be completely independent but there are options to arrange a more extended tour camping on beaches. Security could pose a risk from Tourist police who fine if found in an area without the correct permission and of course the Chinese navy. There is little available fresh water. I was put in contact with a company who arranges extended trips and are available for advice.

Blue Swimmer Adventure –
check out www.blueswimmersailing.com if you want more information.

Vietnam is a wonderful place to visit as the people are a delight and the country stunning.



BACK TO THE RIVERS – The Ferry Glide

Jim Mason

The recent story of the delights of an extended cruise down the Wanganui river brought back fond memories. Auckland Canoe Club was formed from a 1949 Wanganui cruise party and this trip was repeated every Xmas for the first decade. 70 gathered on the river for a recent anniversary reunion. Folding canoes and rubber dinghies simplified transporting large numbers to and from rivers.

Copies of the White Water number with a guide and tales of the river are available for anyone planning the cruise. It contains some advice for beginners, but most important is mastering the Ferry Glide:

- 1 **Steering by forward paddling:** The canoe travels faster than the current. Maintain steerage way by forward paddling as with a rudder. We did not use rudders on rivers.
- 2 **Steering by backward paddling:** The canoe travels slower than the current. In this the ferry glide is the basic manoeuvre used especially in shallow rocky rapids where there is danger of striking obstructions such as snags or rocks.

- (1) Back paddle until you are not moving up or down the river.
- (2) Without allowing the canoe to drift downstream, turn the stern **slightly** towards whichever bank you wish to approach. Hold this diagonal position across the current by paddling harder on the downstream side. Current will then carry craft sideways across the river.
- (3) On reaching desired position, paddle ahead with upstream paddle and astern with downstream until canoe is again parallel with the current and able to go ahead on the selected course. In this way you can pick a clear course, before committing to it, or look over the edge of a steep drop and still change your mind! (There aren't many of these on the Wanganui. It's the ideal family cruising ground with plenty to explore if you keep to about 15 miles a day.)

Ferry glide gets its name from the river ferries running on cables which use the current to move across the river. They usually have a large blade which they can turn at an angle across the current.

Enjoy your Xmas cruise.

Jim Mason

Sunday 27 November Swim Escort

Herne Bay Beach to Masfield Beach, Pt Erin

Meet at Curran Street, Herne Bay (under the Harbour Bridge). Be on the water by 8.30am, paddle to the race start at Herne Bay Beach for a briefing at 8.50am.

Race starts at 9.00am taking approximately 50 minutes back to Masfield Beach.

After the race Roger will welcome us with his legendary gourmet barbecue, cold drinks and sweet and/or chocolate biscuits.

Swim escorts are great social events offering new Club members a chance to meet older more experienced paddlers. This first swim escort is also an opportunity for those who have not paddled much during the colder months to renew their enthusiasm for the up-coming summer!!

Club kayaks will be available if needed – phone Gavin on 528 5188.

Club Trips – November / December 2011

Saturday Morning Coffee Cruise

If you are into good coffee, good company and usually a leisurely paddle then this is the trip 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!

For more information, go to:

<http://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/view/127561>

Sunday November 27

Swim Escort

Herne Bay Beach to Masefield Beach

Meet at Curran Street, Herne Bay. Aim to be on the water by 8.30am to paddle to Herne Bay Beach for the race start at 9.00am.

Roger's legendary barbecue awaits us at Curran Street after the race.

Please phone **Eddie** on **480 5623** or **027 271 4679** or email **Eddiev@blacktop.co.nz** if you need more information.

November 26 and 27

Vine House Weekend

With the good weather on its way, take the chance to get away from the crowds for a laid back weekend with good company and good food.

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

Sunday December 4

Christmas Barbecue and Sing-Along on Browns Island

Meet at St Heliers Beach at 1.00pm and make your way to Browns Island. High tide is at 3.30pm.

Bring your picnic lunch and/or barbecue fare, a small gift for Secret Santa (try not to spend much more than \$5!!), your best singing voice (song sheets will be handed out) and your festive spirit!!

More details will be revealed on November 27 at the Swim Escort barbecue.

Swim Escort Dates 2011 / 2012

The Auckland Central Masters Harbour Swim Committee has confirmed the dates for this season's harbour swims.

Date	Swim	Start	Approx Duration	Tide
Sunday, 27 November 2011	Herne Bay Beach to Masefield Beach (Pt Erin)	9.00 am	50 mins	9.30 am
Sunday, 11 December 2011	Masefield Beach (Pt Erin) to Chelsea Sugar	7.30 am	75 mins	8.40 am
Sunday, 12 February 2012	St Heliers to Tamaki Yacht Club	10.00 am	90 mins	11.40 am
Sunday, 26 February 2012	Rangitoto Wharf to St Heliers	10.00 am	120 mins	11.45 am

Please put these dates in your diaries. As these are popular days where large numbers of our members get together, and we earn some funds for the club, we would like to see as many of you as possible at these events.

Eddie