



## February 2012

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**Please Note** February Swim Escort Dates – page 4



*A recent morning paddle – Weiti River mouth.*

PHOTO MATTHEW CROZIER

## 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

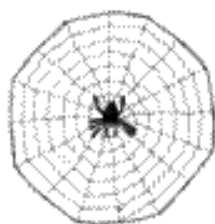
[subscribe@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:subscribe@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)

### 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>	Jackie Hillman	634 5042
<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@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)  
[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 Website Access

Password Rotopiro

## 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.



## Deadline for Next Newsletter

20 February 2012

## 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.

## Regular Events

### Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

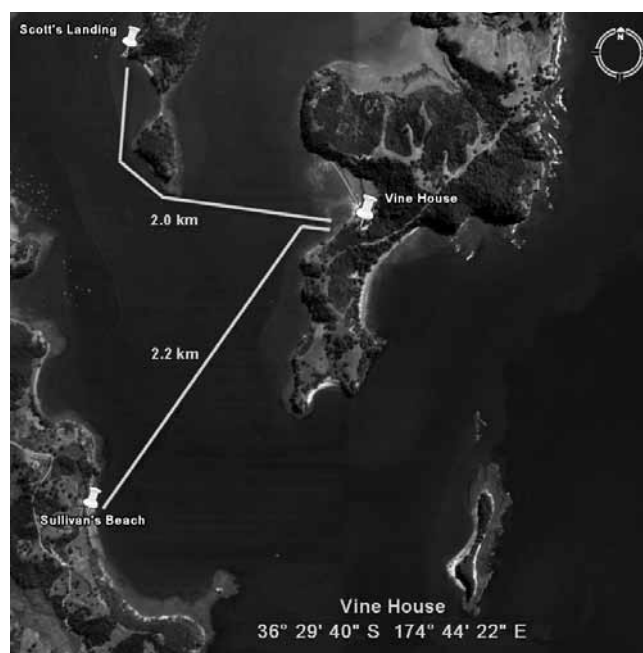
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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>

## Up-Coming Club Trips and Events

### 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>

### February 25 and 26 Vine House Weekend

Take the chance to get away from the crowds for a relaxing weekend with good company and good food.

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

### New Trips Officer – Jackie Hillman

Do you have a favourite half-day trip? Suggestions welcome. Let's support Jackie, our new trips officer.

Phone her on **634 5042** or email [jackie@trishlewis.com](mailto:jackie@trishlewis.com)

## Swim Escort – Sunday 12 February – St Heliers to Tamaki Yacht Club

The swim will start at 10am 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 Jackie Hillman on 634 5042 or [jackie@trishlewis.com](mailto:jackie@trishlewis.com) 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, as 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 cold drinks.

The briefing will be done at approx 9.15 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*

## Swim Escort – Sunday 26 February – Rangitoto to St Heliers

The last swim escort for the season!

Timing – 9.00am Pre-race briefing for kayakers at Rangitoto

– 9.20am 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 7.15am to leave at about 7.45am 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.

**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!



# Mohaka River Trip – November 2011

Jackie Hillman

Grade two rapids and easy access for repeat runs make the Mohaka River a mega for north island multi-sporters to practice their kayak skills, which is especially true this time of year with the coast-to-coast looming in February.

In November Carol Exon of Waitemata Multisport club decided to arrange another trip but had researched the possibility of putting in a further 30 km up the river on a stretch used by white water kayakers and rafting trips. This indicated it was a stretch of grade two rapids with a single grade three rapid (called the graveyard!) about ½ hr from the put in. It would require a long extra 120 km drive (from the usual starting point) to reach the put in point followed by a difficult access lowering the kayaks down a steep decent with steps to reach the river below.

Because of the challenges and logistics it wasn't an open invitation for all keen kayakers as often Carol's trips are. She wanted to take confident grade two paddlers and a smaller group allowed easier logistics if we ran into trouble.

Eventually five of us headed down with Max her partner offering to provide driver support and meet us before we committed ourselves to a stretch of the river with no option to pull out.

We left Auckland late Friday afternoon stopping at Carol's favourite 'Breakers' restaurant in Taupo (impossible to get her to try anywhere else!)

We travelled in Max's campervan towing the kayak trailer. It allowed some to sleep while travelling as we knew we would arrive very late at the DOC Mangututu Thermal Springs campsite.

We had been told the river was likely to be quite 'boney' so only robust plastic sea kayaks, whitewater or plastic sit on tops were taken. No beachcomber kayaks were allowed on this trip.

We arrived at the campsite at 1.30 am and managed with one tent and everyone else in the campervan. Soon everyone was asleep and the morning 6.30 am wake up came around very quick. Never expect a lie in if you join one of Carol's trips !

We needed the early start to pack up and prepare everything for the day, then move to the Gums car park (500m away) where we would access the river.

Lowering the boats took a bit of 'man handling' and some 'problem solving' to get around some steep descents. However by 8.30 am we were ready to set off. The morning light was stunning with the sun glinting on the water.



*Pukaututu Road bridge*

Max was left to tidy up and meet us at the Pukaututu road bridge (last pull out before Mountain Valley Lodge).

We knew there was an approx 20 km stretch with no road access, so we carried a personal GPS beacon, tent, sleeping bag, bivvy bag, first aid kit, spare clothes and food between the group. Everyone carried a whistle, and a combination of tow lines or throw lines. We all wore helmets and carried spare paddles, if we had them.



*First rapid after launching.*

The put in was only meters from the first rapid a tricky set of rocks dropping toward the left into a hole with a small bluff. That created a few wobbles and the first swim of the group. I had elected to use my old plastic paddle for fear of damaging my carbon wing paddle I've used for the last few years. I am not sure

*Continued on page 6 ➤*

if I hadn't set up the blade angles correctly or was completely out of practice using it, but I really struggled as it spun in my hands and I couldn't create the power and control I was familiar with. I found this really unsettling as we were negotiating rapids quite quickly.

A few rapids in I found myself swimming a new experience for me having never fallen out before. I have to confess my self rescue skills were lacking as it took me quite a while to sort myself out with the help of the others. It was noticeable how quickly others who were more familiar tipping out got themselves organised and quickly back paddling.

Having fallen out in two consecutive rapids I decided to change back to my familiar paddle. By now the others were a little ahead and I eddied out above the next rapid to have a look as I couldn't see the exit. I couldn't see a clear route through and reckoned this was the graveyard rapid (it proved to be!) having lost confidence I decided to portage around. The others were waiting and climbed back to find me. I clambered around the rapid while Carol decided she would have a go at paddling my kayak through. She made it having been forced through a different path than she had taken previously. All safely though we continued on having to concentrate hard as there was little let up between the successive grade 2 rapids.

The difference on this part of the Mohaka from the more commonly paddled stretch was after any short period of relaxed paddling you would enter a series of rapids each flowed directly into the next. Plenty of corners with bluffs to negotiate and several rapids dropping into corners with bluffs and tricky eddies.

They were all grade two but with the low flow some of the paddling lines were tricky and 'ideal' lines were obscured by unhelpful rocks. The frequency of rapids meant the going was quite tiring. After a couple of hours I was starting to shiver having been wet a couple of times and we had to wait for others to climb back in. Only Kathy in her stable Breeze kayak stayed dry all weekend. We had been eating along the way but I decided I needed some more food and few extra clothes even though wearing a wetsuit. So we took the opportunity to have an early lunch and all re-warm. We had lost the morning sun as the weather gradually deteriorated to a light drizzle and overcast conditions.

We pressed on having paddled for 3 hours. We were all enjoying the river by then, the rapids were manageable and scenery stunning. I had relaxed but was clearly getting tired as we descended into

another sharp turn by a bluff I missed noticing the submerged rock and failed to get in a brace stroke, the rock and river flow tipped me out. Damn now more wet clothes and I felt disappointed I hadn't managed to prevent another spill as I would have done on past trips. I decided if this was to happen again and I found myself over I would have an attempt at a roll as by now I had lost my fear of falling out. That was not to be, as I managed an uneventful final hour before the familiar signs of reaching Mountain Valley Lodge came into view.

This was an area we have launched from many times. We pulled over and discussed who wanted to continue on. I decided I was too tired after 4 hours and was keen to shower and get warm. I had found the time spent in the water and the series of continuous rapids (concentration + effort) much more tiring than usual. I was also not paddle fit as it had been a while since I had paddled on moving water or for that length of time.

The others decided to press on and I hauled my kayak out and set off to find Max at our accommodation promising to unload the van and pick them up later.

The others reckoned they had about another 90 minutes to 2 hours of paddling to go.

Max hadn't arrived by the time I climbed to the lodge, so once we had unloaded the gear he left me to sort out accommodation while he set off to collect the others. They returned having been astounded how easy they had found the remaining trip. No one had fallen out and they completed it in an hour.

Mountain Valley Lodge is a useful base with an option of bunkhouse, chalet or camping accommodation. It gives access to an extra 7–8 km of river with some nice rapids. Otherwise the only other option is to camp lower down the Mohaka at the basic DOC Glenfalls campsite 8km down Waitara Rd off the Napier-Taupo road. Most kayakers will then launch from McVickers Road and do repeat trips from there to Glenfalls.

The next day we planned a few more runs of this lower section and I was surprised how easy I found the paddling even though still tired after the previous day. I have paddled this stretch many times training for C 2 C but it was so different this time with the lower flows, I struggled to recognise many of the rapids.

## Mohaka River Trip

*Continued from page 6*

On reaching Glenfalls we found the usual crowd of multisporters arranging shuttles to rerun the river. We offered to drive two grateful lads back with their kayaks as they didn't have a driver, and self shuttling would limit the number of practice runs they could achieve.

I decided one run was enough while others enjoyed a second. Carol squeezed in a third run – she is a machine!!

I enjoyed the time chatting to Max while we shuttled the others and meeting up with some other kayakers I knew.

It proved to be a special weekend as Max was to drown the following weekend swimming off St Heliers

while training for the triathlon event the following day. We shall all remember him for his dogged determination, love of the outdoors and willingness to share this with anyone keen to join him.

The Mohaka is a fabulous scenic river to kayak and worth the trip down for the weekend even though it is a long drive. Thanks to Carol for arranging the trip.

For those thinking of having a go at putting in at Mangatutu Hot Springs. Approx. 120 km from Taupo on Napier-Taupo Rd, turn right into Hedgeley Rd. After 4.3 km Rt into Seafield Rd. Further 6km Rt at Puketitiri Rd for 33km. Rt at Pukaututu Rd for 9km then left at Makahu Road for the last unsealed 7.5 km to car park.



*Scenes from upper section of Mohaka when calm enough to take pictures!*

PHOTOS JACKIE HILLMAN