



## March 2012

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*Heading home from Home Bay with a cuppa stop at Leary's Landing by the Rangitoto Wharf.  
Left to right: Aaron Hanson, Matt Crozier, Jeff Amsden, Kevin Woolcott, Tony Hannifin and Ian Smeeton.*

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

(The little sandy beach that the kayakers have landed on was created by Auckland kayaker Rob Leary. Rob spent many hours some years ago clearing rocks to make this kayaker-friendly landing.)

## 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

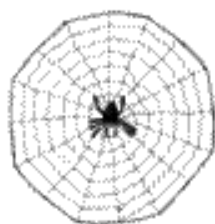
[subscribe@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:subscribe@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)

### 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>	Matt Crozier	817 1984

### Email addresses

[patron@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:patron@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
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[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 March 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.

## NEW MEMBERS



### Welcome

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

**Peter Hinton,  
Christopher &  
Camilla Cameron.**

## Regular Events

### Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

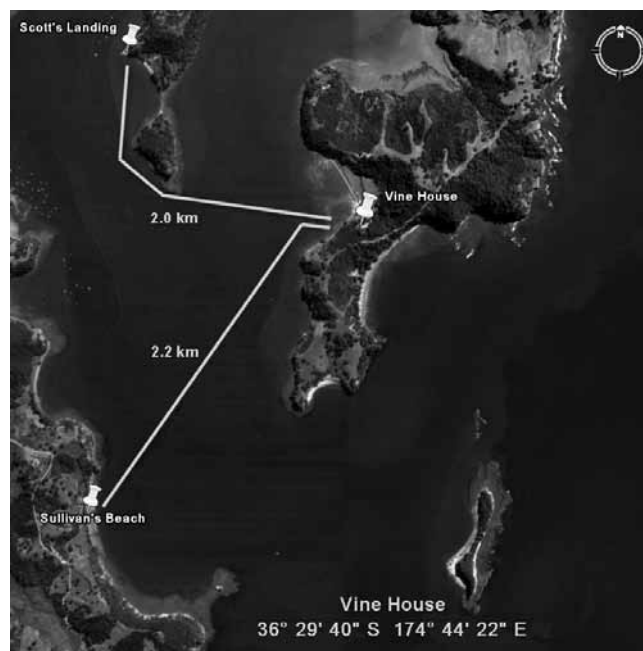
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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>

## Kayaking the Gulf Islands – February 10, 2012

Joe Scott Woods

Home Bay, Motutapu Island, is a favourite spot for kayakers. Just a couple of hours' relaxing paddle to escape a busy city.

Good to be greeted by fellow club members Roger Lomas, Matt Crozier, Kevin Woolcott, Jeff Amsden and Aaron Hanson.

Mike Bradbury, Alpine Sports Club and myself were the only starters this afternoon. Matt delighted us all by handing out slices of passionfruit cheesecake fresh from the camp kitchen. What a guy!

In a tent pitched close to the water the sounds of the night are loud and clear. Anchor chains rattling in the water, waves lapping on the shingle, oyster catchers unsettled, a morepork calling and snoring from adjoining tents. There's a bright moon casting a silver beam right to the tent flap.

**Saturday** The sun appears over Waiheke Island as Mike and I sup coffee after a wake up swim. Roger and ACC friends are departing early to return to their weekend chores while we have islands to visit. "Write a trip report Joe," were Roger's last request.

It is calm as our Beachcombers glide close to the shore. A shark is basking on the surface. It flashes off startled. Across the Rakino Channel to stretch at Woody Bay. Rain threatens but does not arrive. Onwards to Orarapa (The Haystack). Next, the clear water around The Noises: Motukoropapa and Otata Islands.

A fuel stop on a steep boulder bank where gulls and a colony of shags eyed us closely.

In and out holes and gaps (gardening) is challenging and today's minimal swell helps.

The tide was racing out as we passed Awash Rock making the journey an honest effort back to base.

Maori Garden Bay with its pohutukawa shade was our lunch stop on Rakino Island.

Mid-afternoon, while cooling off, Margaret and Peter Jemmett paddled into the bay to camp the night. Glad of a cuppa after their trip from Narrow Neck Beach on the Shore.

A walk to high points before sunset for wide views was good for the soul and digestion.

**Sunday** Tents flapping at dawn. Into the waves for a swim. Moored craft preparing to leave hastily. Confusion on the water. A near collision. A jetski loaded with camping gear – two adults and two children, all life-jacketed struggled in the shallows.

Cereal bowls in our hands, our eyes focussed on people busy in tenders toing and froing. Then ... away to our left someone was frantically pumping the chest of a man lying on the beach.

Soon paramedics arrived by helicopter, sadly the boat owner did not respond. He'd fallen off the stern of his launch minus a lifejacket. The launch was later found drifting in the channel. It had run out of fuel.

Shaken. Cautious. Our plans altered when exiting the bay. Tall white-crested waves made us turn towards our homes. The wind and the tide helped us.

Margaret and Peter chose the route through Gardiner Gap and along Rangitoto's sheltered north shore. Their double kayak squeezed under the causeway bridge. Two rests later, around three-ish, they beached at Narrow Neck.

Enjoying ourselves, Mike was singing as we surfed past Browns Island. Home in time for lunch and back to reality earlier than expected.

ASC friends: Mike Bradbury, Margaret and Peter Jemmett, Joe Scott Woods.



Happy campers departing Home Bay

PHOTO R LOMAS

## 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>

### March 31 and April 1 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.

### Easter Weekend April 6–9 Te Waitere (Kawhia South Harbour)

Come and enjoy kayaking the Kawhia Harbour, including Te Maika, Kawhia cafes and rock gardening through limestone rock formations. We'll spend the rest of the weekend exploring other areas as well.

There are limited places at the bach so be in quick to enjoy soaking in outdoor baths and cooking on open fires.

\$10 per night.

**Phone Justin Sanson Beattie 0274 868177.**



*A crowd throngs the St Heliers Beach to welcome the Rangitoto Swimmers 2012 ashore. Out in the distance a flotilla of club kayakers are shepherding the tail enders home. (That's Joe Scott Woods loading his kayak. Joe was down at dawn to assist and had to leave early to dash to the airport. What a trooper!) PHOTO ROGER LOMAS*

### **A trip to D'Urville Is and the Marlborough Sounds was made by Matt, Gerard and Ryan.**

Leaving Auckland early in the morning and once past Taupo, we got a look at long queues of Wellingtonians heading north. There were still plenty left when we arrived, or maybe it was all the visitors from Auckland.

We had booked a slot on the ferry the next morning. This is a big boat – we sat on level 10. It was a smooth crossing for us. Watching yachts outside travelling further vertically than horizontally made us glad we had opted for the easier route. Once into Queen Charlotte Sound, the sea flattened and the volume of boat traffic increased.

There was no shortage of cyclists on this crossing. We see them grinding up the hills of the Queen Charlotte road, beginning to feel guilty for taking the easy route again.

It's about a three-hour drive to French Pass. Spectacular views over the last few miles on metal roads take your mind off the precipitous falls on the roadside. It's a little off the beaten track, but the DoC campground is still full. Finding somewhere to leave the cars for the trip duration requires a bit of patience. The place is probably empty outside of the silly season and parking wouldn't be an issue.

D'Urville Island is about 150 km<sup>2</sup> in size and was named after the French explorer Jules Sébastien César Dumont d'Urville by his crew in 1827 on the second of three visits he made to New Zealand. The channel where the island was found was named "Passe des Francais" – or French Pass to us.

The tide is low around 7am the next morning, so we are up and packing in the dark to get slack water at low tide. There are plenty of warnings in the literature about standing waves, tide races and whirlpools. Who are we to doubt what we read on the internet.

The forecast winds suggest a clockwise trip is our best option, so we ride the start of the turned tide through the pass, gentle enough to be comfortable, but fast enough to make us glad of selecting low tide. The pace soon drops and we are able to explore leisurely around the exposed rocks covered in mussels. There are a few holiday homes on this side of the island, supplementing the permanent population of 68.

Passing Sauvage Pt, on D'Urville's southern tip, the Paddock Rocks come into view about a km offshore. There is an obvious hole in one of them, so it's out for a look.

The sea gets choppy the closer we get, and the hole turns out to be a smaller version of the Hole in the Rock at Cape Brett. It would still be big enough to get a ferry through, and is similarly impressive.

The chop stays with us, keeping us offshore until we round Ragged Pt into Greville Harbour, where the sea flattens out. We take a break for lunch in the sand dunes above one of the sheltered beaches. Rain starts as we finish lunch, and stays for the couple of hours it takes to reach the DoC campsite at Mill Arm. There are a few boats moored in the area, but the campground is empty. It's not a 4 star site and we pitch tents where we can before seeking shelter from the rain.

I decide I need to bring more comfort food as my only bag of lollies is gone within the first hour. The rain continues the next day, and the radio promises 30-50K winds if we venture out of the harbour.

New Year's Eve is more of the same and the boaties that visit aren't going anywhere either.

2012 dawns overcast with a light breeze, letting us leave Greville Harbour. A few houses on farmland and a couple of boats are the only sign of humans we see. Seals on the rocks and in the water, gannets, shags and gulls provide the action. The amount of bird song is markedly less than at French Bay.

On leaving the harbour, rain finds us again, but it doesn't matter with all the cliffs, caves and archways to take our attention. The incoming swells create a booming drum symphony on a group of a dozen caves within 200m.

The only horses we sight on the trip are enjoying the views, high up on the cliff edge. Blue skies and sunshine have returned to escort us into Port Hardy. Oti Bay provides a campsite and allows gear to be dried out.

Creeks are common to most of the beaches we stopped at, and this one provides me with a bath while Matt heads off for some snorkelling, and Gerard goes fish hunting. There are impressive views back up the harbour to Victory Is from the beach. Soaking them up is a great way to spend the afternoon.

We are aiming to round Cape Stephens at slack water, so it's an early start. The only breaks in the oily water are the many penguins as we pass by. Most of the land here is in bush until we reach Skull Bay when it reverts to farmland.

*Continued on page 7 ➤*

There are many smaller islands as we approach Victory Is. They are riddled with caves and passages. It's hard to paddle away after a good wander around in such great conditions. There is no sign marking Cape Stephens and watching the map shows we are past it before we realise.

Two tall islands just offshore are joined to D'Urville by a shallow shell bank with the opposing currents colliding into a display of white water. One of the two islands is split lengthwise and you can see down the length of the island through the gap, water filling the 2-3 foot split and inviting entry. But it's a braver paddler than me that ventures in there!

Lots more rock gardening as Stephens Is passes on our left. We had been warned to beware of the Devils Cauldron and Hells Gate, but didn't see anything to warrant such fearsome monikers. We land at Bill Hook Bay, out of the rising wind. Paddlers must be common here as the seals on the beach don't move a muscle.

Climbing up the hill provides views back to Stephens Island. Now we can see what the warnings related to. The tide is racing past and white water marks the standing waves. Just get a kayak to avoid all the trouble.

It's a headwind if we continue, so it's a management decision by all the Indians to stay and camp with the seals. We have had no cell phone coverage since leaving French Bay – gutted. Sitting on the beach in the afternoon, a stingray appears in the shallows at the water's edge. Then another, and another. We walk down to watch them, 5 or 6 in total, facing us with their tails vertical out of the water, and watching back. They win the Mexican standoff.

Following the dead calm of the morning, and the 40k winds in the afternoon, we decide on an early start for the next day but it's still blowing a gale when the sun rises, so the early departure is shelved. We use the time to climb to the top of the highest hill and are rewarded at the top by views back down the west coast to Port Hardy on one side, and down the east coast to the Rangitoto Islands on a background of white caps on the other. Spectacular.

The wind dies at lunchtime so we are off. Straight away it's into more rock gardening, and tunnels abound. There are lots of birds offshore, but they don't look too active. I've noticed that there are often schools of kawahai or kingfish cruising around underneath – the birds just hoping for some action.

Dragging a lure doesn't get a result, but I hear splashes behind me and swivel for a look.

There is a wall of big silver grey backs following me. I don't want to mess with anything that big and start retrieving the line. They immediately take it, break it, and leave me to skulk away thankful that they were only interested in the lure.

The sea is calm now, so we head out to the closest of the Rangitoto Islands. Inside it looks steep and bland. Outside it is more rugged and the only beach is here. One of the islands was home to Ross Webber from 1957 to 2005. He was responsible for thwarting a number of attempts to steal tuatara from the Stephens Is sanctuary. Leaving the island, we surprise a swimming seal who becomes curious and playful after an initial shock.

Back on the D'Urville coast is more exploring of rocks and bays. A large waterfall fills the air with the smell of fresh water before we cruise into Penguin Bay. We have good reports of this beach as a campsite. The fresh water creek and pool on the stony beach lead us to agree. Phone coverage has returned, but you can't have everything.

It's only 20k back to our start point at French Bay and we have time to spend a lay day at this lovely spot. Matt heads off for some more snorkelling, Gerard potters around onshore, and I take to the water to explore the local area. The small island at the end of the beach houses 10 seals soaking up the sun after a morning's fishing. They have their own natural harbour on the back of the island.

The rocks at the other end of the beach house 20 seals. I can only see a couple of penguins here so it needs renaming Seal Bay. It would not be a great place to be a fish.

I ponder the difference between us humans on the trip compared to the seals, or any animal. Their primary concern is getting food, then resting to conserve energy, while we are happy to waste energy as getting food is not a concern.

Back on shore, following the creek back into the bush, a spa and pool are revealed at the base of a waterfall. The power just needs to be turned on to warm it up.

On departure the next day, the seals are in rest mode again. Hugging the coast down to Admiralty Bay, the number of houses increases and more boats appear. The calm and clear weather continues. We later found out that the rest of the country was experiencing the weather we avoided. You poor things.

We spot a few big fins offshore and paddle in their general direction. There turns out to be 6–8 Orca, some surfacing very close to us. They obviously don't pay any attention to the signs on shore telling them to keep a minimum distance from kayakers.

A couple of motor boats head our way to join in, prompting the Orca to submerge and vanish. The boats leave, Gerard remains and is rewarded with their return for a photo session.

Arriving back at French Pass at slack water and its dead still. We paddle across with barely any tidal flow. It's busy back on the beach as we pack up and leave.

Looking back on the Pass from the hilltop, the white water has returned after the brief rest.

Gerard returns home from here, while Matt and I head to Havelock where we leave the car at a motor camp right next to the marina, launch and head off up Pelorus Sound into the wind and incoming tide. There is plenty of boat traffic returning in the afternoon, and plenty of holiday homes on the hillsides. The water is murky and sand bars are exposed at this tide, a marked difference to what we had just experienced around D'Urville.

It's a good uphill workout getting to the campsite by Kenepuru Sound, but we get to share it with a couple from Australian to make up for it.

Friday sees us still into the wind further up Pelorus Sound, then down Nydia Bay, past mussel farms and a holiday camp that pollutes the air with the sound of revelling guests. We don't see them, but certainly know they are there.

Matt tracks down a geocache in an old rail engine at the head of the bay. We leave following the other shoreline, then its back into the wind up to Jacobs Reserve for lunch. Another cache is ticked off on the lookout, and we get to see the rest of the sound from the vantage point.

Other kayakers are arriving as we head back, Sarah and Joanna have walked their boats onto the ferry from Wellington and paddled here from Picton. A tour group of 7 take up the rest of the lunch spots.

With the wind at our backs on the return to the campsite, it's a fast trip. Packing and unpacking is getting easy now as food stores reduce.

The hills in Pelorus Sound are impressive, but there is little variation or much in the way of coastal features to explore for kayakers. The winds tend to pick up in the afternoon, so it's a good idea to plan your route to get the wind behind you in the afternoon.

On the ferry, the views of Queen Charlotte Sound are much more tempting with many rocky outcrops and clearer water. And it seems to get better the further towards Cook Strait you get. There are many patches of dying pines spread through the native bush. A search on the web shows there are a number of programmes to poison the wild pines in the Marlborough Sounds.

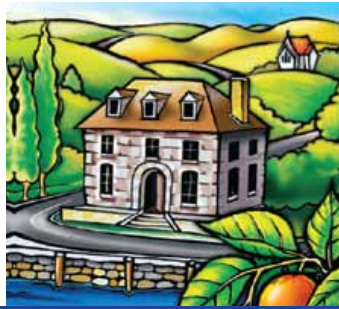
We have the Putanui camp to ourselves for the final night camping before heading back towards Havelock, exploring the other side of Pelorus. Stopping for a look at a marked campsite that looks useful for kayakers, we see it's a few hundred meters from the road, is right on the water, has a water supply and a toilet. It looks good but there are signs that warn of flooding on spring tides.

The tide is against us, but sticking close to the shore we are able to avoid the worst of it. Pulling into the marina where we departed from, it's a wash down of the gear and bodies and finish of the remaining food before returning to Picton for the ride to Wellington and the drive home.

D'Urville Is provides great kayaking. If you are looking for a good destination, it's well worth the effort.

*Ryan*





**Rotary Club  
of Kerikeri**

**TOP ENERGY**  
TePuna Hihiko

# NORTHERN Crossing multisport challenge

## Hokianga to Kerikeri Saturday 21st April 2012

for course details visit  
[www.northerncrossing.co.nz](http://www.northerncrossing.co.nz)  
Events are open to individuals & teams!



**Northern Crossing:**  
Run 9km  
Kayak 18km  
Cycle 74km  
Run 8km

**Duathlon:**  
Run 9km  
Cycle 81km  
Run 8km

**Four Fun:**  
Run 9km  
Cycle 45km  
Cycle 36km  
Run 8km  
**For teams of four!**



The Top Energy Northern Crossing is a relatively new event on the NZ sporting calendar that has 3 options: a multisport, a duathlon and a 4-person easier fun category. This is a coast-to-coast challenge from the Hokianga Harbour entrance to the Stone Store at Kerikeri and is a charity event run by the Rotary Club of Kerikeri to benefit youth projects in the region and the Northland Rescue Helicopter.

For more information, go to: <http://www.northerncrossing.co.nz>