



August 2012

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Our iconic island beckons!!

PHOTO ROGER 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

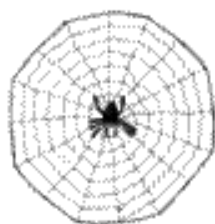
subscribe@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz

Officers

<i>Patron</i>	Jim Mason	
<i>President</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
<i>Secretary</i>		
<i>Treasurer</i>	Matthew Crozier	817 1984
<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>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512

Email addresses

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

<i>Bank</i>	BNZ
<i>Branch</i>	Newmarket
<i>Account</i>	02-0100-0023453-000
<i>Name</i>	Auckland Canoe Club
<i>Particulars</i>	Your FULL name (Initials are not enough to identify some members with common names)
<i>Code</i>	Either SUBS, STORAGE, HIRE, OTHER (depending on what you are paying for)

If your payment is for several items, then please make **separate** payments for **each** item.

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.

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.

UPDATE CONTACT DETAILS

Please can everyone update their contact details, especially home and mobile numbers as many are now obsolete on our list.

**Phone Matt on 817 1984 or
email treasurer@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz**

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome

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

**Chris Donahue
and Family**



Deadline for Next Newsletter

20 August 2012

Regular Events

Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

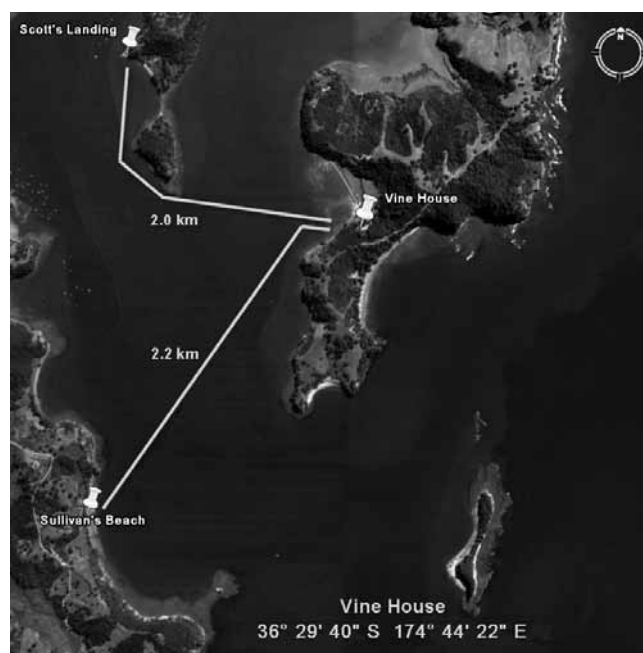
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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

If anyone has trips they have always wanted to do but don't know how to go about it – we can find someone to co-ordinate for you or help you if you just need a bit of extra support. Just Get Involved – it's what makes it fun. I would be interested to hear if people are keen on doing some moving water (river trips).

Car Sharing!

Due to the rising cost of fuel we should be smarter when going on Club trips. If you are interested in car sharing please contact the trip co-ordinator early to advise whether you are able to take another kayak or need a lift. This would enable the trip co-ordinator to put people in touch to share costs and/or driving.

Happy Paddling – Jackie – phone 634 5042.

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>

Tuesday Group

A group of retired kayakers (Colin, Rona, Mike & Peter) are meeting every Tuesday morning; you are welcome to join us. We decide what to do at breakfast time on Tuesday morning. If it's fine with light winds, we paddle, usually meeting at Kohimarama Beach at 9.30am. Destination Rangitoto, Browns Is or Motuihe. If it's too windy for kayaking, we cycle. Distance 30–40km, destination anywhere there's good coffee. We don't approve of rain, head winds, heavy traffic, battery chickens or the Republican Party.

Sometimes our trips last most of the day, sometimes just the morning. None of us want to get encumbered with organising these outings in advance, so they won't be advertised by email.

However if you would like to join us on a particular Tuesday then **phone Colin Quilter 360 6271 between 7.00 and 8.00am on Tuesday morning.**

Sunday August 5 Torbay to Arkles Bay

Join Will Henden to paddle from Torbay (Waiake Beach), to Arkles Bay. If the weather is good and people are keen, there is an option to wander further along to explore the coastline to Matakatia Bay, then return. Leaving at 9am.

Please contact Will for details on 550 3699.

Saturday August 11 Club Social

Sullivan's Bay to Warkworth with incoming tide. High tide 3pm. We will do car shuttle for a one-way paddle, so that we can enjoy a pizza in Warkworth.

Anyone not wanting to paddle, but just meet for pizza is most welcome, and even better if you can assist with the cars.

Contact Peter Sommerhalder by Thursday evening at the latest on 631 5344

We need drivers for this one-way trip. We may use a trailer if there are enough paddlers, so a 4WD able to tow would be helpful.

Please contact Jackie or Peter ASAP if you can help.

Wednesday August 15 Winter Lecture Series

Ian Calhaem, Coastguard Sea Kayaking Tutor

This evening is a chance to learn – or revise – your kayak theory before the summer.

See details on page 5

Sunday August 19 Waitemata Wander

Join Gavin Baker who is planning a trip on the Waitemata.

Please call him for details, distance and direction. Weather dependent. High tide 08.25

Gavin Baker, phone 528 5188

August 24 – 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.

Continued on page 5 ➤

Up-coming Club Trips and Events

Continued from page 4

Sunday September 23 Christmas Beach to Lucas Creek (Albany)

Join Trish and Neil Beken to cruise with the tide to Albany for coffee/lunch. Return with the outgoing tide.

Please call Trish for details on 483 7323

Sunday September 30 Clarkes Beach to Waiuku

Another attempt to do this trip – hoping the weather will be kind this time!

Come and explore this area of the Manukau Harbour that we do not paddle often.

Use the incoming tide to leave Clarkes Beach and paddle up the inlet to Waiuku.

Picnic at Waiuku, then return with the outgoing tide.

For details please call Rosemary on 267 5087 either Thursday or Friday before 9pm

For those racers out there!! Sunday September 23 Cambridge top Hamilton Kayak Race and Cruise

Paddle the Waikato River. Start at 10.30am for the full 23km paddle, or 12.30pm for the 11km paddle.

Enter online: www.enteronline.co.nz or
www.theboatshed.net.nz

Contact Jackie by Thursday evening at the latest on 634 5042

Last-Minute Paddling Opportunities email notifications

You can be notified by signing up for the Club emails.

Contact Jackie on 634 5042 to get onto the emailing list.

Mike Randal has kindly offered to look out for last-minute paddling opportunities for beginners, so look out for any email posts on Thursday/Friday advertising a Saturday or Sunday paddle.

Or If you are planning a trip and want company, send details to Jackie who will send an email.

Winter Lecture Series

The Auckland Canoe Club's third winter lecture is on Wednesday 15th August.

Venue Marine Rescue Centre, located on the foreshore at the city end of Tamaki Drive.

Meet 7.00pm for a 7.30 start.

Ian Calhaem Coastguard Sea Kayaking Tutor

This evening is a chance to learn – or revise – your kayak theory before the summer.

The Committee has been discussing how we can encourage our newer members to learn the basics of kayaking theory and practice. This is step one for that learning process.

The Club has a number of experienced members who already give up their weekends to assist members to get experience by encouraging them to go on organised trips, but there is a limit to the knowledge that can be imparted during such trips where the main purpose of the trip is the journey itself.

This talk is about the theory of basic kayaking and relies heavily on the material presented in the Coastguard Sea Kayaking Course. Come and learn about the types of kayak, the essential equipment to take with you, plus optional equipment. Learn about basic communications, dealing with emergencies, trip planning, wind, weather and sea conditions, and rules and regulations.

This will be a basic introduction to kayaking. No previous experience is required, but for those with experience it will be a chance to review your own knowledge and share your knowledge with others.

All welcome, so bring along some friends. The winter lecture series is a good place to network with fellow club members.

A hot cuppa and biscuits will be available.

Need more info?

Phone Roger Lomas on 846-6799.

More good places to go for a cup of tea

Colin Quilter

It is accepted that one of the best things you can do in a kayak is to paddle somewhere for a cup of tea, and then paddle home again. Good cup-of-tea beaches share certain characteristics. They are small and secluded. They offer shade in summer but get the sun in the winter. They are protected from the wind. They are never crowded, so they are certainly not accessible by car and preferably not on foot. If they are on an island, so much the better. And if they are in a forgotten corner of the harbour you haven't noticed before, or haven't visited; well, why not?

Cove on Puketutu Island

The Manukau Harbour is not a popular kayaking destination, but here's a charming little beach which is perfectly sheltered, with sun in the winter and shade in the summer. Despite being within sight of the city it feels remote and secluded; I've never met anybody else here. It's such a peaceful and pleasant spot that I've camped overnight on several occasions. I guarantee you will enjoy it.

The cove is on a low-lying promontory on the NW corner of Puketutu Island, (the promontory becomes a small, separate island at high tide). In recent years mangrove bushes have begun to obscure the entrance to the cove, so you won't see it until you are right alongside.



Looking eastward from the cove, towards Ambury Park and Mt Mangere. The old pine tree provides shade, and there's space to camp if you want to.

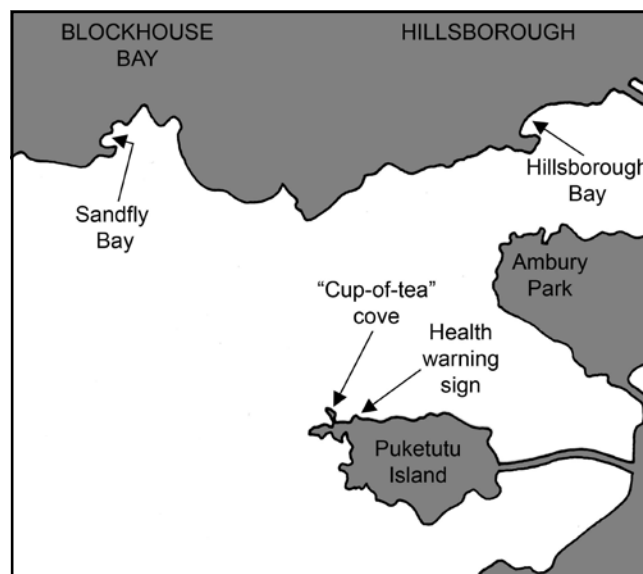
Where to go.

Here are directions from two alternative start points.

From Hillsborough Bay. There's a little beach at the foot of Goodall St in Hillsborough, with parking and public toilets. Launch here about 1.5hr before the time of high tide. Head south around White Bluff and across the channel towards Ambury Park. The northern coast of Puketutu Island is straight ahead. Head for the far right-hand corner of Puketutu Island (i.e. the NW corner), which has a pine plantation. On a small headland as you near the NW corner there's a conspicuous Health Warning sign just above water level stating that the harbour may be polluted and

you shouldn't drink it; (which is, of course, why you brought a thermos of tea instead). Three hundred metres past the sign is a low promontory with toitoi bushes and pine trees. Go slowly now! On the near (eastern) side of that promontory, partly hidden by mangrove bushes, is a sheltered north-facing cove with a white-shell beach.

From Sandfly Bay. At the bottom of Endeavour St in Blockhouse Bay is a foreshore reserve with a boat ramp and parking. Launch here about 1.5hr before HW. Paddle SE across the harbour towards the pine forest on the western (right-hand) end of Puketutu Island. As you get closer there are some conspicuous toitoi bushes which show up white against the dark pines. Head for the eastern (left-hand) end of the toitoi bushes. You'll come to the end of a low basalt shelf (actually a small island); look for our little cove partly hidden by mangroves on the eastern side of the island.



When to go.

As with all trips on the Manukau, it's essential to consult the tide tables. The journey is about 5km one-way from either of the start points, so you will want to leave about 1.5hr before HW, and you'll come back to the car-park about 1.5hr after HW. If you go on a day when a SW wind is forecast, then Hillsborough Bay is a good start-point because you will have an easy run home even if the wind gets very strong. Enjoy!

Puns mar otherwise perfect weekend

Jodi Yeats



An old volcanic cone you can now paddle into offers a scenic lunch spot in one of the Happy Jack islands near Coromandel township.

A Canoe Club weekend at Wally and Sue's in Coromandel is most memorable for the terrible puns.

Becks has made a comeback from a four-year stint blowing glass in Sweden. While she has many inspiring stories from her exciting change of career, unfortunately she hasn't lost a penchant for puns.

This was shared by Wally, but not to be outdone, the rest of the group joined in many a competitive pun-off over the Queens Birthday weekend.

As well as a huge amount of chat and laughing, our group did some fantastic paddling, and such was Wally and Sue's laid back hospitality, we also had some wonderful RnR.



Sunset and a glass of chardy at Papa Aroha campsite concludes a day's paddling around the Happy Jack islands.

The weather was calm and warm, perfect for paddling, and we all headed off to Papa Aroha, about 7km north of Coromandel township, on Saturday morning. This was our launching point for the beautifully rugged Happy Jack islands or, more correctly, the Motukawao group.

Some of the more hesitant paddlers stopped off at the first island, Rabbit Island or Moturua, to chill out, while the rest of the group carried on to Motukaramarama (Bush Island) [I think from a retrospective look at a chart]. This is a stunning island where you can paddle into the almost complete circle of the old volcanic cone. Wally, Adrian, Rose and I enjoyed lunch, while Matt hunted for a cache.

On the way back, we caught up with Becks, Judith and Sue, who had gone skinny dipping. I later saw some traumatised trampers brought back from the island by boat. No connection, I'm sure.

When we got back Adrian and Rose made tea from their bus, but unfortunately didn't have enough cups. They had some glasses, so Judith, Matt and I joined the many campers at Papa Aroha having an evening tittle and watching the sun go down and boats come in from a gorgeous day. The only fly in the ointment was Sue fell in a pothole and badly hurt her ankle.

The next day, Wally led a crew on another paddle down the coast towards Te Kouma, while Becks, Judith and I kept Sue company, or at least, recovered from our busy lives. This eventually took us to Driving Creek Café, where we enjoyed treats out on the deck.

That night the puns hit a low note around the theme of "sharp as a tack" and the meal hit a high note with plenty of freshly smoked fish ala Wally.

We all heard about the trip via a fairly late email, so I'd encourage others to get on the email list!



A circle of thanks for another pot luck feast in Wally and Sue's living room in Coromandel.

Cockle Bay to Whitford

PHOTOS JODI YEATS



Meredith, Chris and trip leader Dorothy as we get set to depart in the fog from Cockle Bay. There were plenty of compasses but a bit of confusion over how to use them.



The fog cleared and we enjoyed a coffee at a riverside cafe we could paddle right up to, near Whitford.

Poet's Corner

*Am I joking when I venture thus
That Wellington when it's fine
Is like Auckland on a bad day
Have I overstepped the line
To appreciate our Auckland
Time in Wellywood should be had
Well I did just that quite recently
And it wasn't quite all bad.*

*Zoos and movies sport and dogs
Mixing with the kids
A cold goes up for auction
Mine was the highest bid
No sign of Hobbits anywhere
Or bands of dwarves to boot
The population all in black
Toiling for Dragon Smaug's loot.*

*So back in Auckland complete with cold
That really likes its host
What could I do on such beautiful days
But take off from this wee bit of coast.*

*It mightn't be wise it may not be cool
To go out in the boat with a cold
Bobbing about is therapy though*

*You don't have to paddle for gold
Bobbing's a word that doesn't quite fit
When flat calm conditions make for paddling ease
Gliding along with hardly a thought
That surely must cure all malaise
A breeze from the stern the sun on my back
Some dolphins appear close by
Unconscious of how uplifting they are
Elixir to nourish this old guy.*

*Please understand my Wellington friends
To alarm or distress you I did not intend
So we'll sing altogether that well known song
I know the beginning but don't know the end.
You Can't Beat Wellington on a Good Day*

*Since writing this the weather has turned
It's blowing a gale outside
I guess the weather will always be with us
No matter where we abide
So bearing in mind that great EnZed song
Start from the top and just sing along.
**Everywhere You Go Always take the Weather
With You***

Mike Randall

President's Report

Well folks, it has been a while since you have heard from me, but like many others some times work has to take precedence. I have been extremely busy but at last I have time again for the important things in life – Kayaking etc.

You will be aware from the last newsletter that I was humbled and honoured at the AGM by the presentation of the Evan Stubbs Memorial Trophy.

I was aware of this trophy, as it had been presented to several recipients during my membership of the Club, but I had not had a chance to study it in detail. I can report that it is a fantastic trophy and one that deserves to be researched. It consists of a model Greenland hunting kayak, presented by Mr and Mrs Hansen of Copenhagen in 1960, origin Greenland.

The detail is incredible, and on the deck are a number

of Greenland hunting tools. I wrote to the Greenland Museum sending some photographs of the model and they have replied saying they will send me a book by H C Peterson, *Skinboats of Greenland* which had details of what all the tools are for.

It appears that we have in this trophy a historical record of what kayaking was like in Greenland 100 years ago.

Another feature of the model is the form of the paddle. A number of members have built themselves a Greenland paddle from cedar, but I have yet to see one of these modern paddles tipped with bone to reinforce the end.

Evidently the paddles were tipped with bone to protect them from contact with the hard ice – makes sense when you think about it!

I am trying to find out about the kayak itself, but do any of our members know the history of Mr and Mrs Hansen of Copenhagen? I cannot find any reference to a Hansen in the Club membership records.

Please let me know if you can shed any light on the origins of this wonderful trophy, which I believe the Club is very privileged to have.

Happy kayaking,

Ian



Cockpit detail.



Bone tip to the Greenland paddle.

Lower Waikato River

Peter Sommerhalder

As I grew up paddling on a river, the Waikato River always keeps calling. The last kilometres before it flows into the Tasman Sea have a unique spell. Lots of islands and many channels are formed below Tuakau, creating a landscape which became the playground for local boaties, fishermen and women, and of course duck shooters. It is a tidal area appreciated by water skiers as well.

Ten paddlers met at Tuakau on a sparkling, cold June morning to explore this area. The car shuttle to Hoods Landing, our take-out point, was time-consuming. We set off with the current at midday aiming for the Elbow, a reserve on the right bank about 12 km downstream. After our lunch break the river divided into many arms. We paddled between islands covered with trees, lush reeds and bushes. Locals have built all sorts of huts and shelters on these islands, with jetties. They are only accessible by boat. The materials used are recycled timber, sheet irons and bits and pieces from scrap yards. Old traffic signs and fishing floats are added for decorative creations.

Not many residents were “home” on this rather chilly winter day. The duck shooting season was in its last days, so we believed we were safe on the water.

We knew to aim for channels on our right to avoid being swept past our take out point at Hoods Landing. A map and GPS helped staying on track. However we were warned about one unusual obstacle. A batch keeper has a Rottweiler dog as companion. He must be getting bored during the day, so kayakers are fair game and entertainment for him. “Watch out”, was my mate’s warning, “if he is off the chain, he can swim!” Yes, we truly met the barking rotti, and promptly missed the channel on our right to turn into. However, the dog stayed on the jetty barking at us, and our detour was not of significance.

This area is tidal, approx 8 km from the river mouth into the sea. Hoods Landing has a boat ramp and toilets, but no houses. We made it safely back to shore and to our cars before dark. A great day out paddling not far from Auckland City.

The Waikato River below Tuakau is well worth exploring, by kayak, bicycle, car or tramping. Check out a brilliant website: kayaktrails.co.nz. Colin from Stressfree Adventures researched everything you need to know: rest areas, accommodation and where to get a good feed at affordable prices.

You blend in with the locals.



PHOTOS
CHRIS DENTITH



Just Go Do It – Cornwallis to Whatipu

Erica Law

A week of gorgeous weather, clear crisp blue skies, reflective mirror-like seas, and air currents that wouldn't raise a feather. This can't last til Saturday, I thought, and sure enough the forecast for Saturday was a developing 15 knot northerly, gusting to about 19 to 20 knots later in the day. So it was with a slightly ambivalent attitude that I made the call with the club trip from Cornwallis to Whatipu to '**just go do it**'. The day dawned overcast, but calm. I had said to Rosemary, Lester and Brent to meet me at Cornwallis Wharf at 9.15am so as to be out of the way of the Yakkity Yak club, who happened to be doing the same trip, on the same day, at the same time. As it turned out, many of them arrived earlier than scheduled, but because we were only four, and they were over a dozen, we managed to launch well ahead of them, and were able to paddle with the illusion of being largely alone – at least out on the water.

The northern Awhitu tip looked rather barren and uninviting under the grey sky, and I was rather glad we'd decided to stay on the Whatipu side. I was intrigued at the number of people out and about along the coastal edge, fishing, walking, playing with kids; and there appeared to be some type of coastal orienteering race happening around the rocky edges near the entrance to Huia Bay.

Paddling quite close to the shore you are aware of the many cracks, fissures, holes and caves carved into the rocks of the harbour cliffs. A little further out you get an appreciation of how the coastal forests clothe and cling to the hillsides, with groves of nikau palms in the gentler bowls, often below spectacular rocky protrusions.



Within an hour we were under the awesome coastal cliffs beyond Little Huia. Somehow we missed the seals reported to be near Waterfall Bay. As we reached Destruction Gully, a very light breeze

developed behind us. This seemed to rough up the surface of the water a little as it met the oncoming gentle swells from the Tasman near the harbour entrance. In two hours we'd covered the 12 kilometres to WongaWonga Bay, We landed without incident, keeping an eye out for the little side-on ripples that have a tendency to unbalance the unwary paddler as they beach.

Sitting up in the dunes, we watched as some of the more intrepid Yakkity Yak kayakers rounded Paratutae Head and around the coast a wee way to the north. I hoped they would land, and perhaps provide a little lunch-time entertainment, but they were too sensible for that.

We were on the water again by 12.45pm, just after low tide, keen to get back before the predicted 15 knots and rising. It was still barely a 5 knot northerly, and as we rode the gentle swells, it felt like we were moving faster and more easily on the way back than on our out journey. It's amazing what different things you notice when you are paddling in the opposite direction – caves, waterfalls, valleys that were there all the time, but just angled out of sight of an advancing kayaker.



In no time at all we had rounded Pukung Point and were heading back towards the wharf in dead flat sea conditions, and dead calm wind conditions. What a great day! And thank you to Lester, Rosemary and Brent for such enjoyable companionship.

Just go do it!

*P.S. This being my third consecutive Saturday club paddle in a row, I noticed that I was really starting to feel in tune again with my paddle body, enjoying the physical sensation and rhythm of my torso working effortlessly and in time with my arms and legs. There's no doubt that regular paddling helps the fitness and enjoyment. **Just go do it!***

Hahei Weekend – 13–15 July

Jackie Hillman

Most arrived Friday evening, but Will and Chantal being on school holidays managed an afternoon paddle earlier that day.

Dorothy was trying to squeeze every ounce of activity for the week, so after a social evening got up early to arrive for breakfast Saturday morning.

It was a relaxed start to the day, then with breakfast sorted and boats packed, lamb shanks prepared in the slow cooker, we wheeled our kayaks down to the beach.



Walking to Hahei Beach.

The weather forecast predicted a ½ metre swell building to a metre and northerlies up to 20 knots in the afternoon with a high tide around 3.30pm. We decided to first head towards Hot Water Beach to explore the cave ridden coast. If we were lucky we hoped the islands would protect us later in the day and give us a ride with the wind back to beach if we got as far as Cathedral Cove.



Entering the blow hole cave.



In the blow hole cave.



Dorothy exploring the cave.



View up from blow hole cave.

With that in mind we set off at a leisurely pace towards Hot Water Beach. An initial look at the cave through the headland proved impassable with the tide too low – leave that for later!

There was little wind and a very easy sea state even with the slight swell. It was enough to provide some white water kayaking for Justin as he attempted to use his sea kayak in the wash up of the sea bouncing off the rocks.

Continued on page 13 ➤

Hahei Weekend

Continued from page 12

Some of the caves are huge, we found the blow hole cave and sat there for a while. We all managed to line up with ample space in another large cavern. Caves were explored paddling forward or reversing in if the exit was unclear. Kayakers could be seen popping out from all sorts of rock crevices.



Hahei coastline looking towards Hot Water Beach.

By 11.30 we were starting to get hungry and needing to stretch our legs. This part of the coast offers no easy landing spots so we decided to see if we could land on Hot Water Beach (renown for its surf conditions).

We tucked into the northern corner having paddled past several groups of divers spear fishing around the rocks towing a variety of buoys to alert others of their presence.

The landing was uneventful and we enjoyed lunch in the sun.

Gradually the sun was disappearing but the wind never really built. Wind with tide meant the swell



Hahei Beach.

eased and we enjoyed an easy paddle back towards Hahei. We made a final wander around some of the islands off of Hahei and then we had a final look at the headland cave. It was now passable so that was negotiated by the most adventurous.

Matt decided to round off the paddle by securing a cache while the rest of us headed to the beach.

It seemed harder to get the boats back up the beach in the deep sand; maybe we were just tired after the day.

The bach where we stayed had an ample garden to store the kayaks and hoses to wash off the boats and gear.

We were able to relax with some great food and plenty of wine/beer.

Note to self – always invite Justin for weekends – as food is always fabulous and Chantal is required as a dessert goddess!

No paddling Sunday as the weather broke overnight and we were greeted by wind and rain, so we took the opportunity of beating the post holiday traffic back to Auckland.

Thank you to everyone for making it a fabulous weekend.

Justin, Penny, Will, Chantal, Dorothy, Matt and Jackie.



Kayak tramping.