

# December 2012/ January 2013



Club Information .....2  
Website Password .....2  
Club Trip/Event Policies .....2  
Club Banking Details .....2  
Kayak Hire .....3  
Regular Events.....3  
Up-Coming Trips and Events.....4  
Think Before You Leap!!!.....5

Poet's Corner.....6  
For Sale .....6  
Harbour Swim Dates.....6  
Thames to Miranda.....7



Getting ready to depart the Thames Boat ramp. See story on page 7.

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

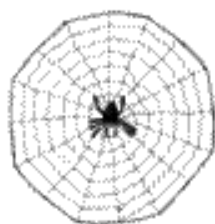
[subscribe@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:subscribe@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)

### 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](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

<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 <b>SUBS, STORAGE, HIRE, OTHER</b> (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.

## NEW MEMBERS



### Welcome

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

Jenny Klosser;  
Geoff, Jenny, Hellen  
and Phoebe Mason;

John, Joanne, Hannah and Sarah  
Valentine and Terry, Mo, Matt and  
Livy Price



## Deadline for Next Newsletter

20 January 2013

## Regular Events

### Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

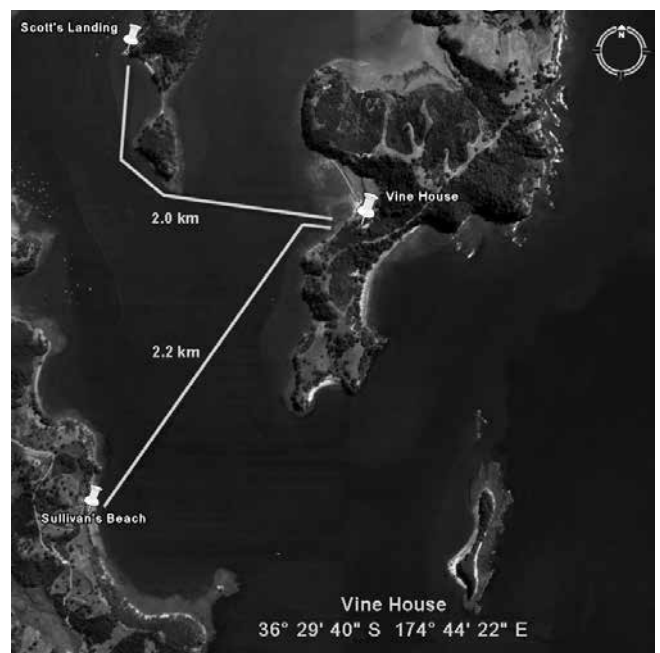
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

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).

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>

### Friday Group

A group of retired kayakers (Colin, Rona, Mike & Peter) are meeting every Friday morning; you are welcome to join us. We decide what to do at breakfast time on Friday 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 Friday then **phone Colin Quilter 360 6271 between 7.00 and 8.00am on Friday morning.**

### A reminder to join the club email notification

Some members have commented they have tried to join up via the web site and had difficulties. If you have tried please contact Jackie or Matt and we can help.

There are a lot more trips notified this way so it's a good way of finding out what's happening or last minute changes to trips.

### ACC Christmas Picnic Saturday 22nd December Browns Island

It's that time of year again so dust off the decorations. Bring your picnic blanket, swim togs, musical instruments etc.

Oh, and don't forget the singing voices as I am sure Mike or Rona will find some songs to sing.

Aim to meet at Browns Island 2pm (high tide at 3.40pm). Paddle from Orakei, St Heliers or Tamaki River

Call Meredith on **021 424 977** or Chris on **468 5599** or **021 2115 8833** for more details

### Paddling over the Christmas Holidays

Keep an eye on the email announcements for late notices of any trips.

If anyone wants to link up to paddle over the holidays or anyone wanting to notify others they have a trip they would like company on contact Jackie before 28th December or after 8th January.

Matt will be around some of the holidays period – phone **817 1984** or Ian on **579 0512** to post notifications for you.

### Vine House over Christmas Christmas booking at Vine House 29th – 30th December

**Our weekend is still available at this stage.**

But the council is keen to offer this weekend to the public who have booked the bach the dates either side of our weekend booking.

If we are not intending to use Vine House over this period it's an opportunity to strengthen our partnership with the council by being flexible.

If anyone is considering going to Vine House for our December weekend please contact Trevor on **817 7357** ASAP.



## Think Before You Leap!!!

### River Kayaking with Plastic and Kevlar Reinforced Sea Kayaks – Safety Hazards

**Some safety hazards that kayakers need to be aware of before venturing onto rivers in kayaks “not fit for purpose”.**

Never underestimate the power of flowing water even at a low speed. One cubic meter of water weighs one tonne, so if you or your kayak gets pinned against an obstacle it may be extremely difficult to escape.

Three cases I have personal knowledge of are:

**#1** A group of kayakers were paddling down the Wye River near Hereford in the UK. The river was placid and slow flowing and while waiting for the group to catch up, a paddler was facing upstream watching the others approach. She drifted sideways into one of the bridge pillars and capsized with the cockpit facing upstream. In a matter of moments the spray skirt was popped inwards by the water, the kayak flooded and the water pressure from the “slow” current folded the plastic kayak around the pillar trapping the kayaker’s legs. Despite the efforts of others on the trip they were unable to pull her clear and she drowned. (general river grading is 1/6)

**#2** In South Africa, another incident involved a member of our club who went on a camping trip with some mates down a flooding river. After paddling into a large rapid he did not reach the pool at the bottom. His mates waited a while then walked up the bank to see where he was. He was stuck in the centre of the river with the nose of his kayak wedged under a rock. Some of the guys went up to the top of the rapid and swam down to him, but the power of the current had forced the kayak under the rock and crushed/imploded the top deck trapping his legs and they were unable to release him.

Over the next hour the river level rose and covered him resulting in him drowning. Later, after the river receded, a helicopter was used to retrieve the kayak and his body. The force of the water had folded the boat upwards at the cockpit breaking both his legs. (estimated grading under flood conditions, 4/6)

This paddler was experienced and had done many trips through big rapids.

In both these cases the kayaks used were plastic and generally referred to as white water kayaks and failed under widely varying conditions. The difference of these kayaks from extreme white water kayaks (also plastic) is the bracing around the cockpit area as well as vertical foam to brace the top decks (front and rear) from imploding when under a crushing force.

**#3** Also in South Africa the third case was a long distance river racing Kevlar kayak (similar to K1 or K2 flat water sprint kayaks). This race was a 30km river race with up to grade 4/6 rapids. The paddler capsized in a rapid and the kayak broached sideways with the cockpit upstream, then wedged

against a rock – the spray skirt popped in – water flooded the kayak and wrapped it around the rock. The Kevlar top deck folded inwards trapping one of the paddler’s feet against the foot rest. Fortunately there were onlookers who swam out and released him. (As a consequence of this and other similar incidents the S A Kayak Federation advised manufacturers to make cockpits out of glass fibre with no Kevlar or similar reinforcement as these do not tear when the kayak structure fails creating the hazard outlined above).

#### OBSERVATIONS

There is an expectation by kayak users that plastics (used for kayaks) and composites e.g. Kevlar and Carbon Fibre will eliminate the risk of failing under extreme conditions. (The silver bullet?)

However, although they are very strong under tensile forces they are not as good when exposed to compression forces. When kayaks do not have suitably designed bracing at the point of contact between kayak and the obstacle they have encountered they may well fail on the compression point as seen above.

Although designs and materials used for sea kayaks are adequate for open water and can stand some extreme conditions of waves and the odd abuse of head on collisions with rocks and sand banks etc., when one is wanting performance under difficult conditions (water force due to water density, current and immovable obstacles, sometimes not perceived as seen in the examples above) one should ensure the kayak is designed for the purpose.

One sea kayak that comes to mind is the old Puffin which had a cockpit pod which looked as though it would be a lot more resistant to folding under an extreme condition. (One would need to verify this with the manufacturer.)

Other hazards, relevant to New Zealand rivers, that also come to mind are currents flowing through exposed tree roots, flood debris, fences, weirs and other manmade structures and of course the infamous overhanging tree branches.

Flood conditions are definitely not a time to be paddling down river unless you consider yourself skilled and competent.

#### What now?

The purpose of these observations is to create awareness of some of the hazards and initiate dialogue within the club (being at present almost exclusively a sea kayaking fraternity) about the implications of participating in river kayaking.

I strongly recommend that anyone wishing to paddle rivers should seek the advice of experienced and competent river kayakers.

*Phillip Noble*

## Poet's Corner

*I hope the summer's coming  
The evidence is scant  
Though longer light says it's still on  
Warm zephyrs are my want  
By the time you're reading this  
Things may have changed a bit  
Unless an ice age kicks in quick  
In which case do a flit.*

*Every week club trips abound  
With Jackie's guiding hand  
To all those people leading them  
Our globy warmy thanks  
As well to all those members  
To Claire our Editor too  
Who keep our club so buoyant*

*And thanks to Little Blue  
We see out there quite often  
Those Orca swimming by  
The Dolphins we saw recently  
To me a paddling high.*

*I know that Christmas is on nigh  
So now's the time to say  
Good wishes for this Yuletide  
And get out there and play  
Thinking of some words of Ann  
Those thoughts I'd like to share  
She'd say each time I left the shore  
Just Take Care Out There.*

*Mike Randall*

## FOR SALE

**Ron Augustin**, Designer  
and previous owner of *Paddling Perfection Ltd*  
has a number of used and kitset kayaks  
(similar to Colin Quilter's original Sea Bear) for sale.

**Enquiries phone 818 7241**

## 2013 Harbour Swim Dates

**Confirmed dates and times for Auckland Central Masters Harbour Swims 2013.**

**3rd EAGLE TECHNOLOGY BAYS** 3.78k  
St Heliers Bay to Tamaki Yacht Club  
**Sunday 3rd February 2013**  
Assemble 10.30am Start 11.30am  
Tide 1.29pm

**4th EAGLE TECHNOLOGY RANGITOTO** 4.45k  
Rangitoto to St Heliers Bay  
**Sunday 3rd March 2013**  
Assemble 7.00am Embark TBC am  
Sail for Rangitoto 8:30 TBC am  
Arrive Rangitoto TBC 0am Start 10.20am  
Tide 12.21pm

## KASK Sea Kayak Forum

### Raglan – 8, 9 and 10 March 2013

Speakers, paddles, flare demo and even some training available at this great spot on Auckland's back door.

Your registration covers everything from meals to accommodation and the sessions.

Go to **[www.kask.org.nz](http://www.kask.org.nz)** and on the events page is all the information and the registration form  
or contact Evan Pugh **[sheepskinsstuff@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sheepskinsstuff@xtra.co.nz)**

## Thames to Miranda

Roger Lomas

The lads of the early morning kayak group are always eager for interesting paddling adventures. A couple of weekends before Christmas an opportunity to do an elusive paddle availed itself. We would attempt to paddle the shoreline length of New Zealand's biggest mangrove forest.

This is the vast clump of mangroves that grow in the nutrient-rich sediment at the base of the Hauraki Plains. The green swathe stretches from Thames township all the way to Miranda. It has a coastline length of 25 kms and in places is almost 1 km wide.

The logistics of doing this paddle were quite demanding. It would require the biggest tides and good weather. From the launch site at Thames to the first available take out point near Kaiaua, we would need to paddle almost 30 kms. There would be a window of opportunity of about 4 hours to complete the paddle. Failure to keep within this time frame would result in being stranded in the vast mudflats that lurk in the area.

This would mean that we would need to maintain a paddling speed of 7 kilometres per hour. In normal circumstances it would not be too much of a problem. But this paddle would be different. Most of the paddling on this trip would be in water less than a metre deep. A phenomenon known as shallow water drag would have a big part to play on this paddle. Shallow water drag increases with speed. Increased

effort does not produce a proportional increase in speed. It was going to be an energy-sapping effort to maintain the required 7 kph.

A few of the lads were out of town or busy with pre-Christmas commitments, but Matt, Ryan and myself were ready for the challenge. We were all on the road by 5 am. I met up with Matt at the coastal layby just south of Kaiaua where the campervans park. We would leave Matt's car here for the shuttle at the end of our paddle.

Arriving at our launch site next to the old wharf at Thames we met Ryan and quickly set about our pre-launch routine. We had planned to be on the water 2 hours before high tide. The wharf is located near the mouth of the Kauaeranga River and we could see all manner of tree trunk debris snagged in the mud banks near the river mouth.

We managed to be on the water 10 minutes early and set off into the turgid torrent of the in-rushing tide. Once clear of the river mouth and its debris we picked up the strong tidal stream flowing into the Waihou River. We had to be careful here and set a course for the far side of its broad river mouth without being dragged too far in.

Both Matt and I had our GPS tracking units operating to monitor progress. Our speed was fluctuating as we encountered both favourable and adverse currents. We also noticed the drop off in speed as we crossed

mud banks often with only half a metre of water beneath. The only sure-fire way to plumb the depth in the murky water was to use the paddle.

The mangrove forest was a long green barrier to our left and its dense growth was impenetrable. Our first way point was just past the Piako River and we were bang on schedule. A long way off in the distance to our right we could see a beacon to mark the entrance to the channel into the Piako.



*Paddling past the mangroves at Waitakaruru.*

*Continued on page 8 ➤*



Cuppa stop at Miranda.

Once clear of the two major rivers and with the tide still rising we noticed that the water appeared to be less murky. As we neared the two hour mark and the point of no return we were all feeling good. Both Ryan and I were using hydration systems and Matt had a big bottle of jungle juice under the bungees. We were all having regular liquid intakes during our work out.

Nearing Waitakaruru we spotted a line of bamboo stakes stretching off into the distance out to sea. These were to guide a small fleet of commercial fishing boats that operate out of here to catch flounder. Waitakaruru is also the outlet for one to the big drainage canals that opened up the former swampland for dairy farming.

Over on the eastern side of the Firth the mangroves became less densely packed and we were able to paddle through the outer clumps. Ryan commented that they also looked cleaner and healthier than their Auckland cousins. Flitting along through the mangrove tops was a large flock of grey herons that we had been inadvertently herding along the coast. The occasional grey mullet smacked the surface to accompany the steady splash of our paddle stroke.

Our keen eyes were now frequently scanning the horizon ahead hoping to catch a glimpse of a shimmering white campervan top and journeys end.

Finally we saw something and we dug in for a final push. In the distortion of the heat haze on the horizon the white glimmer turned out to be the first of the white shell banks near Miranda. This was the first dry land we had seen on the coast since Thames. A cuppa stop was called for.

The shell bank beach was at the mouth of a small creek and sand spit. As a bonus it had a comfy log to sit on. Behind the sand spit was a lagoon area that was part of the Miranda seabird nature reserve. All number of wading birds were in residence and bird watchers were also in abundance. They weren't disappointed as great flocks took to wing and wheeled about at regular intervals.

With the tide now rushing out of our small creek it was time to leave. We finally spotted the campervans when we rounded the sand spit. The final leg was to be tide-assisted but an incoming sea breeze had sprung up and negated any benefit. We beached our kayaks on the shell bank below the campervans 2 minutes before our ETA. We stood at the top of the shellbank looking back at the mangrove forest disappearing away into the distance towards Thames.

The last time we paddled here we witnessed the speed with which the tide recedes in this area. We had not long arrived from our paddle and were cleaning up when saw a couple hauling two small plastic sit on top craft down the shellbank. The tide was just about at the bottom of the shellbank where it turns to mud. There was just enough water to float their boats, but when they hopped on board, they grounded in the mud. They then attempted to drag the boats to deeper water, but the tide was receding quicker than they could haul them. After about half an hour of this mudlarking futility they gave up and squelched their back to the beach.

Continued on page 9 ➤



## Thames to Miranda

*Continued from page 8*

It was then a leisurely run for us back to Thames to retrieve our vehicles. Adjacent to Thames wharf is a fishing co-op with a retail shop that also does fish and chips. It was about lunch time and we felt that we had earned it. Fellow paddlers were Ryan Whittle and Matt Crozier.

***Occasionally there are opportunities for new paddlers to join the group. If you are an energetic paddler who is prepared to commit to a regular early morning paddling routine then give me a call on 846 6799.***

*Roger*



*Campervans at Kaiaua.*



*Mud, glorious mud.*