

## May 2013

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### Annual General Meeting – May 15 *See details on page 4.*



*Kayakers meander around the coast of the Tawharanui Peninsula (13 April).  
See article on page 7.*

PHOTO MIKE GRESHAM

## 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)  
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[webmaster@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)

[hire@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:hire@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
(for kayak hire, or any related questions)

[storage@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:storage@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
(for questions about storing kayaks in the locker)

## 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.

## Regular Events

### Vine House Weekends



On one weekend each month we have the use of Vine House. This gem in Mahurangi Harbour is a 2 km paddle from Sullivan's 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 Coffee Cruise

Most Saturday mornings some club members do a short paddle from the club lock up at Okahu Bay.

We set off from the lock up at 9.00, returning by 12.30. The level is fairly easy and you can nearly always hire a club kayak. The route depends on the tide and the weather. We often paddle out to Bean Rock lighthouse and then stop at Kohi Beach for coffee in a local cafe before paddling back.

Join us for a relaxed paddle. It’s a great way to meet people in the club.

Be aware: People don’t go every week. You might go one week when no-one else happens to turn up.

You should have basic paddling skills to join this group, you will be responsible for yourself.

**Note:** Paddlers under 18 to be accompanied by a guardian!

**For more information, go to:**

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

## NEW MEMBERS



### Welcome

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

**Robbie Cameron  
and Alex Sancho**



## Deadline for Next Newsletter

**20 May 2013**

## Up-Coming Club Trips and Events

### Saturday 11th May

#### French Bay to Puketutu Island for morning tea

Join Erica for a paddle across the Manukau Harbour.

Meet at French Bay at 8.30am for 9am on the water. Will paddle up/across the harbour to Puketutu Island (about 8km) for morning tea/brunch, and a wee walk. High tide at 11.19am and a 3.9m tide, so will have the tide with us both ways. Should be back at French Bay by about 1.30 to 2pm, depending on how long we spend on Puketutu. Trip is good for beginners, provided we have good weather, and I will probably only go if good weather.

Phone **Erica** on **021 043 8118**; or email her on **lawe@ihug.co.nz** if you want to come.

Decision whether trip is on will be made on Thursday, 9th May. (If you email have emailed her watch for email later that evening.)

### Wednesday May 15th

#### ACC AGM

**Venue:** Marine Centre, Room 5.

**Time:** 7.00pm for a 7.30 pm start.

We would like to make it a fun club evening, so please bring a plate to share, and your favourite photos with a caption. These will be posted on boards on the night for judging.

The 4 suggested categories:

- “OMG” How did this happen!
- ACC – Historical
- Most outrageous
- Scenic – “Take your breath away”

Judges yet to be confirmed (bribes accepted!!!  
Oops).

**Start thinking committee nominations:** If you would like to volunteer or think someone might be a perfect fit, then please talk to them and see if they could be nominated to help guide the club along, all committee roles need nominations. *We just can't rely on the same few!!!*

### Saturday 18th May

#### Puhoi River with Dorothy

A trip suitable for beginners. Can be a one way trip for those prepared to do a car shuttle.

Meet in Wenderholm Regional Park at 10am.

Bring a picnic or cash for the pub or café.

If poor weather on Saturday, then Sunday will be a reserve day.

Please contact **Dorothy** by the Thursday. Ideally text her mobile **021 0278 3343** or leave message on her home phone **376 1986** (she will try and remember to check!!).

### 25th or 26th May

#### Motuihe Island.

Join Philip for a paddle to Motuihe Island, leaving from St Heliers and/or Bucklands Beach. Take a picnic and enjoy this great island.

Philip will make a decision Thursday night on the weather & select which day will suit the trip best.

Call **Phillip** on **575 3493** to express interest and get details of the trip

### May 25th – 26th

#### Vine House Weekend

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

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

### Queens Birthday weekend

#### Friday 31st May – Monday 3rd June

#### Mid winter Christmas trip to Hahei

Good fun, nice accommodation, mulled wine, great paddling, then relax in the hot tub.

Explore the islands and wonderful coast line kayaking or take your walking boots and explore the coastal paths.

The plan will be to have a shared meal on Saturday and Sunday nights.

Bach accommodation \$25 to \$40 per night depending on numbers

It's a 5–10 minute walk to the beach so kayak wheels are essential.

Numbers will be limited. If lots of interest then maybe others can book another bach or camp.

Book early to join this popular trip

Contact **Jackie** to express interest and for details on **634 5042**.

## Survey on the Wearing of Personal Floatation Devices (Life Jackets)

### Review of Auckland Council's Navigation Safety Bylaw 2008

(Extracted from a notice from Helgard Wagener, Regional and Local Planning Department, Auckland Council)

I am writing to you to inform you of a survey being done by Auckland Council on the wearing of life jackets on boats at sea, lakes, rivers, streams and other inland waters and to request your assistance in encouraging the members of your organisation or community to complete the survey.

Auckland Council is reviewing the regulations around the wearing of life jackets on board smaller recreational vessels (under 6 metres) and would like to hear the views of the boating public and the wider community.

Current regulations require the person in charge of a recreational vessel to always carry, in easy reach, appropriate life jackets for everyone on board. However, life jackets must be worn where bad weather, rough seas, tides, visibility, emergencies or other situations cause danger or a risk to the safety of people on board. There are exceptions to the carrying and wearing of life jacket/s rule, for example it does not apply in situations where the vessel is unpowered (e.g. surfboard), for a windsurfer wearing a wetsuit, or for a person training or participating in a sporting event.

Auckland Council encourage people to give their views on this matter by completing this survey before 31 May 2013. The survey should only take 5–10 minutes and everyone who completes it can go in the draw to win one of a number of life jackets donated by RFD NZ, Hutchwilco and Safety at Sea.

The link to the survey on Auckland Council's website may be found here: <http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/HaveYourSay/Pages/safeboatinginauckland.aspx>

or go to [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay)

(Please go to 'Current consultations' then 'Safe boating in Auckland' under Regional consultations).

**There is also a link on the Auckland Canoe Club's website.**

The answers and feedback will help Auckland Council when it reviews the regulations relating to wearing life jackets on boats. There will be further opportunity to comment on these regulations when the draft Navigation Safety Bylaw is available for public feedback later this year.

Questions about the survey may be sent to:  
Helgard Wagener  
Regional and Local Planning Department  
Auckland Council

DDI 09 484 6273  
[Helgard.Wagener@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Helgard.Wagener@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## Poet's Corner

*An Autumn paddle  
Across the harbour  
Light airs and friendly sea  
Mackenzie Bay the perfect spot  
To stop for cups of tea.*

*A Saddleback in the scrub  
Just off the path  
So what some might say  
But walking down on Rangi  
That bird enriched the day.*

*Mike Randall*

## Hutchwilco Boat Show

The Auckland Canoe Club once again has space at this year's Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show, at ASB Showgrounds in Greenlane, Auckland, on May 16th to 19th. Club members are welcome to check out the stand. If you are interested in manning the stand and promoting the Club at the Boat Show, please phone Ian Calhaem on 579 0512, or better still, talk to him at the AGM on the evening of the 15th.

## KASK Forum – Raglan

Peter Sommerhalder

Little did we know that the “ordinary” Australian we befriended – Sean Smith – would turn out to be the riveting guest speaker on Saturday night at the KASK Forum in Raglan. His subject: *The Fat Paddler*. Sean had two serious accidents in his life, causing multiple injuries. His doctors warned him he could lose his life. That is when Sean “discovered” paddling and set himself ambitious goals. One was to participate in a surf ski marathon race in Mauritius. He had to learn paddling a surf ski and get fit – fast. In seven months training and gym work Sean lost 25 kg. He entered the marathon with a mate and finished it. But he did not stop there. Sean’s motivation influenced his friends. They became active paddlers and inspired others. Over the years the *Fat Paddler* idea grew into a global organisation, motivating people and fundraising over a hundred thousand dollars for charities. Sean achieved this besides holding down a full time job in marketing. And his wife made sure he helped with the dishes, housework, and bringing up their two girls. To understand what drives this high achiever, still in his early forties, look up his website FatPaddler.com.

In true KASK (Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers) fashion the weekend offered a mix of practical and theoretical sessions. Eskimo rolling, building and racing cardboard boats within 2 hours (hilarious), a Raglan Harbour cruise to inspect limestone formations, and a video presentation cruising the Whitsunday Islands in Australia were on the programme.

The weekend was rounded off by Tim Taylor from Tauranga. He showed us highlights from his kayak circumnavigation of New Zealand. This trip shaped him from being a young shy guy into a self-confident adult person. He praised the fact that people offered him shelter, transport, or whatever they could do to



Paul Caffyn with the Fat Paddler, Sean Smith.

help him along the way. It came as a bit of a surprise to me that the most difficult section to paddle was the stretch along the Kaipara Harbour entrance from South to North in swells of up to 5m high. And the furthest distance off shore was the leg from Tawharanui (near Kawau Island) to Port Jackson at the tip of Coromandel Peninsula.

The weekend activities were followed by an opportunity to cruise in the Bay of Islands. Seven paddlers from around New Zealand and Australia made Urupukapuka Island their base for four days of fabulous exploring.

Again the forum organisers set up a stimulating and entertaining programme for sea kayakers. Participants from Auckland Canoe Club were: Gary Schroeder, Sue and Steve Levett, Natasha Romanoff and Paul Hayward, Su and Peter Sommerhalder.



Exploring limestone rocks in the Raglan Harbour.



Racing cardboard kayaks.



Exhausted cardboard kayaks after three races.

## Leisurely weekend at Tawharanui works out superbly

Mike Gresham



*A group of kayakers enjoy listening to birdsong and walking to the point of Tawharanui Peninsula (14 April).*

A wonderful weekend at Tawharanui with the club. The weekend was attended by Jodi Yeats (meet organiser), Peter and Su Sommerhalder, Chris Dentith, Rosemary Gatland, Rosie Thom, Murray Wilson and Mike Gresham.

Most of us (with the exception of Murray, who turned up the following morning), arrived at some point of the Friday, to a small but well formed encampment focused around Peter and Su's Big Yellow Bus, with colour co-ordinated Beachcomber. A warm invite in



*Dressed as an Arabian princess, Jodi describes sea kayaks as "the camels of the sea".*

to chat the evening away was well met, especially to me, a relative newcomer to the club.

'Leisurely' was the word of the day, with most of us more than happy to wait for Jodi to return from an amble through Matakana market, for epicurean fayre.

Peter and Rosemary had opted for a slightly more energetic day and wheeled their boats round to Jones's Bay, for a Kawau option and the possibility of a rendezvous with us later.

Perfect paddling conditions had arrived on that warm and sunny morning, with the occasional swell providing interest during rock gardening and one particularly impressive wave as we were entering the sea at the main Tawharanui beach, which may come to be known as 'Rosie's Tsunami' and which she overcame with impressive aplomb. Watching from the shore was impressive enough, all of us sure she was going to be emptied from her boat, but it must have felt enormous to Rosie, who hadn't even managed to get her spray deck on at that point, having launched elegantly, into an otherwise calm sea.

I also managed to get dumped on (by a considerably smaller wave) which left me drenched. Murray too had an encounter, unfortunately he had decided to leave the deck for later and 'go for it' to get through the waves. He said later he got neither right and ended up having to pump out before being able to start the paddle.

Once under way, we headed out, then back into the wonderfully craggy shoreline, bristling with stacks and pinnacles, channels and blind alleys. The water was between turquoise and emerald, and clear to the sea bed to the depth of, I would guess, 15 to 20 feet. Amazing and very beautiful .

Jodi, who had rather wonderfully organised this whole superb weekend, was probably more intrepid

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## Leisurely weekend at Tawharanui works out superbly

*Continued from page 7*

than the rest of us, seemed to keep disappearing into channels of ever decreasing size, resulting in some impressive backing out, paddle blades rattling on the barely concealed rocks just below the water. Chris and I stayed watch but probably needlessly. The rock architecture was spectacular here, right the way around the eastern tip, with pyramids of Greywacke, rising in lofty watchfulness.

Later we paddled through a soup of transparent marine life, sometimes in chains of strips which may or may not have been eggs. They appeared again whilst we swam on the main beach and were disconcerting enough to put us off remaining in the water body and boogie board surfing for long. We remain unsure what they actually are.



*Tawharanui crew enjoy a swim and lunch – Rosie, Murray, Chris and Mike.*

The journey continued around the spectacular little Elephant Point, about where we stopped for a lunch and a bask in the sun after a warm swim.

Further rock gardening around the rest of the coast, past many little islets, craggy rock outcrops and delightful beaches led us back to the base of the peninsular reserve at Jones's Bay, where we disembarked, trolleyed up and ambled back via the gravel road, to the campsite. Rosemary and Peter re-materialised at this point from their Kawau sortie. Later that evening, we had a delightful and eclectic shared meal around one table, coordinated by Su and serenaded by Jodi on her ukulele.

Sunday was voted as a walk day because of the spectacular nature trails that really are too good to miss if you're at Tawharanui. Those who remained were rewarded with a delightful walk to Tokatu Point, saddlebacks and bellbirds, kereru and fantail, amazing woodland and more fair weather. Many thanks to Rosemary for her expertise and knowledge, providing us with an in situ nature guide along the way. Rosemary also later demonstrated her rather ingenious and home made loading rack to get her composite Southern Skua onto the roof of her van without bending the boat on the rear rail. Clever stuff.

But one of the highlights for me at least was a last minute stroll down to the sea before turning in on Saturday night. Initially I nearly missed it, but upon looking again, I caught sight of electric blue flashes in the surf. Excitedly I called some of the others who hadn't quite turned in and Chris, Jodi and I watched the surf flashing intermittently with phosphorescence. I'd guess we watched for about 30 minutes, entranced, cooing with wonder at this natural phenomenon.

A very special weekend, especially for me, getting to know other members of the club, and finding them all so delightful. So a big thank you to everybody for contributing to such a lovely weekend, but especially to Jodi, for making it all happen and happen so nicely too.

## Club membership renewals

Membership subscriptions for April 2013 to March 2014 are now due. Please update your details on the attached membership form and post with your payment, or fill out the membership form on the club website and pay online to our bank account – see details on page 2.

New members who have joined the club since January 1st are already paid up until March next year.

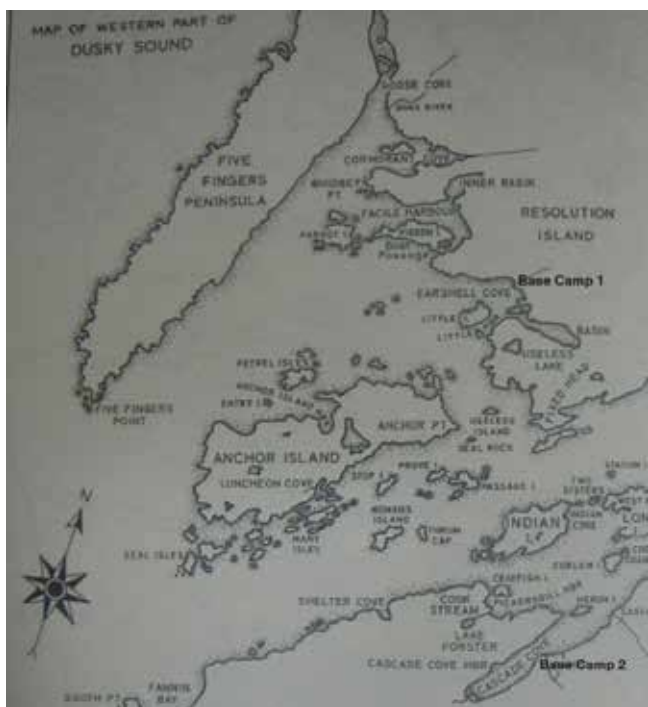
The June newsletter will be the last for members not renewed.



# Dusky Sound – Fourteen Days in Paradise (if you ignore the sandflies)

Erica Law

**Preamble:** Once upon a time a former ‘mainlander’ asked a friend if she would like to kayak in paradise. Her friend could hardly contain her excitement, and so the seed of a trip to Dusky Sound was planted. It didn’t take much to persuade another friend to join them, and then a 4th member, who lived half way to paradise anyway. But before anything could happen, the fellow adventurers had to move into ‘planning mode’:



Source: *Dusky Bay – in the steps of Captain Cook* by A.C. Begg and N.C. Begg, 1966.

## Part A: Trip Preparation

We started planning about September 2012 for a two-week trip in February 2013. Three meetings, one a month, and it was sorted before Christmas. Matters to organise/ decide:

- *What we wanted to do, where we wanted to go:* We wanted a trip that resembled a Great Holiday more than a Great Expedition, and so decided on a base camp approach, with easy day trips to places of interest. We also preferred to explore a smaller area in depth, rather than try to cover the whole of Dusky Sound, so the south western part of Dusky looked like the place to go, with its Captain Cook history, many islands, islets and coves, and wildlife conservation endeavours.
- *Safety in communications:* With no working coastguard channel on VHF, the best approach was to link into the mountain radio scheds each day with Canterbury Mountain Radio Service, and hence get the weather forecast for the area. They were very happy to relay the marine weather forecast for our area (Puysegur) after the regional and mountain forecasts were broadcast. At \$110 hire for two weeks, it was very good value, and avoided someone needing to awake for the 4am marine weather forecast on national radio. Each of us also carried a Personal Locator Beacon.
- *Getting to Te Anau:* It’s a long way to Te Anau, three days drive from Auckland including the ferry trip. As the three of us from Auckland had different plans post kayak trip, we each organised our own Cook Strait ferry bookings and accommodation, and drove south separately, Erica joining up with Mike in Pauatahanui (near Wellington).
- *At Te Anau:* Te Anau Lake View Holiday Park caters excellently for campers, campervans and backpackers, and also has more comfortable upmarket lodgings if desired, including a restaurant. It is conveniently located almost opposite the DOC office. We prepared and packed our food before leaving home, however supermarkets and shops in Te Anau cater excellently for backcountry adventurers, e.g., better variety of dehydrated foods, and easy-cook foods than in Auckland supermarkets
- *Getting to Dusky Sound from Te Anau:* We chose to fly with Southern Lakes Helicopters who have a great reputation, and are involved with search and rescue in the Fiordland area. They stipulated a maximum total load of 685kg, for the four of us and all our luggage. Our kayaks, gear and food weighed in at about 75kg each so we were well within the weight limit. We took plenty of foam mats and other cushioning material, and several rolls of 3M duct tape for securing the kayaks to the helicopter skids.
- *Ship-shape kayaks:* We all bought new kayaks, but that’s hardly necessary. I reckon we deserved a discount from Quality Kayaks for 3 new Southern Skuas.
- *Camping/cooking gear:* A bit of debate here, especially in terms of how much fuel we would need. We hoped to have some fires and we weren’t too sure about how much fuel we’d need for washing dishes or ourselves.

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In the end we took 3 gas cookers and one white spirits cooker, about 12 canisters of gas and 3 litres of white spirits. We did often cook evening meals over a fire, and rarely heated water to wash ourselves or the dishes, so found we had plenty of fuel. A good sized fly over the tent and well beyond the entrance, was well worth-while for ease of sorting gear and putting on footwear.

- *Food:* Evening meals were shared, each person providing 4 dinners which meant 14 meals plus 2 emergency meals.
- *Medical supplies:* We each supplied our own requirements, but let each other know of any potential medical situations. All four of us completed an Outdoor First Aid Course prior to the trip.

### Part B: Trip Highlights

#### *Four Kayakers Flying High*

All four made rendezvous at the holiday camp in Te Anau on the evening of Saturday 9 February. The next morning we headed along the lake front to the Southern Lakes Helicopters Office to meet Ngaire whom Erica had been communicating with over the past few months. We arranged to meet our pilot at the hangar with our kayaks and all our gear that afternoon around 4pm. All of us, including the pilot, were a little unsure of just how we were to strap the kayaks to the helicopter skids, but we knew it had been done before, and had viewed photos of it. So loaded with close cell foam, scissors and 3M duct tape, we set to work, taping down all the hatch covers, deck cover and rudder, and then strapping the kayaks, one each side of each skid, using close cell foam to protect the kayaks. Rosemary had made some padded covers to strap around her kayak which made it a little easier.



PHOTO: CHRISTINE JACOBSON

Two and a half hours later, and we were done (kayaks and gear on board), and done in (pew!).

Next morning, Monday 11th Feb, the forecast southwest front arrived earlier than expected, so our pre-dawn rising was in vain, and we were sent off to find a cup of coffee until called up. But true to form, the (small) southeast front was followed by a clearance, so by 9.30am we were on our way, airborne, dodging our way through gaps in the clouds and over the mountains of Fiordland, as if in a 3D sea of islands. Views of little tarns nestled in hanging valleys, shining rivulets streaming from them and over waterfalls to rivers below, and steep-sided fiords made for a very scenic 35 to 40 minute journey. We noted with interest the water-ways we would paddle to reach Supper Cove at the head of an arm of Dusky Sound in order to rendezvous with the helicopter.



PHOTO: ROSEMARY GATLAND

#### *Settling into Paradise (if you ignore the sandflies) – Base Camp One*

Our first base camp was at Earshell Cove on Resolution Island, in the outer southwest part of Dusky Sound.

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It is possible to land on the beach here about 3 hours either side of low tide. With engine still running, and the clock ticking over \$\$\$ every minute, the four of us rapidly untied and transported the kayaks to a safe distance, and unloaded our 200kg of gear to a pile we could easily hold down as the helicopter became airborne again.

Compared to Doubtful Sound and the more inland parts of Dusky Sound, this outer part of Dusky Sound has more gentle contours, and wide panoramas of islands and sea. It wasn't too difficult to find places to put up our four tents amongst the crown fern and coastal shrubs. With tents and flies up, mountain radio set up and an agreement that ablutions would be at the other end of the bay (approximately 100m away), we were ready to start our explorations in the early afternoon. The four of us set off with no particular destination in mind other than to explore the immediate area. Mike was keen to get some fishing in, and less than 15 minutes from our campsite had caught a blue cod. We left him landing his kayak on some rocks so as to explore the underwater world by snorkel, while we paddled our way in and out of all the little nooks and crannies of the Resolution Island coast and islets.

We had a mixture of cloudy and showery weather over the next four days, and mostly benign sea conditions, with gentle swells. We made one day trip to Pigeon Island where Richard Henry lived for 14 years from 1894. He was the first government-appointed curator and caretaker of Resolution Island, one of New Zealand's first bird sanctuaries along with Little Barrier and Kapiti Islands. He tried in vain to protect the kakapo, kiwi and weka from predators by translocating them from the main land to Resolution Island, but gave up dispirited after seeing a weasel on Resolution Island.

On another day trip, we cruised a little further on to Facile Harbour, paddling beneath impressive granite cliffs. The calm sea and wind conditions made for some wonderful reflections of vegetation, kayaks and cliffs in the freshwater-fed and peat-stained black water. But unfortunately the tide was in, and there was no sign of the remains of a rotten ship that had met a rather ignominious end there in October 1895 hitting a rock when a northerly storm blew up.

On the wetter days we explored both by land and by sea the many inlets close to our campsite. The Department of Conservation has a series of tracks around and across Resolution Island with hundreds of stoat traps in place. We found these tracks to be a very good way to get around the terrain, which was pretty open (deer still inhabit the island) albeit also very steep in many parts.



PHOTO: MIKE JACOBSON

At some time each day Mike would leave the three women and go off to explore the underwater world, bringing back a feed of crayfish, paua, scallops, blue cod, flounder, mussels, cockles and/or tuatua. It seems there was never any difficulty finding sea food. For instance with the crayfish, the big decision was trying to choose the right sized crayfish out of the dozens he would come across, so that he and Lester could finish eating it while it was still fresh (i.e., within a day or so of catching it). Being vegetarian, I made myself scarce when it came to killing these creatures, but the other three truly enjoyed the gourmet delights that Mike seemed to know how to cook up over the camp fire.

### **Steeped in History – Base Camp Two and Environs**

By day 6 we all felt ready to move on to another area. After a little bit of discussion it seemed that Cascade Cove was likely to be the best location with enough camping space for four tents. Having had little practice at decamping and packing expedition kayaks, it was a good 2 ½ hours before we were ready to leave. However with heavily laden kayaks, good sea conditions and forecast, and plenty of time to reach our destination, we set a leisurely pace across to Anchor Island and around its northerly coast. Seal Rock truly lived up to its name and we spent quite some time enjoying the antics of the seals, especially those playing in the water. It was difficult to resist taking just one more photo of these graceful swimming mammals. However we were getting hungry and needed to find somewhere to pull up for lunch. This we did at the well-hidden Canoe Harbour on Indian Island where the Maori people that Cook met had lived. It was only a short paddle of about an hour from there to Cascade Cove.

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## Dusky Sound

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PHOTO: ERICA LAW

Cascade Cove is a fairly long narrow inlet, sheltered from the south and west. We found a large and well-formed camp site at Sealers Camp delta. Here there were several 'boat runs', areas of the beach where the boulders had been cleared so that boats could more easily be hauled above the high tide. About fifteen minutes walk away we found a Maori cave dwelling mentioned in the book 'Dusky Bay' by the Begg brothers. It was on this beach that the Maori were first seen by Captain Cook's men in 1773.

Pickersgill Harbour, Cook's base in Dusky Sound in 1773 was only a few kilometres paddle away. Here Cook laid up his ship the Resolution for about five weeks to give it an overhaul, and give his crew a chance to rest after an arduous few months at sea including in Antarctica. Also here Captain Cook ordered a clearing to be made on a small point about fifty feet high (now called Astronomer Point), so that his scientists could accurately fix the geographical position of Dusky Sound and New Zealand.

A personal highlight occurred in Cascade Cove Harbour, another place suitable for camping about twenty minutes paddle up the Cove from our own base. Here at low tide, with the mid afternoon sun streaming down illuminating the underwater scene against a sandy bottom, we came across what seemed like a nursery of sharks, perhaps a couple of dozen small sharks from juvenile to adult size. We later identified them as Rig or School Sharks. As the water was barely a metre deep, these sharks were milling about right underneath our boats, in company with a couple of eagle rays. This view from our kayaks however in no way compared to Mike's experience under the water the one time he was snorkelling and not wearing a wetsuit. Close by our campsite, he almost swam into a large seven-gill shark, which he estimated to be about 2.5 metres long.



*Pickersgill Harbour.*

PHOTO: LESTER MILLER

### ***Tangaroa and Tawhirimatea at Anchor Island***

Although the weather and sea conditions were pretty benign during the trip, occasionally Tangaroa (God of the Sea) and Tawhirimatea (God of the weather) made themselves felt.

Anchor Island is located near the entrance to Dusky Sound; the further you paddle towards the south west, the greater you experience the ocean swells from outside the fiord. We chose a really glorious sunny day to paddle from Cascade Cove to the Seal Islands near the south west end of Anchor Island, but as we approached them, past the Many Islands, the swell was getting a bit big for day trippers like us, and the wind seemed to be freshening. We sheltered in behind the many islets between the Many Islands and Seal Islands as we watched the seals dancing around in the water. Then decided it was time for a cup of tea stop. Not the easiest place to find one. We had to chase some seals off their rocky perches, and time the swell surges as one by one we landed amongst boulders in a small rocky cove, and then moved each kayak to make space for the next person to land.

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PHOTO: ROSEMARY GATLAND

On another day we decided we would head back to Anchor Island so that we could visit and explore around Luncheon Cove, where Captain Raven in 1792 had deposited a party of 12 men for a year, leaving them to build their own accommodation, collect seal skins, and build a sea-going vessel (the Providence) in case he didn't get back to pick them up. These were the first dwellings and first ship to be built by Europeans in Zealand.

We had listened to the weather forecast on the mountain radio sched the evening before. While the forecast for Puysegur sounded a little brisk at 20 knots rising to 30 knots, it didn't concern us too much because over the previous week we had discovered that these forecasts of wind for Puysegur didn't seem to apply inside Dusky Sound. However as the three of us (Mike had decided to go fishing and snorkelling having already explored Luncheon Cove on a previous trip) headed out of Cascade Cove, and across past Indian Island towards Anchor Island, we were met with some strong and gusty head winds. The closer to Anchor Island we got, the stronger and more unpredictable they seemed to become. We got much practice in bracing against williwaws, as we saw them racing towards us. Eventually we reached Anchor Island and into the shelter of Luncheon Cove. By this time I had decided we should take heed of the marine forecast of rising winds in the afternoon, and have just a short stop to rest and refuel before heading straight back to Cascade Cove. It was a testing, but quite exhilarating trip back, with some welcome support from Mike who made a timely appearance.

<sup>1</sup> William Docherty was a miner and prospector of gold, copper and other minerals, and lived in the area in the from 1877 until departing for the gold rush in Preservation Inlet in 1894, where his grave can still be found.

### **Expedition – what expedition?**

Apparently we were on an Expedition in Dusky Sound. But in true Auckland Canoe Club fashion, we spent most of the time doing lovely day trips in benign weather. It wasn't until we needed to get to our rendezvous with the helicopter that the pattern changed a little. It was about a 42 km paddle from Cascade Cove to Supper Cove hut where we were scheduled to be picked up on 25th February. We decided to do this over three days to fit with our desire for easy paddling days. So we got some practice after all with daily decamping and packing of our expedition kayaks. By the third morning we had improved our time a little, down to about two hours from go to whoa, at least for some. Mike had probably 30% more gear than the rest of us, with all his snorkelling and fishing gear, and didn't manage to break the two hour barrier.

The weather continued fine, calm and balmy, so our three days in expedition mode was a real doddle, as we cruised slowly up the fiord via Duck Cove, where Lester and I enjoyed the comfort of a biv and mattresses, the historic Docherty's' campsite and arriving at Supper Cove hut on the third afternoon.

On the third day we saw a yacht in the distance, and Mike who had raced off to get a better look at lots of leaping dolphins, suddenly changed course and headed across to it. When we finally caught up, we discovered that Mike was friends with the skipper, as this was the very same boat that he had helped crew from Milford Sound to Deep Cove in Doubtful Sound the previous winter. Quite a coincidence considering that we only encountered or sighted eleven other vessels during the whole trip.



PHOTO: ROSEMARY GATLAND

In Supper Cove some of us went exploring by kayak and on foot up the Seaforth River at the head of the cove. What a trout river! We spotted one 5kg monster near a bank, and no less than six good sized trout all just hanging about feeding together in another pool.

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## Dusky Sound

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We also explored about an hour along the Dusky tramping track. Hauling up over tree roots and boulders required some climbing skills not to mention physical fitness; not to be recommended with heavy packs!

On the day of our scheduled departure, we were well ready before 3pm when the helicopter was scheduled to arrive on the beach. This was timed for a receding mid tide so that the pilot could safely turn off the engine with plenty of time before the tide returned. Being ready meant: clean and dry boats, all hatches etc taped up, all gear packed into bags and a safe but convenient distance from the helicopter landing area, and the four of us hanging about ready to spring into action as soon as the helicopter landed. This time, building on our earlier experience, we managed to cut the time taken to load the helicopter ready for take off from 2 ½ hours to about half an hour! Total cost of the helicopter was \$1100 each, well worth it for a terrific two weeks of exploring a fascinating and remote part of New Zealand.

'We' were Rosemary Gatland, Lester Miller, Mike Jacobson and Erica Law.

*Don't miss the talk in June for some stunning photos of the trip.*

### **Postscript: Ignoring the Sandflies**

Unfortunately you can't ignore the sandflies, and they effectively got the last word every time. That is, we'd arrive at a new camp site, and it seemed to be quite sandfly free. But the longer we stayed there, the more there seemed to be. It was as if they sent the word out to their networks, and they'd arrive in their swarms. Who needs mobile phones! Despite our best efforts, each evening our tents would be full of sandflies. So we were really happy to say goodbye to each camp site, and especially our base camps. We would stoically deal with them by completely covering up head to toe. We all had head nets for when they got too much for us, and I also found that if your face was 'in a dark cave' the sandflies would keep away; I often just wore my kayak Goso hat with the cap over the forehead and the flaps that velcro around the neck. The colour of clothing was very important, with the sandflies loving green, black, brown and dark blue. Surprisingly, bright yellow and bright white were also very attractive to the sandflies, but my orange overtrousers were largely ignored. It was easy to get away from them out on the water, or under it, or keeping on moving through the bush. So we kept clear of base camp during much of the day.

## New Club Kayaks



Our club hire fleet has just been given a major upgrade. The committee has approved the purchase of three new lightweight barracuda craft (2 x singles and a double). In keeping with the club policy of operating a modern minimum maintenance fleet, these new craft will replace their older siblings.

The new kayaks come courtesy of a very generous replacement deal offered to us by the Barracuda people at Silverdale. Our new club double kayak is the very latest of the new AR Duo range. It incorporates subtle improvements over the former Duo for ease of use.

All the new kayaks are extremely easy to handle both on and off the water. They are our kayaks and users are requested to treat them as such. If you happen to notice a club kayak being inappropriately handled, then don't hesitate to comment and perhaps assist with some helpful advice.

Enjoy!

# AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



**New Member**

**Renewing**

**IF YOUR DETAILS HAVE CHANGED PLEASE UPDATE US**

**Surname:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Suburb:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (home):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (work):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Rate your Experience:*

I have completed a basic skills course.

**No Experience**

**Novice** (confidently forward and backpaddle, paddle for 30 mins without rest)

**Intermediate** (able to brace, perform a deep water entry, paddle for at least 2 hours or 25 km)

**Advanced** (self rescue in all situations, off-shore paddling experience)

*Do you own a kayak?*  **Yes**  **No** **If YES list type(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please select the types of kayaking your are most interested in:*

Sea kayaking

Touring

Sea kayaking racing

Whitewater

Surf/rodeo/polo

MultiSport

*Kayak trips:* Are you interested in co-ordinating kayak trips ?  **Yes**  **No**

*To comply with the Privacy Act 1993, please read and complete the form below.*

**I Agree**  **I Disagree**

To let the Auckland Canoe Club publish my name, address phone Number or any other information concerning me in the Club Newsletter or to National Canoe Associations. I accept responsibility for correcting this information where applicable.

The Auckland Canoe Club and its officers take no responsibility for any injury any person may suffer, or any damage to equipment, while participating in the Club's kayaking activities. Any Person, who does participate, acts at his or her own risk.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Fees for the year ending 31 March

**Member \$30**

**Family \$35**

**Life Member**

**Post to: Auckland Canoe Club, PO Box 9271 Newmarket, Auckland**

### Total Payment

**Cheque**

**Bank Transfer**

**Bank:** BNZ, Newmarket

**Acct:** 02-0100-0023453-000

**Name:** Auckland Canoe Club

**Particulars:** **Your name & initials**

**Code:** **Subscription**