



July 2013

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*Winter Lecture: A paddling holiday in the Whitsunday Islands.
Wednesday July 17, details on page 9!*

PHOTO PAUL HAYWARD

Auckland Canoe Club Information

Postal Address

P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

Clubrooms

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

Website

<http://www.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>		
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<i>Storage/kayaks</i>	Gavin Baker	528 5188
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(for kayak hire, or any related questions)

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 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.

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** or **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>

Membership Renewal

UPDATE CONTACT DETAILS

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

email secretary@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz



Deadline for Next Newsletter

15 July 2013

A new strategy for winter trips

Colin Quilter

Those who volunteer to lead club trips have an unenviable task, especially in winter. As one low pressure area after another comes marching across the Tasman, the chance of striking suitable weather for a paddling trip that was advertised in the newsletter a month earlier seems small. In winter, at least half of all our advertised trips are cancelled due to bad weather.

Worse, from a trip-leader's perspective, are the times when the weather forecast is neither clearly good nor bad, but marginal. To go ahead with the trip, or not to? It's an insoluble problem. If you go, and the wind is stronger than expected, then weaker paddlers will have real difficulty. I can recall some fearful slogs home from Motuihe or Motutapu Island against a vicious south-westerly, half-blinded with flying spray, with progress slowed to a crawl, and I remember swearing a solemn oath that I would never again take a trip in marginal weather. (Actually, I swore I would never again take a trip in any weather...)



The trip leader wishes he had taken up gardening instead.....

On the other hand, if we cancel a trip because of a poor forecast, then as soon as the decision to cancel is made the weather gods see an opportunity to play one of their little jokes. The wind drops, the sun reappears, and indignant club members complain that the cancellation was unnecessary.

I think this is why, over the years, we have struggled to find club members who are willing to lead trips in the weekend. Sooner or later all our leaders have a bad experience, usually weather-related, and ask themselves why they should take that risk again.

However, since this is the electronic age, and all of us have access to email, perhaps there is a better strategy than advertising trips in print in the newsletter a month ahead of time when the weather is unknown. Why not advertise them by email, just a couple of days ahead, when the forecast has a reasonable level of certainty? It's a strategy we would like to try over the next few months. If it is successful, perhaps we'll extend it into the summer too.

Here is what we propose. Mid-week, when the forecast for the upcoming weekend is good, we'll find a trip leader and choose a destination suitable for the forecast wind and tide. An email will be sent out to all club members (who have registered to receive them) **on Thursday evening** with details of the trip. Information will include:

- A half-day or a full-day trip, on Saturday or Sunday?
- Meeting place and time, departure time, destination, duration and distance to be paddled
- What to bring
- Level of skill and experience needed for the trip
- Who to contact for more information

So we suggest that if you are keen to paddle in the weekend:

- Make sure you have registered to receive club emails via the club's website <http://www.aucklandcanoecub.org.nz/>
- Check your email in-box some time on Friday, especially if the weekend forecast looks good. Don't leave checking until Saturday morning; the trip might already have gone!

Around the Barrier (Part 2 of 2)

Colin Quilter

In the last issue I described my trip from Herne Bay out to Great Barrier via Waiheke Island and the Firth of Thames. After crossing the Colville Channel I had an easy few days paddling along the east coast of the Barrier as far as Needles Point.



Needles Pt, when I reached it early next morning, was in a benign mood. The Point consists of a peninsula of rocks and small islands, and at its very base there is a tunnel right through, just wide enough to pass one kayak. If there is much swell then waves clash and rebound inside the passage, so getting through it can be a character-forming experience; but not today. Emerging onto the west coast I found it flat calm.

From Needles Pt to Miners Cove, about 2hr south, there are continuous cliffs and no possible landing. As one approaches Miners Cove the tidal streams are felt strongly, and if they are unfavourable then it pays to stay as close to the rocks as possible, out of the full flow. On one headland in particular, I had to paddle hard against the sluicing current, almost within touching distance of the rocks.

Miners Cove is one of the landmarks of a Great Barrier kayak trip. Many parties camp here, either before or after rounding Needles Pt. There is a grassy flat behind the beach with clumps of flax; a good thing because you may need them in windy conditions. It can blow here! In strong NE winds the gusts come down the valley with a roar. The flax thrashes and flails in the wind but gives wonderful



Overlooking Miners Cove. It is wide open to the west, but the strongest winds come down from the hills to the east.

shelter, and with your tent tucked in the lee of the biggest clump you can find, even atheists like me offer up prayers of thanks to flax!

On this trip I arrived at Miners Cove mid-morning in a flat calm, and couldn't think of an excuse to stop so early in the day, so on I went. A few kilometres south is Ahuriri Pt, the northern headland of Katherine Bay. The Point has an old pa site and I scrambled up for the view. Immediately below was the attractive valley which backs Ahuriri Bay, (really a cove, not a bay). There is a potential campsite in the shade of pohutukawas back in the valley, but you would need to carry gear through deep kikuyu grass to get there. Another (un-named) bay a short distance southeast of Ahuriri looks just as nice.

The head of Katherine Bay has road access at two places, and small settlements, so I was not tempted to paddle in, but carried on slowly around the next headland into Port Abercrombie. On its northern and eastern shores Port Abercrombie also has dwellings. The southern shore is formed by Kaikoura Island which is now publicly owned, and managed by a Trust. I landed briefly at Bradshaw Cove on the northern side where a walking track leads up onto the island; but I was tired, looking forward to a cup of tea, and decided to paddle on into Port Fitzroy rather than to walk.

The DOC campground at Akapoua Bay in Port Fitzroy is a pleasant place, with shade and good shelter. It is charming at high tide when water laps at the edge of the grassy flat; it is less than charming at low tide when an expanse of mud and oyster-covered rocks greets the weary paddler. However a kayaker with his heart set on a cup of tea is not easily stopped, and I was soon taking my ease with the first of several cups in hand.

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Around the Barrier

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It's a long road, and a rough one, for the kayaker who lands at Akapoua Bay at low tide!

Akapoua Bay is well sited. A short walk north gets you to the Port Fitzroy wharf and store, (well-stocked but very expensive). Taking the road south gets you to Kaiarara Bay where the track to Hiramimata (Mt Hobson) begins. No trip around Great Barrier would be complete without a walk to the summit, so next day I declared a holiday from paddling and set off after breakfast with lunch in my pack. It was several years since I had last done this walk, and I was impressed by the improvements DOC have made to the track. As far as the Lower Kauri Dam two could walk abreast on a wide gravel path with wooden steps. Between the Lower and Upper dams the track is less well formed but still good; and above the Upper dam extensive boardwalks and long flights of stairs lead to the summit. Despite keeping up only a gentle pace, and stopping for photographs, I reached the top just 2.5hr from Akapoua Bay, much less than the many hours which I remember the trip used to take. There are wide views from the summit, and often a fierce



On Great Barrier many birds which are absent or rare on the mainland, are common. Here is a Banded Rail in the Akapoua Bay campground.

wind, but not today. After the obligatory round of photographs I coasted back down the hill, had lunch on the riverbank near the Kaiarara Hut, and reached Akakpoua Bay in time for an after-lunch snooze in the shade.

To leave Port Fitzroy I took the southern exit, a narrow channel called Man of War Passage. Then a sharp left turn through the Grey Group Islands, and south along the coast to the Broken Islands. All these are made of conglomerate, a sedimentary rock in which weathered boulders are embedded. It makes for a distinctive and interesting coast. Once through the Broken Islands I turned left again, looked for (and found) a 100 metre-long tunnel which leads beneath the southern headland of Bowling Alley Bay and into the sheltered waters of the cove. There are four shingle beaches in here. I landed on the first and had an easy walk up through manuka scrub to a rocky outcrop for the view. Beneath the manuka the earth had been badly torn up by wild pigs. I met a family of them but they trotted off with furtive backward glances, as if guilty about the damage they had done.



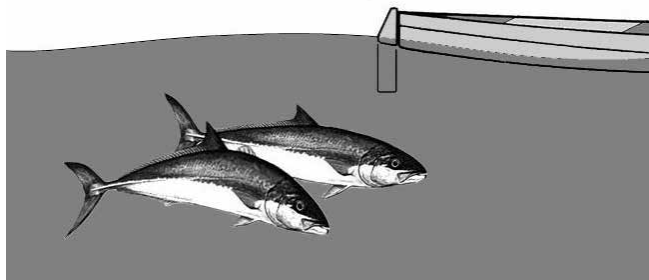
Contemplating the view westwards across the Broken Islands towards Little Barrier.

At mid-day, with little warning, a brisk southwesterly arrived. After many days of calm I was determined to use my sail, although the wind direction was slightly forward of the beam and its strength at the margin of what I could handle. With the sail sheeted at an acute angle we rushed off along the coast, frequently turning up to windward to ease pressure in the gusts. I was concentrating hard so it took me a few seconds to register that some very big shapes were keeping pace just beneath the canoe. I looked again, and was astonished to see they were not dolphins, but large kingfish. Weaving to and fro they kept formation with me for the next ten minutes and then vanished.

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Around the Barrier

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(In 28 years of kayaking this is only the second time I have been followed by kingfish. The first was many years ago, among the Mercury Islands, when a group jostled along right behind the kayak and actually bumped the rudder so hard that I raised it to avoid damage. I don't know the reason for this behaviour.)

Whangaparapara Harbour was a welcome sight when I reached it mid-afternoon. There was too much wind to square the sail off and run directly down into the harbour, so I dropped it and paddled in to the stony bay at the head of the harbour where the DOC campground sits beside a creek. What a lovely place! By now there was a steady roar of wind through the treetops, shaking the limbs of the pohutukawas, but the little grassy flat is tucked behind a headland and so sheltered that hardly a breath of wind reached it. There was shade, fresh water, and a cooking shelter; it was as good as striking gold!

I had learned on previous sailing and paddling trips that the southwest coast of the Barrier, between the Broken Islands and Cape Barrier, is badly affected by southwesterly winds. For some reason even a moderate SW wind kicks up a steep and vigorous sea here. A wind of SW 20 knots gusting 25, which would go almost without notice in Auckland Harbour, creates breaking seas on this coast which I would hesitate to paddle in. So next morning when the harbour entrance showed whitecaps right across the Colville Channel, it was easy to decide to walk rather



Held ashore by windy weather in Whangaparapara Harbour; but who could complain with a campsite as good as this?

than to paddle. Fortunately there are plenty of good walks to be had; (up Mt Whangaparapara to the west or Te Ahumata to the east, or across to the hot springs near the Kaitoke Swamp, or north along the forest road to Port Fitzroy).

I was held in Whangaparapara by the weather for three days. It was no hardship. The view each morning was the same, whitecaps to the south. On the third morning I thought that a very early start might give me just a few hours of less wind to reach Tryphena, so I set the alarm for 4.30am. I had breakfast and packed up by torchlight, and wheeled my kayak down the beach in the dark. First my hat blew off, then I had difficulty doing up my sprayskirt without being blown back onto the beach. It was not an encouraging start. I decided to paddle at least out to the harbour entrance, but once there, riding big swells in the pre-dawn gloom and bracing as breaking crests came through, it was obvious that only a desperate paddler had any reason to be there, and I was not desperate. I returned with a clear conscience to my sheltered campsite, had a second breakfast and more coffee, and went back to bed. When you are paddling alone it is more important than usual to make good decisions, and on this occasion I was sure that I had made the correct one.

The wind eased next day. I dawdled along the coast, making a detour into Blind Bay. Like Tryphena Harbour, this has two shallow white-sand beaches at its head, with stony bays leading out to the headlands on each side. Once in Tryphena I had the problem of finding a campsite. The only one I knew of was at the "Stray Possum Lodge," a campground plus backpackers plus restaurant and bar. Sadly the lodge is 500 metres up Cape Barrier Rd at the head of Shoal Bay, (and I use the word "up" advisedly). What is more, Shoal Bay dries out extensively so that at low tide it's not possible to paddle anywhere near its head. You have to leave the water about half-way in from the wharf, and wheel your kayak from there. So there is probably 800m to cover on foot, (but at least it is all on a sealed road). The campsite at the Stray Possum is in a pleasant grassy dell, the people are friendly, the facilities basic, the late-night party in the adjoining bar long and loud. What more can be said?

(I have since learned of the "Great Barrier Island Camp Ground" in the northern corner of Tryphena Harbour, and said to be "200m from the nearest beach and boat ramp." Google Earth suggests that the 200m might be considerably uphill. If anybody can tell me more I'd be pleased to know.)

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Around the Barrier

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The forecast now was for a prolonged period of south-easterly winds. That was unhelpful. It would make a return crossing of the Colville Channel difficult, and it would make progress along the eastern side of the Coromandel Peninsula towards Whitianga, (which was an option I had in mind) very slow. It was easy to decide that I should bring my trip to an end, and go home on the Sealink Ferry which sailed tomorrow from Tryphena. Not so easy to get onto it however! I learned that this particular sailing had been designated a "Dangerous Goods Sailing" and therefore that passenger numbers were limited by safety regulations. There was no room for me: bad news! But I could go on the next sailing, the following day: good news! Which departed from Port Fitzroy: bad news!

I was philosophical. Next day I had a long but satisfying sail and paddle back along the coast to Port Fitzroy, exploring the Broken Islands on the way. The gods must have thought I deserved a break because I arrived at Akapoua Bay right on high water, the mud and rocks and oysters all unseen, and settled into the familiar campsite for another night. Next day the ferry arrived with its usual hustle and bustle, and a lot of weather-beaten characters emerged from the bush to claim their cargo.



The easiest way to or from Great Barrier is on the Sealink ferry which runs to Tryphena (mostly) and to Port Fitzroy (occasionally).

I wheeled my kayak on board and by evening was home in the city. At the back door one of the cats recognised me, for which I was grateful. The other gave me a "Who the hell are you?" look and hid under the bed. Well, you have to expect that after a long trip.

Happy paddling!

Colin

Poet's Corner

*Kayaking on the sea divine
Winter sunshine weather fine
Thinking on what shall I dine
For tea tonight.*

*Paddling West along the coast
Ladies Bay where people toast
All their bods to cook the most
I'll pass on that.*

*Past St Heliers on my bow
Deep in thought a wrinkled brow
Top of mind is what's for chow
Important stuff.*

*Kohi Beach where cafe smells
Waft into my nasal cells
Suddenly the answer gels
Pizza.*

*Meandering on to Mission Bay
Even more smells drift my way
Garlic seemingly holds sway
For now.*

*Smells forgotten past the fishers
Not one prize to guess their wishes
For some fish upon their dishes
Might go for that.*

Mike Randall

Winter Lecture Series

The Auckland Canoe Club winter lecture series runs from June through to September, on the third Wednesday of each month. We use the comfortable heated lecture rooms at the Marine Rescue Centre, on the waterfront at the city end of Tamaki Drive. The car park area adjoining the complex can be a little bit busy at times however there is always ample parking a short stroll away on Tamaki Drive.

Our winter series is open for all to attend. Spread the word and invite your friends and paddling companions along to enjoy these inspirational presentations. If you want ideas about great places to paddle to next summer, the winter lectures will provide them. A light supper and hot drinks will be available during the evening.

Next lecture: Wednesday July 17, at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

Paul Hayward and Natasha Romoff



“Our 2012 trip to Queensland’s Whitsunday Passage (and the Island group usually referred to by the same name) saw us paddling our folding double kayak into warmer waters than our previous trip along Alaska’s coast to Glacier Bay. The Whitsundays were a celebration of a special birthday for Natasha – and the warm sands and coral-reef snorkelling were suitably enjoyed – with a bit more wine and a rather more laid-back pace – exploring Australia’s best kayaking destination.

Jellyfish, crocs, goanas and humpbacks combined with some dreamy weather under the casurinas – and some rough stuff – to make it an interesting 10 day excursion. One that’s pretty much on New Zealand’s doorstep. We’ll talk about getting there and about the possibilities of doing it with local (rented) kayaks – as well as about our experience with our own boat.

We tell you why getting the right time-of-year is pretty important – as well as some of the background for supplies, campsites and options for bail-outs.

Come and listen to the story – and/or bring pencil and paper to take notes, you might just be tempted to go and have a play yourself.”

Paul Hayward is an Engineer from Montreal who moved to New Zealand 30 years ago, working in industrial control and software development – currently specialising in databases for small businesses. In Canada he did some canoeing and sailing, while in New Zealand he’s done lots more sailing and, in the last 12 years, an immoderate amount of kayaking – mostly throughout New Zealand.

Natasha Romoff is a Botanist turned Project Manager, originally from Cape Town who moved here about 15 years ago. Her second career in IT sees her currently managing international projects for a New Zealand firm. Natasha sailed in South Africa and has also kayaked extensively in New Zealand. She has additional qualifications as a self-taught expert on not getting eaten by bears...

Need more information?

Phone Roger Lomas on 846 6799