



## September 2013

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*Final Winter Lecture – Kayaking the Danube (see page 9).*

PHOTO PHILIP AND SUE NOBLE

## 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>		
<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 Editor</i>	Claire O'Connor	521 1769
<i>Newsletter Sub-editor</i>	Colin Quilter	360 6271
<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

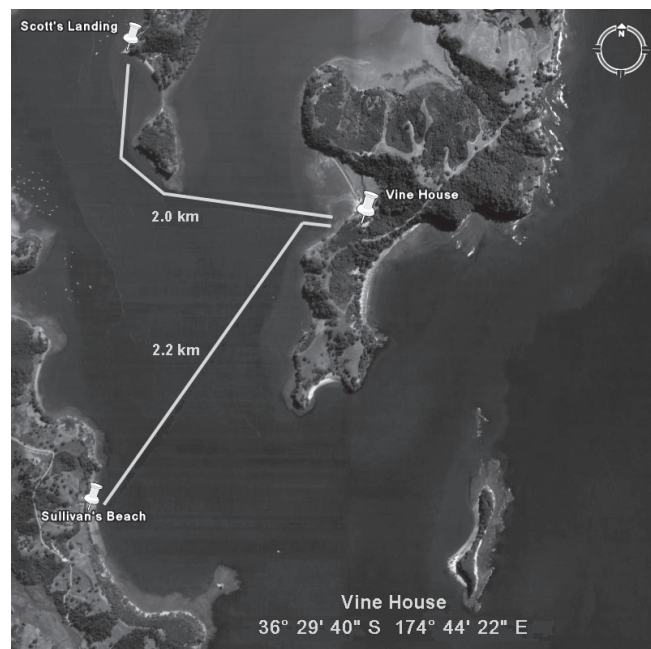
Daily hire – out am, back pm \$30.00

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 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>



## Deadline for Next Newsletter

**15 September 2013**

## Trip Notifications

Dear Member,

You may have noticed email activity from the Auckland Canoe Club lately – some of you may have even received more than one message and wondered what was going on.

Well, there is exciting news, but I should start at the beginning...

You will be aware that earlier this year after many months of planning and testing, the Auckland Canoe Club launched its new website. This contains a number of features that have not been widely publicised yet (see page 5) as the Committee wanted to move slowly and test features out. The prime goal of the new site was to make it self-configuring so that the site could be updated by members and did not rely on specialist knowledge from a few committee members.

One of these features is the ability for any member to add a new trip to the trip list and have it published immediately on the website. The member can add a description and optionally add the location which will then display a map generated automatically by Google maps.

In addition any REGISTERED member could also receive an automated reminder email informing them of the new trip.

We originally set this up so members could select the frequency of reminders (daily, weekly, monthly, etc), and select the venues they were interested in. However some of the committee members thought this was too complicated so in the interest of simplicity these options have been removed.

Now all members will receive notifications of all trips, and all venues and will receive a weekly reminder of all new additions.

As before, if a member does not want to receive these reminders they can go to the trip alert tab on the website and click off the reminder.

More than half of the members had already created a login to the website but some had not. To assist these members we have added them to the user list on the website and you should have received an email informing you that you have been added, and how to opt out if you do not want to receive the weekly update.

If you have not received an email similar to this note please contact [Webmaster@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz](mailto:Webmaster@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz) as you may have inadvertently been left off the list.

We have noted that a very few members either do not have an email address or have chosen not to share it with us.

In case this was an oversight and you would like to be added to the membership notifications, these are the members we do not have a contact email for...

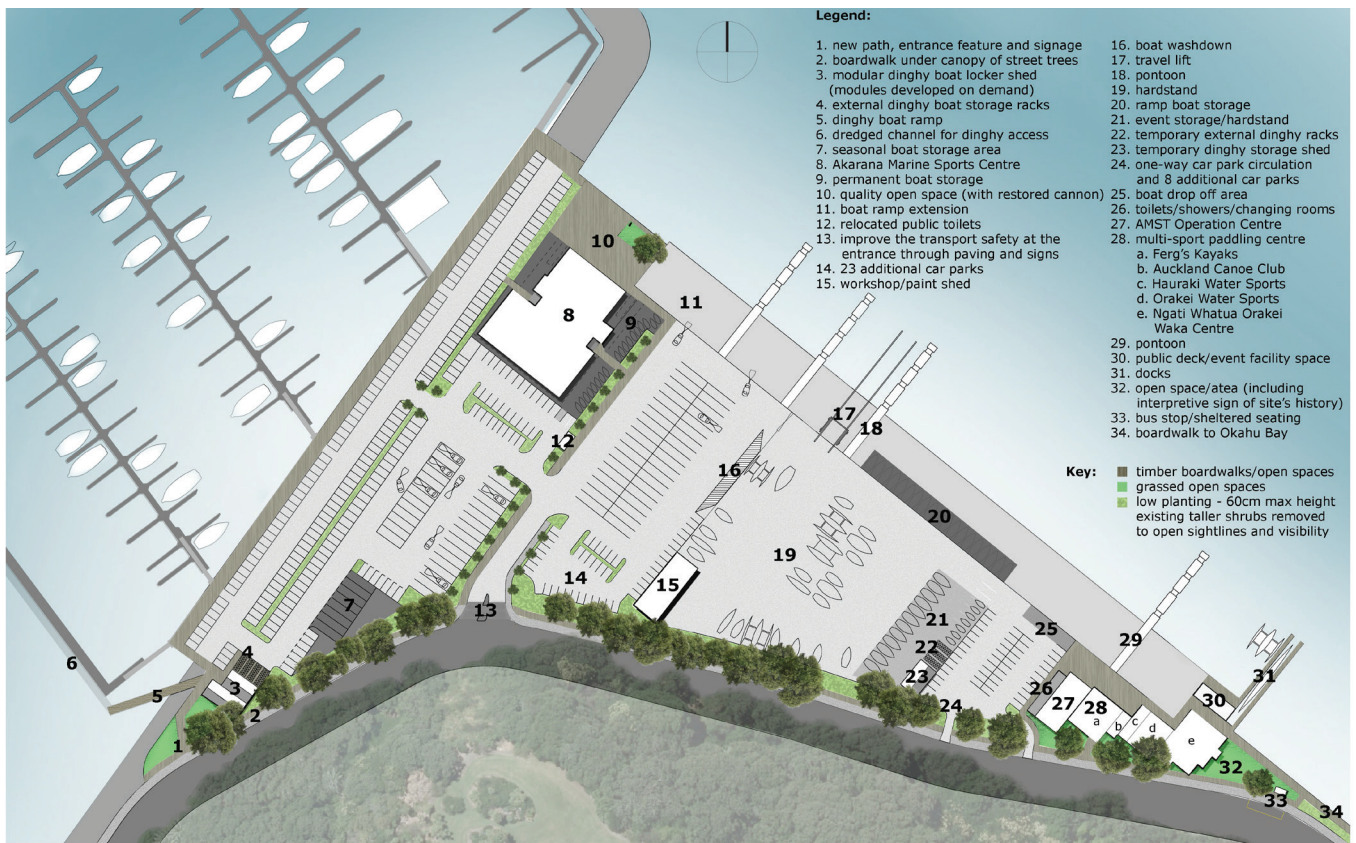
Augustin	Ron & Nancy
Barter	Steve & Lynda
Birks	Sally
Bugbee	Laurie
De Vos	Paul
Housego	Pelham
Johns	Karen
Langstaff	Chris
Lipscombe/Strong	Michael, Pam
Mackenzie	Ross
Mason	Jim
Newth	David
Sanson-Beattie	Justin
Scott-Woods	Joe
Watts	John & Leonie
Williams	John Allan

Regards,

*Webmaster*



# The Landing – 2013



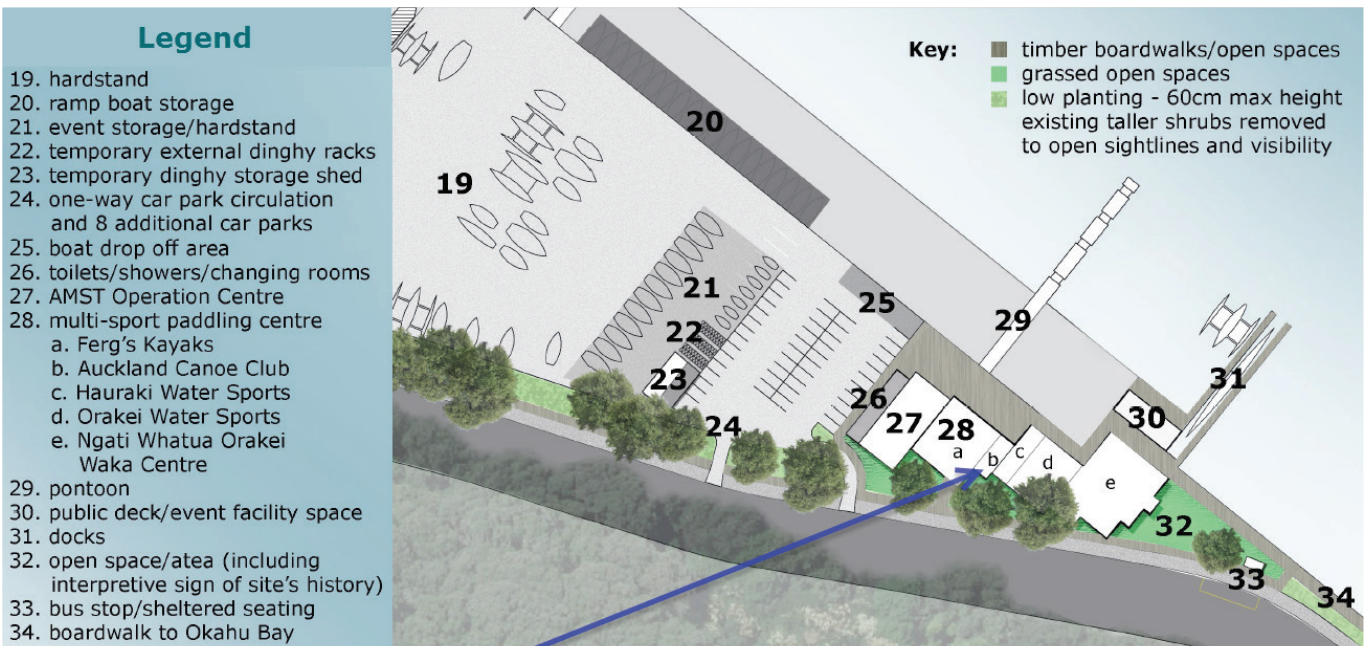
## CONCEPT PLAN: THE LANDING OKAHU BAY / POKONOO POINT

August 2013

Scale 1: 1250 @ A3



It has been a long time – Trevor Arthur located a very similar plan drawn up in 1997 for our consideration, BUT I can now tell you that the Local Community Board has approved the plan for the Landing, and as you can see the Auckland Canoe Club premises are identified by name (see 28b below).



**Auckland Canoe Club**



Continued on page 6 ➤

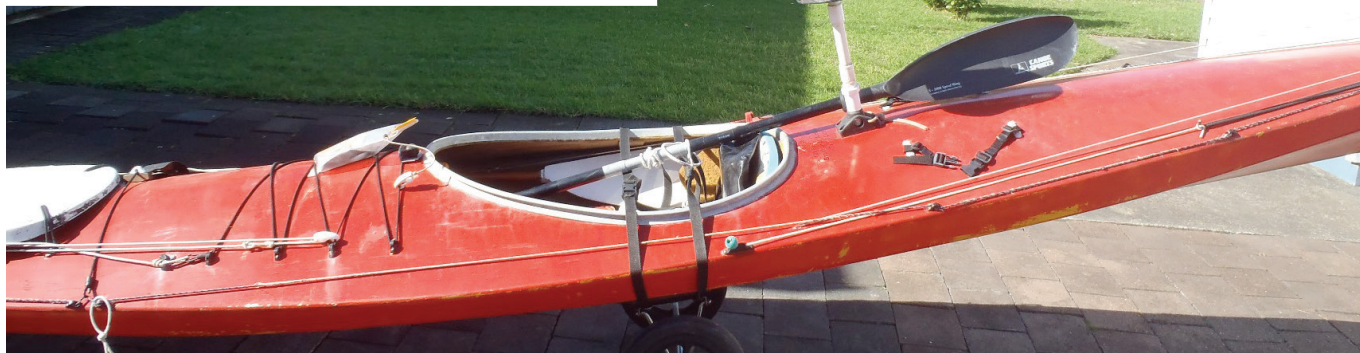


## Are we being seen on the harbour?

*Kevin Sargent*

Recently, fellow club member Phillip Noble was aboard the Pine Harbour Ferry to Beachlands and while talking to the skipper he found that they do not always see kayaks on the harbour.

The setting sun can make a visual sight difficult and the skipper commented that kayaks do not show on their radar unless the flag on the kayak is wet.



Paddling in the area between Beachlands and Browns Island made me wonder if my visibility could be improved.

I used a plastic garden pot and wrapped some stainless steel sheetmetal around it. The pot was then mounted on the PVC pole I use to hold a night light. It was approximately 500 mm above the deck

I paddled out one afternoon around Motukaraka Island off Beachlands and when the ferry was in view I called them up on VHS and asked if I was visible on their radar. The reply was yes.

The sea was flat, but not glassy and a higher pole would be better in a swell.

There must be many different low cost ways to make a simple radar deflector.

Makes you think about our safety. Happy paddling.

## The Landing – 2013

*Continued from page 5*

We are in debt to the Auckland Council Landing Committee, headed by Jo Wiggins, for getting this project to completion. It was not an easy task trying to get all parties to agree but I am delighted to tell you that the Auckland Canoe Club requirements have been provided for, and the area designated for the storage is a little bigger than our present space. In addition it is planned for the new building to be two storey so we will also have a meeting/storage room above.

It is not just are storage space that has been provided but the Committee also listened to the

need for easier access to and from Tamaki Drive – two entrances/exits have been provided. Toilets and changing rooms will be built at the end of the building, and a boat drop-off area (25) will be provided next to a decked open area where the kayaks can be put whilst cars are parked.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all those who have been involved in this project over the years.

*Ian Calhaem*

August 2013

## President's Report

Well it has been a long time since I have been able to write something for the newsletter.

For various reasons I have been either out of the country or indisposed, but I am pleased to report that things have continued to progress on many fronts due to the diligent work of your committee.

The time that I have had has been spent negotiating with the Council over the Landing – see a separate note, and fine tuning the website.

The new website has a number of features that you are probably yet to discover.

There is a separate note (see *page 4*) about trip notifications which have been fine tuned at the request of the committee, and all members have now been added to the notification list. Everyone has the option to opt-out if they do not want to receive these notifications which should be sent weekly.

One of the exciting features of the new website is the ability for any member to add an article with pictures. The committee has started to collect a few articles together and has published some of them, but the intention was that the website belongs to the members and it is the members who should be putting up the articles.

Imagine my delight when, as I was writing this report, I received a phone call from Gary Schroder asking if the article that he had just submitted for publication had gone through correctly (Fishing the Barrier in April). It was the ideal opportunity for me to consider what I needed to put in this report to encourage more members to add their own articles.

The Website accepts two types of articles for publication...

1. New Trip Information is added via the TRIPS tab and is designed to appear on the website immediately without any vetting. Selected committee members will receive a message to say a new trip has been added, just in case it contains inappropriate material, but the intention is for new trips to appear immediately so that members can advertise a trip at short notice.
2. General articles are added under the ARTICLES tab and can be about anything. The writer can select the category they would like the article to appear under, but these articles are sent to a moderator to ensure that the content is suitable for the website. Another reason for moderation is that some articles will be deemed suitable for the newsletter first before being published on the website.

So, to return to Garry's article...

As he was speaking to be on the phone, an email arrived in my inbox letting me know a new article had been added to the website. I was able to click on the email link and view the article – of course I approved it. Gary wanted to publish it under trip reports and had missed that feature so I was able to quickly add the trip report category and then I clicked PUBLISHED. As we spoke Gary could see his handiwork appear on the website.

The title of a new article will appear in the bottom left hand box labelled OUR LATEST NEWS, with the latest articles being at the top. The trip report can also be located under the TRIPS tab – Trip Reports, and under ARTICLES – Trip Reports.

If you click on the Trip Report tab you will then see a list of trip reports and the number of times members have accessed each report. As Gary and I were talking I could see the number of hits increase and as I finish this report the hits had reached 12 already.

The Website also contains another “hidden” feature – you are able to search most articles. Newer articles and Newsletters can be searched at the word level; older articles which have been scanned in can be searched by keyword.

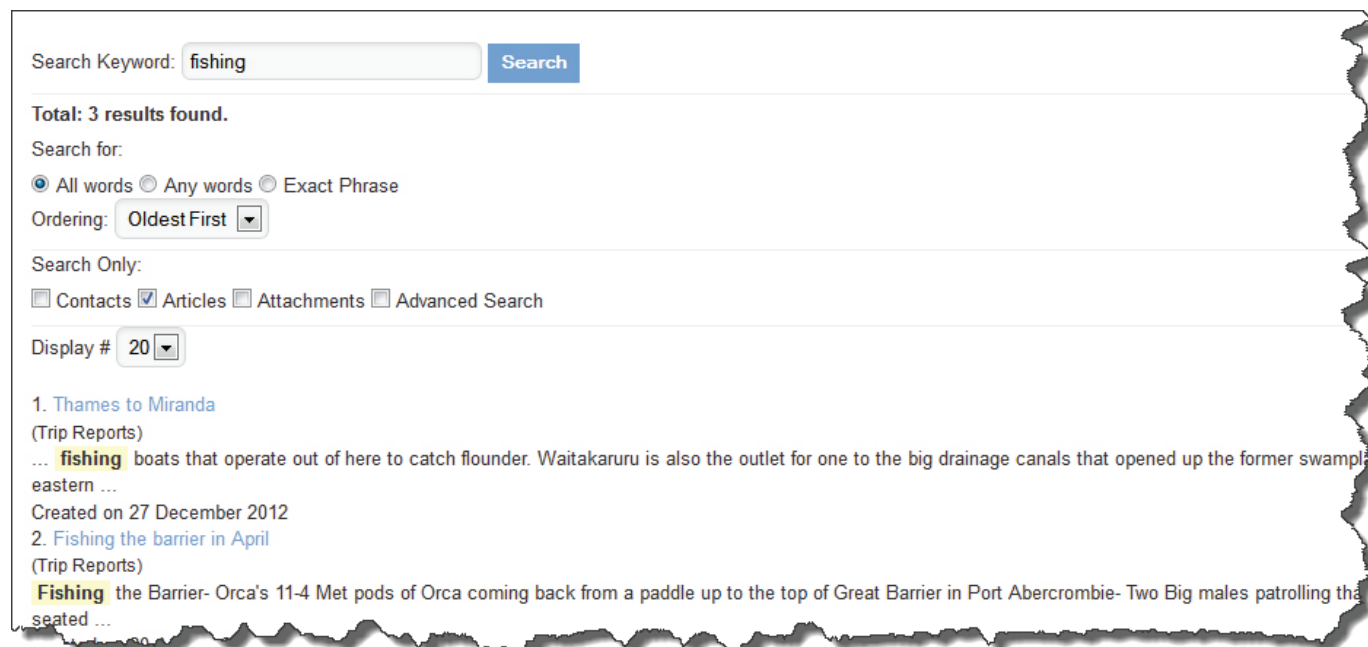
*Continued on page 8 ➤*

## President's Report

Continued from page 7

So to give this a try I type "Fishing" into the search box at the top right of the page.

When I do this everything on the website will be searched and that may not be what you want so it is possible to select only the type of article you are interested in. As shown below I also selected "Articles" and then other documents such as Newsletters were not searched.



The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements:

- Search Keyword: fishing
- Search button
- Total: 3 results found.
- Search for: All words (selected), Any words, Exact Phrase
- Ordering: Oldest First
- Search Only: Contacts, Articles (checked), Attachments, Advanced Search
- Display #: 20
- Results:
  1. [Thames to Miranda](#) (Trip Reports)  
... fishing boats that operate out of here to catch flounder. Waitakaruru is also the outlet for one of the big drainage canals that opened up the former swamp eastern ...  
Created on 27 December 2012
  2. [Fishing the barrier in April](#) (Trip Reports)  
Fishing the Barrier- Orca's 11-4 Met pods of Orca coming back from a paddle up to the top of Great Barrier in Port Abercrombie- Two Big males patrolling the seated ...

(Gary has since added more articles.)

I was told that two articles referenced "Fishing", the new article by Gary and an older one entitled "Thames to Miranda".

This brings me to the last item of news... Historical Newsletters.

Rona Patterson provided me with a bag of old newsletters. Some of you will have observed that we have already put up on the website recent newsletters that we had stored in electronic form, but that started in 2003 and there were a few missing issues.

We have now started to scan the older issues and will progressively publish them on the website. This month you will find the 1998 issues on line – thanks to Rona.

That is all for now,

Happy kayaking

*Ian*



## Final Winter Lecture

Wednesday 18th September

### Kayaking the Danube

*Philip and Sue Noble*

Last year in late June, we packed our camping gear, 2 life jackets and a home-made kayak trolley and headed off for Germany to join the 57th annual Tour International Danubien (TID). This trip covers a long stretch of the Danube River from Germany to the Black Sea, approximately 2500 km.

We chose to paddle with the group from Ingolstadt in Germany to Budapest in Hungary – a distance of more than 800 km. It was a great experience and we will outline some of the highlights of our trip through this scenic and historic part of Europe.

*Philip and Sue*

#### Meet Marine Rescue Centre Room 5, at 7.00pm for a 7.30 start

All welcome, a light supper and hot drinks will be available during the evening.

#### Please note

There is now restricted parking immediately adjacent the venue. Ample parking is always available a short stroll away on Tamaki Drive.

#### Need more information?

Phone Roger Lomas on 846 6799



## Poet's Corner

*I have to say just where I was  
In Newfoundland you understand  
Not New Found Land as it used to be  
Just understand it's Newfoundland.*

*In Newfoundland in Newfoundland  
The Humpback whales play  
A paddle round the coast Bay Bulls  
Not one was seen that day.*

*A different tale another time  
A watching whales trip  
Many a whale swam right by  
Our whale watching ship.*

*In Newfoundland when Fish was gold  
By Fish I mean the Cod  
The Fish was where the money was  
No need to turn the sod.*

*Portugal Cove near old St John's  
Bell Island just off shore  
Iron ore mines closed years ago  
Go underground no more.*

*Newfoundland and Labrador  
The home of rescue dogs  
Many a tale is told of such  
These coasts of deadly fogs.*

*In Newfoundland in Old St John's  
Houses painted green  
Yellow red blue and brown  
Colours to be seen.*

*In Old St John's when Cod was king  
The boats were painted brown  
Yellow red blue and green  
The same hues as in town.*

*That's Newfoundland a tiny bit  
Point triple O one per cent  
I Will Return as someone said  
That said with good intent.*

*Note. Make up an Irish sounding tune  
and you have a Newfoundland folk song.*

*Mike Randall*

## New-generation plastic kayaks (part two)

Colin Quilter

Thermoformed plastic kayaks are the latest development in mass-produced plastic boats. At present there is only one brand available in NZ, the “Beachcomber” (single and double) manufactured by Barracuda Kayaks. In the last newsletter I explained how Beachcombers are formed using a vacuum to suck a softened sheet of plastic against a mould. The finished product is lighter than any other sea kayak on the market, and falls in about the middle of the price range.



So the question is: how well do these boats function, how strong are they, and how long do they last?

The comments that follow are based on: 1) my own personal experience of owning a Beachcomber Ultralight single for about 6 months; 2) discussions with other Beachcomber owners, including commercial operators; and 3) discussions with Gordon Robinson of Barracuda Kayaks. In case you are wondering whether this article is a covert advertisement for Beachcombers, I will say that I have no personal connection with Barracuda Kayaks; and if other brands of thermoformed kayaks were available in NZ, I would have included them in this review.

**First impressions.** The Beachcomber Ultralight is an attractive boat with a high standard of finish. Much thought has gone into the development of the mould; for example many small details are moulded-in on the deck. The surface finish is so smooth and glossy one could easily mistake this for a fibreglass kayak.

**Initial problems.** Being an old fellow and instinctively suspicious, as soon as I got my new Beachcomber home I wondered how good the hull-to-deck glue joint might be. I emptied a bucket of water into the cockpit and tilted the kayak slowly from side to side; and found water dribbling out through the hull-to-deck joint along a half-metre section! Obviously the glue had failed to bond there; and quality control checks in the factory had not revealed the fault. However once I notified the retailer, a brand-new kayak was delivered within hours by Barracuda Kayaks, so I can't complain about the back-up service. (I tested the new boat too: no problems.)

**The seat.** No adjustments to the seat were possible on my boat, (for example, the backrest was fixed and its angle could not be adjusted). The seat as supplied did not suit me at all, and I found it necessary to make a completely new seat out of closed-cell foam, (Fig. 1). However I don't blame Barracuda Kayaks for this. Many kayakers find that they have to modify a factory seat before it feels just right. Other owners of Beachcombers have told me they find the factory seat very comfortable. Another optional seat for the Beachcomber is Steve Gurney's "Bumfortable" seat made of closed cell foam, shown in Fig. 2; (there is information about it on the Barracuda website, but note that at over \$300 this seat is not cheap).



Fig. 1 Home-made seat and backrest, laminated from closed-cell foam.

Continued on page 11 ➤



**Weight.** At 17kg, the Beachcomber Ultralight is about 6kg lighter than most other single kayaks. This makes a phenomenal difference to handling the boat on shore. To launch from Herne Bay Beach near home I have to carry my kayak down a flight of narrow stairs to the beach. With my old plywood Sea Bear that's a struggle, with the Beachcomber it's a breeze. So if you are of slight build, or at an age when lifting a kayak onto the roof rack unaided is becoming less easy, then I suggest a thermoformed plastic kayak is the way to go.

I wondered if my new kayak might be too light? When lightly loaded, would it bounce around and slap in small waves? So far that hasn't been a problem, but it would be easy to fill a few plastic milk bottles with water for ballast if it ever became an issue.

**Handling on the water.** The Beachcomber single has quite pronounced "rocker," (lengthwise curvature so that the bow and stern curve upwards relative to the centre of the hull). I like this feature. It makes the kayak responsive when paddling head-on into short, sharp waves; and it surfs well running downwind in the same conditions. A hull like this might lack longitudinal stability and be reluctant to hold a straight course; but the Beachcomber's rudder is deep enough to overcome that, and the boat tracks well when the rudder is down. Note however that for crisp steering the rudder must be locked fully down (line in a jam cleat); if it is partly raised steering is sluggish (as it would be with any kayak).

Another advantage of rocker is that when the rudder is raised, the boat can be spun around very quickly by paddling hard forward on one side, and backward on the other. When lightly loaded the Beachcomber can be spun more quickly on one spot than any sea kayak I have ever paddled; a valuable feature when playing in the surf.

**Strength and durability.** The Beachcombers have been in production for several years now. They are used in hire fleets where they get rough handling and frequent use. For example, PaddlerZone in Christchurch have a fleet of them which they rent to competitors in the "Speights Coast to Coast" race. These kayaks get heavy use for practice on the Waimakariri River in the weeks leading up to the race, and on race-day itself. Peter at PaddlerZone says they are standing up well to the punishment. Gordon Robinson estimates that Beachcombers have 80% – 90% of the strength of rotomoulded plastic kayaks; but points out that if a Beachcomber were made with the same hull thickness and weight



Fig. 2 Steve Gurney "Bumfortable" seat fitted to a Beachcomber. Note that this seat lacks a backrest, (good for eskimo rolling but perhaps less comfortable for long trips).

as a rotomoulded boat it would be nearly bullet-proof and last for eternity. I agree with him; if you buy a kayak that's light enough to carry with one hand, it's unreasonable to complain that it's not as strong as a battleship. The Beachcombers are certainly strong enough (and have sufficient volume) to load them with food and camping gear for a few days, and will easily withstand the usual impacts of landings etc.

**Degradation by sunlight.** Beachcomber kayaks have a UV-stabiliser incorporated throughout the plastic sheet from which they are formed, (unlike some thermoformed kayaks built overseas which have a thin outer skin of UV-resistant ASA plastic bonded to an inner layer of ABS). Beachcombers don't seem to suffer unduly from UV degradation, even in hire fleets where they get long exposure to sunlight. However I store my own kayak out of direct sunlight, and I think that is advisable for a plastic kayak of any type.

**Repairs.** Thermoformed plastic kayaks are repaired with glue. Gordon tells me that when cracked or damaged Beachcombers are returned to the factory for repair, he first uses MEK (methyl ethyl ketone) solvent to soften the opposing edges and "glue" them together. Then he glues a "backing strip" of plastic on the inside of the hull overlapping the damaged area, using 2-pot methyl methacrylate glue ("Devcon Plastic Welder"). On an expedition, Gordon suggests a small tube of Bostik Superglue could be carried for emergency repairs. Beachcombers can also be polished or painted if needed.



## New-generation plastic kayaks (part two)

Continued from page 11

### Erratum

*There was a mistake in Part One of this article, published in the August newsletter. It's technical: if you are interested in the details of plastic kayak building, read on; if not, skip what follows.*

*In Part One I described how in the building of thermoformed plastic kayaks a plastic sheet, softened by heat, is sucked against a mould by a vacuum. I provided diagrams showing that the mould is a male mould, so it is the inside surface of the hull or deck which contacts the mould. After writing the article (and before publishing it in the newsletter) I sent a copy to Gordon Robinson, builder of the Beachcomber kayaks, and asked him to check it for accuracy. He approved it.*

*Several weeks later, by chance, I happened to look closely at my own Beachcomber and I noticed that on the outside of the hull and deck there is a regular pattern of tiny raised dimples, only just visible to the naked eye. There are no dimples on the inside surface. I realised that these dimples must be formed during moulding, when the soft plastic is sucked against the mould surface, and is pulled slightly into each of the many holes in the mould through which air is extracted to create the vacuum. In that case, I realised, the moulds for hull and deck must have been female moulds, (not male), since the dimples are on the outside of the hull and deck, (not the inside). Which meant that my explanation in Part One must have been incorrect.*

*I emailed Gordon about this. He admitted that he should have pointed out the error, ("sorry if I've put you crook on this one"). However he said that when, in the near future, he makes new moulds for the Beachcomber the new ones will be male moulds in order to avoid creating dimples on the outside surface of the kayaks.*

*So now you know as much as I do. I am satisfied that we've got it right in the end!*

## Cross-harbour swim escorts, 2013–2014

Each year, as a fund-raising activity, our club provides kayak escorts for swimmers in the Auckland Central Masters Swimming programme. This is a series of four events running along or across the harbour. From a kayaker's point of view, the swim escorts are a chance to catch up with other kayakers on the water, raise some money for the club, look after swimmers; and we usually enjoy one of Roger Lomas's famous barbecues on the beach afterwards.

Here are the dates for the upcoming summer season; put them in your diary!

Swim	Date	Start	Finish	Tide
Herne Bay Beach to Masefield Beach (Pt Erin)	Sunday 10th November 2013	12:30pm	50 mins	13:42pm
Masefield Beach (Pt Erin) to Chelsea Sugar	Sunday 24th November 2013	10:30am	75 mins	12:41pm
St Heliers to Tamaki Yacht Club	Sunday 2nd February 2014	09:00am	90 mins	10:07am
Rangi Wharf to St Heliers	Sunday 23rd February 2014	12:30pm	120 mins	14:17pm

## Winter Paddling

Whilst some choose to reduce their paddling frequency during the cooler winter months, others are more active.

Rather than hibernating at home a regular group of committed club kayakers are out there paddling every weekend right through winter. The bulk of these avid paddlers are to be found in the Early Morning kayak group that has been active within the club for nigh on twenty years now.

Most of our paddling is local and in the winter months when extreme weather is forecast we can often be found tucked safely up the harbour somewhere paddling along a lee shore.

Another good option when the wind warnings are out is to head south and paddle in the Waikato Wetlands.

The early morning group is not for everyone. It requires a paddler who is prepared to commit to a regular early morning paddling routine. It's a team event and we turn up knowing other likeminded paddlers will be there even in the depths of winter when it's cold and wet.

It is for this reason that fair weather and part time paddlers are not catered for. Occasionally there are opportunities for new paddlers to join this group.

If you are interested in making this commitment, give me a call.

**Roger Lomas 846 6799**



*Late August and fog banks shroud the coast near West Tamaki Head.*



*The wetlands can often provide calm winter paddling.*