



## October 2013

|                                |   |                                    |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Club Information .....         | 2 |                                    |
| Club Trip/Event Policies ..... | 2 |                                    |
| Club Banking Details .....     | 2 | Old folks tour to Rangitoto..... 5 |
| Kayak Hire .....               | 3 | Poet's Corner..... 6               |
| Regular Events.....            | 3 | Upcoming Swim Escort Dates .... 6  |
| Opoutere Weekend .....         | 4 | August visit to Vine House..... 7  |



*Winter is a hungry season for the wax-eyes on Rangitoto, so they welcome a kayaker who is willing to share an apple. In this case, it's Mike Randall.*

PHOTO COLIN QUILTER

## 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

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subeditor@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz  
webmaster@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz

hire@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz  
(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 <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, e.g. 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 Sullivan's 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 October 2013**



## Opoutere Weekend

Roger Lomas

It was late July and the paddle guru had forecast that fair weather and favourable tides would coincide near the end of the month. This was a good enough reason to organise a quick visit to one of our favourite kayak destinations – Opoutere. Tucked snug up against the hills that back down onto the Wharekawa Harbour, this tiny Coromandel settlement is located midway between Pauanui and Whangamata. Blink and you will miss the turnoff.

The early arrivals on Friday afternoon checked into our accommodation at the waterside YHA Lodge. It was then time to saddle up and pushbike out to the harbour entrance via a forestry track and the beach to check sea conditions at the harbour bar. A bit of a swell was running but it might ease for the paddle Saturday.

It was a magnificent ride back in the early evening and we worked up a good appetite for dinner.

Saturday dawned clear and calm as forecast. The distant boom of surf carried across the harbour. This could be interesting. Our four strong flotilla was soon on the water heading out towards the sandspit. This area is a wildlife refuge and a paddle along its shoreline never disappoints. Near the entrance we paused to watch the ocean rollers expending their energy on the bar.

Some years ago a group of us ventured out in similar conditions. This really got the adrenalin pumping. Coming back in was a challenge and one of the lads found himself riding a big brute of a wave.



*Coming ashore for a cuppa.*

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

As the big green roller reared up on the bar his kayak surfed down the steep wave face. The inevitable happened and he was pitch poled out of his craft and the kayak was tossed high into the air. It was soon swept ashore along with one very soggy kayaker.

The lads are older and wiser now. After viewing nature's fury we all turned back up the harbour for calmer waters. There was now ample time to explore the headwaters of the harbour and to venture up a river that flows into it. As always a cuppa stop was called for. After a bit of searching around we found a small estuary island with a driftwood log to sit on. It was very easy to while away almost an hour soaking up the winter sun and the magnificent view. Whilst all this was happening, the tide was ebbing and we then had an easy run back down the harbour to Opoutere.

In recent paddles we have enjoyed a Dolphin encounter off the North Shore Bays, cruised past the super yachts of the rich and famous at the Silo Marina and hunkered down near the mouth of the Wade River in the trees to listen to Pete Montgomery call the America's Cup race on a wild and windy Saturday morning.

Our early morning group is out every weekend, paddling Saturday or Sunday and sometimes both. We are the most active group of kayakers in the club and probably the fittest and best looking too. If you would like to obtain some of these qualities then you know what to do.

Roger



## Old folks tour to Rangitoto

Colin Quilter

A small group of elderly paddlers has been meeting on Fridays, to paddle when the wind allows and to cycle when it doesn't. Last Friday we decided on an excursion to the western coast of Rangitoto. Phillip, Colin, Mike and Rona met at Kohimarama Beach and paddled out to meet Gavin who was coming along by water from Okahu Bay. There was some slight confusion when Phillip and Rona, both without their glasses, mistook a distant view of Bean Rock for Gavin's kayak, but this was soon rectified.

We headed north into the Rangitoto Channel. The current was against us. Recognising that we were enfeebled by age we tried to avoid it by keeping close to the rocks on the Rangitoto side. Colin

wanted to visit some interesting geology in one of the inlets on the Rangitoto shore, but led the party into the wrong inlet. His excuse was that on Rangitoto all inlets look alike, but the probable cause was that he too had left his glasses at home.

We found the tiny cove north of the Coastguard mooring, where there was just room for five kayakers on the beach. It is a pleasant place for morning tea. Sprawled on the beach we exchanged tall stories about kayaking and other adventures; in our group these stories are always fresh because none of us can remember whether or not we have heard them before, and because without our hearing aids we might not have heard them at all on the first telling.



Old folks beached for a cup of tea. Kayaks belong (L to R) to Phillip, Mike, Gavin, Colin and Rona.



A tight fit for Mike Randall beneath the causeway bridge.

On the way home Colin found the correct inlet. To enter it we had to paddle beneath a small concrete bridge where the coast road crosses the mouth of the inlet. The tide was high; the headroom beneath the bridge was low. Gavin refused to attempt a passage beneath it because his kayak with its sailing rig might have been dismantled. Rona also refused, because she was wearing her favourite faux-leather cowboy hat (\$4.50 at K-Mart) and she was unwilling to remove it in order to gain headroom. Mike and Colin got through by leaning to one side and "walking" their hands along the rock wall beneath the bridge. Phillip adopted a strategy of paddling at speed straight for the gap and bowing his head at the last minute. This looked suicidal, but evidently his spine is less arthritic than his age would suggest, and with head nearly touching the deck he shot through unscathed.

Continued on page 6 ➤



## Old folks tour to Rangitoto

*Continued from page 5*

On the shore of the inlet, behind a screen of mangroves, there are several outcrops of reddish-brown rock. According to Colin this was created during the eruption of Rangitoto when tongues of molten lava penetrated beneath submarine sediments, and baked the soft clay on the sea floor into a form of rock. This at least was Colin's explanation; allowing for the confusion that comes with age, it may or may not be correct.



Geology by kayak

We crossed the harbour back to Kohimarama. All of us remembered the forecast as predicting a 10 knot north-easterly wind, but we found ourselves slogging into a south-westerly of at least 15. Evidently the forecast was incorrect; or else with our advanced age, we had mis-remembered it. We agreed that for the elderly, life is full of unexpected surprises, and look forward to many Fridays to come.

## Poet's Corner

*I read that Pelicans are here  
Around our Kiwi coast  
I hope they're fully seized  
That we're the perfect host  
To these unusual fisher birds  
They've found the nicest possie  
Welcome them with barbied fish  
Especially as they're Aussie.*

*If you should meet a Pelican  
Greet it with aplomb  
An apple or banana  
Just treat it like a chum  
For that's exactly what it is  
From land Australia Fair  
Haere mai to God's Own place  
New Zealanders who care  
To recognise a Pelican  
Will know it from its beak  
It's longer than a Little Blue's  
And doesn't Penguinspeak.*

*It's Pelitalk we have to learn  
In order to converse  
With our new chum from Ozzie  
To help it to immerse  
With all our other shoreline birds  
Who'll wonder what the hell  
It's doing on the Fish of Maui  
Only time will tell.*

*Mike Randall*

## 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<br>10th November 2013 | 12:30pm | 50 mins  | 13:42pm |
| Masefield Beach (Pt Erin) to Chelsea Sugar   | Sunday<br>24th November 2013 | 10:30am | 75 mins  | 12:41pm |
| St Heliers to Tamaki Yacht Club              | Sunday<br>2nd February 2014  | 09:00am | 90 mins  | 10:07am |
| Rangi Wharf to St Heliers                    | Sunday<br>23rd February 2014 | 12:30pm | 120 mins | 14:17pm |

## August visit to Vine House

*Matt's report*

Attended: Matt Crozier, Trevor Arthur, Jackie Hillman, Murray Sheard.

Trev, Jackie and Matt came over Friday evening. We had a comfortable ride in a slight swell, despite 25kn gusting 35kn forecast. Matt managed a quick skim of the lawns before dark.

Council seem to have done another 'spring clean' by removing some cutlery and locking up the microwave downstairs! And finally changing the lock combination.

Gloriously warm Saturday for a long walk, exploring a different route up to the ridge from Poplar Bay. Still a bit too cold for a swim. Murray arrived and cooked roast veges. We didn't quite make the cheesecake quorum though.

Matt cut all the gorse on the west side of the house. Trevor screwed the chair back together, so it's now sturdy. Jackie gave the porch area a good scrub down. A particularly relaxing weekend this time – mainly just soaking up that lovely sun.



*Trevor and Matt with Vine House tucker.*