

November 2013



Club Information	2
Club Trip/Event Policies	2
Club Banking Details	2
Kayak Hire	3
Regular Events.....	3
More good places to go for a cup of tea	4
Solo kayak trip to Great Barrier Island.....	5
Poet's Corner.....	7
Vine House Report.....	7
Upcoming Swim Escort Dates	7

October Paddling.....	8
Club Trip Alerts	10
Mini Symposium	11
<i>The Empty Newsletter Blues</i>	11



The Northwestern Motorway crosses the southern end of Pollen Island on its way west towards Te Atatu. Pollen Island is hardly an island at all, just a collection of shell-banks and mangroves, and only accessible in a kayak at high tide. It is another forgotten corner of the harbour where a paddler can stop for a peaceful morning tea.

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>	Rona Patterson	
<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
president@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
secretary@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
treasurer@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
trips@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
publicity@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
merchandise@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
vinehouse@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
newsletter@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
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 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, 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>

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome

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

Michael Hogan
John & Michelle Hotham
Daniel & Deirdre Foulkes



Deadline for Next Newsletter

15 November 2013

More good places to go for a cup of tea

Colin Quilter

It is accepted that one of the best things you can do in a kayak is to paddle somewhere for a cup of tea, and then paddle home again. Last winter I in the newsletter I described half-a-dozen great places to have a cup of tea, mostly in small and little-noticed corners of the harbour. Here are a few more.

Bay on the SW corner of Motuihe Island



Looking north along the bay. The pohutukawa at the far end gives welcome shade.

When to go

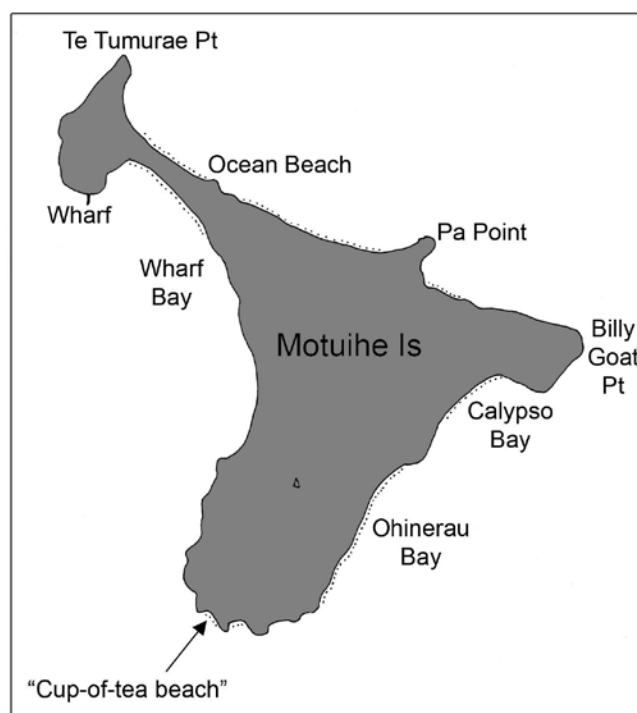
This bay is nice at any state of tide. It has just one disadvantage, and it is a significant one. If a southwesterly wind freshens during mid-morning, as it sometimes does, the trip back to St Heliers will be an 8km struggle into the teeth of the wind. Don't come here if SW winds are forecast! On the other hand, if a NE sea breeze is predicted then you can paddle out to Motuihe in the early-morning calm, and after a cup of tea race home with the wind at your back.

It is said that Auckland is the "City of Sails." And on fine summer weekends it seems that every sailor heads for Motuihe Island. At the northern end, in Wharf Bay or Ocean Beach, the yachts and launches will be anchored so closely that you could just about cross the bay by jumping from deck to deck. There will be a hubub of noise from generators, stereos, outboard motors and jet-skis, (the sound of Aucklanders "getting away from it all").

Meanwhile, at the southern end of the island is a tranquil beach with white sand and clear water; an empty beach on which yours might be the only footprints. It will be empty because there is deep water offshore, and strong currents, and therefore no anchorage for boats. But for a kayaker seeking somewhere for a cup of tea, a swim, and quiet contemplation, it is perfect.

Where to go

If leaving from St Heliers Bay, paddle eastward passing north or south of Browns Island. Then in the distance, at the southern end of Motuihe you will see a conspicuous white-sand beach (actually made of shell fragments). There's an equally attractive bay just around the corner to the south-east; take your pick.



Solo kayak trip to Great Barrier Island from Long Bay November 1, 2012

Jeremy Fowler

A buddy (Eddie DeVries) and I had been talking about doing this trip for a couple of years but Eddie now works in Fiji so he was out of the equation and I thought that in any case it would reduce risk if I went on my own (1 less person to drown :-), so I started making plans to do it on my own. Google Earth showed it to be about 80kms with no zigzags; taking into account the inevitable zigzags and windage and tidal drifts I assumed that total distance to cover would be about 90kms.

The main danger is the considerable distance from land for the greater part of the trip.

My biggest concern was having some emergency means of propulsion should I run into a health – heart problem, elbow seizing up (I am prone to some arthritic tendonitis), or whatever – so I first designed a sort of umbrella sail which is held to the kayak (an Ecobezig) by what my paddling buddies called a “rocket launcher”. This worked quite well provided that the wind is reasonably astern. While it didn’t really increase speed when paddling normally one could bargain on about half speed with a good tail wind, even with no paddling. So, the emergency propulsion was sorted. Fiddling around with this had taken a good couple of months, and many jibes from fellow kayakers, Mary Poppins being assumed to be a close relation.



The umbrella.

PHOTO ASHLEY ALLEN

Next issue was whether a hand-held VHF radio would have sufficient coverage. A visit to the Coastguard radio office at the Marine Rescue Centre put my mind at rest on this score. The antenna for channel 82 is located at an altitude of about 900m on the Coromandel Peninsula, so Long Bay was the most remote location that it would have to work from, and it worked fine from there; so that box could be checked off too.

Another question was; if I need to “go to the bathroom for a number 2” how would that work if the wind was really blowing. Hopping over the side is all very well in the sunshine in a calm sea, but it would be a different matter in a strong blow. I experimented with a sea anchor on about 5m of

rope, led through the front carry handle. This held the nose nicely into the wind in the best position to weather the chop; with a paddle float, and a spare 5 litre empty container as additional outrigger buoyancy I felt that this box could also be ticked off. (Thankfully this precaution never got used.)

Other needs and precautions that required attention included a compass (a cheap and light map-reading compass taped to the Perspex front cover of the Ecobezig worked fine); an EPIRB (not so cheap, and it would probably have been better if I had worked out a way of keeping it upright on an overturned kayak); a simple waterproof map stuck to the underside of the clear Perspex cover, with estimated times pencilled in, and magnetic courses, etc, etc. (If anyone would like my notes on this, they are welcome to contact me through the club.)

And of course, a spreadsheet to work out the windows of opportunity. The moon must be a little before full so that there is good moonlight early in the evening if the trip extends beyond sunset. The tide should not be rising when passing through the Colville channel. The water temperature not too cold. And the ferry should be available the next day for the return trip.

I thought that even if I had to plug away at it all day and half the night it shouldn’t be impossible. We had done a couple of longish paddles of about 40kms, so I felt that 90kms wasn’t unreasonable if one wasn’t in a hurry.

My first window of opportunity came and went without the right west wind. My second window of opportunity (26th Oct to 1st Nov) was going fast too when the winds suddenly started to look more promising (westerly, or south-westerly, 10 to 15 kts.).

OK, I would wake early and go through my checklist, and make the final call just after 04h00.

Thursday morning, 1st of Nov 2012.

Was this going to be the last day of my earthly existence?

There was some doubt about the sustainability of the west wind according to the weather site, but I decided to go. In hind sight I shouldn’t have gone. The VHF Nowcasting station predicted that the wind would die midday becoming variable, but the Met internet site indicated a continuous westerly breeze. I chose to prefer to believe the Met site. Mistakenly.

My wife, Margaret, helped me get my loaded kayak down to the water’s edge at Long Bay beach, and watched me paddle off into the darkness just after 05h00. I headed just to the right of the Tiri lighthouse,

Continued on page 6 ➤

Solo kayak trip to Great Barrier Island

Continued from page 5

and soon the dawn light made the surrounding scene more familiar and less scary. As I got further from the land the wind picked up nicely and I probably had my fastest pace going past Tiritiri, which was the first abort point that I had in my mind, should anything not look good. Tiri was at about the 25% mark.

The wind was going nicely at this stage and on some occasions I was even able to ride the small swells for a fair way.

On the occasions where I rested to have a bite my umbrella did sterling service, keeping me moving in the right direction, so I passed Tiritiri feeling great, thinking that I should have this trip "in the bag".

Time really dragged from then onwards though. The wind was starting to die down and I kept hoping that it wouldn't turn against me. There isn't much to see, and there was very little water traffic to be seen. I saw 2 small pods of dolphins (don't know what species) but they weren't close and took no interest in me.

But I felt strong, and my hands, arms and back were holding out well.

Channel Rock island is a real teaser. I saw it from a good distance away and was convinced that another hour or so would see me alongside it. (I had decided earlier to go to the north of Channel Rock, which was a more direct route but further away from Port Jackson, my last bailing-out point.) After an hour of steady paddling though it never seemed to be significantly nearer, which was very demoralising, especially as the wind which had died down a lot was now all over the show, gusts coming from anywhere from SW to NNE. To try and mentally get to grips with this never-nearing Channel Rock I resolved to apply some arithmetic; I worked out roughly the distance that each paddle stroke covered, and using the moveable compass-surround as a counter I would work my way through 3600 strokes (36 x 100). I don't remember how many cycles of these I did to get abreast of Channel Rock, but it was more than I would have wished.

The big hassle now was that the tide was now turning and would be rising. Paddling against the tide in the Colville Channel was a scary thought, and I more or less decided to give up and head towards Port Jackson on the Coromandel Peninsula. I thought that I would just relax and have a couple of my wife's excellent sandwiches first. I found that I had cellphone reception, so phoned my wife and told her that I was probably going to abort and head for Port Jackson. But after a good 20 minutes of just doing nothing but eat and drink things started to feel more rosy again. My energy levels had risen quite a bit and I felt that I could keep going for good while yet, so I decided to try for Tryphena.



Nearing Great Barrier Island.

Water started to be an issue now. I had packed in 3 litres, but this was nearly used up already. I thought of trying to radio the passing ferry, but they were past before I got myself organised enough to make the decision, let alone the attempt.

Using the old 3600 strokes trick helped mentally to cut the remaining distance down to something manageable, and the closer I got to Gt Barrier the less I feared the inflowing tide. Thankfully there was another fishing boat heading towards Tryphena, as it isn't obvious from a distance where Tryphena is and I didn't fancy having to explore different bays at this late stage of the game.

There was a launch anchored a bit outside Tryphena bay, and I headed in that direction. Imagine my surprise to be hailed by name from this launch! It turned out to be my neighbour Donald McIntosh, there for a fishing competition that weekend. Donald could give me some water. I declined the offered beer until I was on land, which took another half hour of steady paddling, landing at Puriri Bay (at about 18h00) rather than the intended Tryphena beach. Now that beer was VERY welcome. There was no cellphone reception now from there, but Coastguard kindly relayed a message to my (hopefully) relieved wife that I was safe and sound.

I overnighted with an old friend, a fellow believer in Jesus, Ray Simpkin, (92 years old makes him an old friend) and caught the ferry back the next afternoon. Surprisingly not too stiff and sore. I had an interesting chat to the ferry skipper about kayakers. His main gripe was about visibility. I always wear an high-viz shirt now when kayaking.

Would I do it again? Maybe. It is a boring trip for the middle 50%, and should anything go wrong it is a very empty part of the Hauraki Gulf.

And I would definitely want a reasonable tail wind to take the sting out of the distance.

Poet's Corner

*Yesterday's wisdom
Today's cliché
Carpe Diem
Make the most of today
Don't put it off
Just do it now
Tomorrow's a thought
Yesterday's a song
Sun shining bright
Wind not too strong
Go for a paddle
Don't leave it too long
Words of endearment
To those whom we love
Save them for later
Too late I'm afraid
We smile and agree
All true of course
But I'll just finish this
Then some more chores
That are so important
I'll do them because
They do give some structure
To this wee life of ours.*

Mike Randall

Vine House Report

Matt Crozier

Attended: Matt, Murray, Laura, Will & Chantal.

Our Vine House weekend was a bit earlier this month due to the long weekend for Labour Day. (The house is reserved on long weekends for paying punters.)

We all arrived on Friday to make the most of the weekend. I got there early to make the cheesecake that would surely last both nights.

Despite the low tide for most of the day, Murray, Laura and I paddled down to Waiwera on Saturday. There was no way through the reef to Mahurangi Island – we had to go around the back. Stopped at a lovely beach just south of Waiwera, where Murray and Laura rigged fishing lines and I collected quite a few urchin shells. The southerly breeze made easy work of the trip back, and Murray paddled through Brazier Rock (which is not always do-able).

The grass is growing really well in this warm weather and will need a cut each visit.

Some gorse is also appearing so we're trying to keep that under control – mindful that gorse finally got the better of Ron Vine himself.

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

October Paddling

Roger Lomas

October has been a busy month for the club early morning group. We have been out on the water every Saturday morning and even backed this up with three Sunday morning excursions. The recent bout of wild weather in the middle of the month did not deter the lads and the attendance numbers have been strong. A couple of new recruits have joined the group and slotted in well.

Earlier in the month we launched up at Waiwera and paddled along the coast and out around a couple of offshore islands. It was then back to a tranquil estuary near Te Muri Beach for the obligatory cuppa stop. Most of the lads enjoyed some exhilarating wave rides on the way back, courtesy of a lazy swell that occasionally reared up.



The following week we launched at Castor Bay and used the incoming tide to sweep us out and along the rocky Rangitoto coast. After a cuppa stop at Colin's Cove, we crossed to Narrow Neck and caught the ebbing tide home.

When the wild equinox winds started blowing we paddled closer to home. A few trips up the harbour were rewarded with the opportunity to view some very impressive overseas visitors. These included a selection of stunning super yachts, a flotilla of Chinese warships and an armada of old sailing ships.

The big Russian owned super yacht "A" certainly made a design statement. When we closed in on it for a better look, we could see that it was bristling with security cameras. Paddling a little further in and a forward hatch opened and a menacing looking security guard emerged. We slowly backed away. The Chinese Navy were a lot more friendly.

Towards the end of the month we ventured down past Maraetai for a coastal paddle.

Continued on page 9 ➤

October Paddling

Continued from page 8

Arriving early, we had first pick of the premium beachside parking spots. Just before we launched a rather bemused local fisherman arrived. Apparently our vehicles were blocking access to the small beach from which he regularly launched his dinghy from. The remote beach is rarely used. We all pitched in and carried his craft down past the offending visitors. A few hours later when we were back and enjoying our post paddle cuppa, the fisherman returned. He had managed to catch his maximum bag of plump Tamaki Strait snapper. We were all impressed and inquired of his technique. Apparently it was all to do with the burley: soggy cat biscuits.

We rounded off the month with a visit to Browns Island and then a review of the Tall Ships fleet that was tied up at the wharves. Included in the fleet was the good ship *R Tucker Thompson*. This vessel was chartered by club members some years ago for a voyage up to the Three Kings Islands. From memory, I think a lot of burley went overboard on that trip, but not for fishing. November is earmarked for a couple



of overnights out on the islands. The tides are also looking good for a few forays out on the West Coast harbours. The waters have warmed up enough for us to start talking about swimming being back on the program. We will just have to wait and see about that.

Roger



Jeff's first dolphin encounter!

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

Club Trip Alerts

I have received a few enquiries this month about trip alerts. Although this has been covered in previous articles I thought it timely to remind members how the alerts system works...

Any member can enter a new trip or “event” by logging in to the website and going to the “add a new Trip” tab under TRIPS at the top of the page.

You will then be able to add a description, a category from a drop down list, and choose or create a new venue. If you create a new venue you can also link the venue to google maps to show where it is taking place.

Under description you can put a description of the trip, add pictures and enter the date of the trip.

When you click the save button the trip will become live and everyone logging in to the website can see it.

In addition members, who are automatically enrolled when they join the club, will receive an email notification of this trip.

The members can control how or if they wish to received the trip alerts. The Committee decided that the default should be a weekly alert but any member can change this by going to the TRIPS tab and configuring Trip Alerts”. Here you can choose to receive alerts Daily, Weekly, Fortnightly or Monthly. You can also choose to receive all categories and venues or only a selection. By default you will receive everything.

Now let us consider how the system works in practice...

If you are using the default settings, you will receive a weekly email alert containing events for all venues and all categories.

If a new trip is added to the system the day after you have received your weekly alert you will not receive another alert until next week. This is to stop you being bombarded with unnecessary emails.

However if you are keen to receive immediate notification of new alerts then you have the ability to change your notifications to daily.

Ian



The Russian super yacht A with kayakers keeping their distance.

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

Mini Symposium

The Northland Canoe Club is having a Mini Symposium over the weekend of 15th to 17th of November at the Taurikura Bay Baptist Camp, Whangarei Heads.

The cost is \$150. The fee includes accommodation in bunk rooms (bring your own bedding), two breakfasts, two lunches and Saturday night dinner. Friends and partners are welcome to the evening meal and social on Saturday at a cost of \$25.00 pp.

There are a variety of eateries in the area open for your Friday night meal. Parua Bay Pub and opposite is a take away fish and chip shop. "The Deck" in McLouds Bay, New Way Restaurant and the Mania Club serves meals to the public too.

The mini symposium's aim is to encourage people interested in kayaking to enjoy a weekend of kayaking and socializing, with an opportunity to refresh their skills and maybe even learn some new ones.

Paul Caffyn will be the guest speaker at 8pm on Friday evening telling us about how he got into kayaking. This will be the first time this presentation has been viewed in NZ and I understand it has been well received in Australia.

John Kirk-Anderson known to be a kayaking instructor GURU will be taking courses on Saturday and Sunday and is happy to take presentations on most subjects including any of the following:

- Translating the weather forecast
- Trip planning
- Leading your paddling peers
- Why paddlers die
- Kayaking photography
- Emergency communications

We have asked him to take sessions on leadership skills, but now is your opportunity to nominate a subject from the above list for the Saturday morning session. I personally think WHY PADDLERS DIE would be of great interest.

Ken Marsh will be helping participants who want rolling skills honed, and John Cook will be guiding sessions in negotiating surf, while other members will be covering assisted and self rescues.

Elsbeth Sugrue, a kayaking outdoor sporty physiotherapist will be taking an interesting hands on session on Saturday morning and Saturday night will have club musicians getting us in the swing for singing and dancing.

One of the main aims of the weekend is for novices to have a chance to see if they like kayaking at the HAVE A GO DAY on Sunday. This is a separate session from the main symposium, with a cost of only \$15 for the day will be excellent value. Mark Garry from Pacific Kayaks will be lending his boats to those who don't have one and will be taking this session which will cover the very basics of kayaking skills. People participating in this will need to bring their own lunch.

**For bookings and information,
please contact Lynn Burson on 09 407 3957**

The Empty Newsletter Blues

*He read the newsletter
In less than a minute,
Doesn't take long when
There's nothing in it.*

*She noticed him frown,
Asked him what's wrong?
"This bloody newsletter,
Its content is gone!"*

*"Randall and Quilter
And Lomas are here;
But other than that
The bloody thing's bare!"*

*"Empty of pictures,
Empty of news.
I'm feeling the
Empty Newsletter Blues."*

*She laughed and observed
That a cure was in sight
If he wanted to read,
Then first he should write.*

*The cause of the blues
Is perfectly plain,
If no-one contributes
Then all are to blame.*

*So pick up a pen,
Send in some news
Goodbye to the
Empty Newsletter Blues!*

Anon