



## February 2014

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*The tide is flooding in and the sun is about to rise.  
The early morning kayakers are off on another adventure. See story page 4.*

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

## 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 <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 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 February 2014**



## HOLIDAY PADDLING

*Roger Lomas*

The paddling frequency stepped up a gear during the holiday break. Any of the early morning kayakers who had stayed in town were spoiled for choice with up to five outings a week on the paddling program. Taking good advantage of the earlier sunrises at this time of the year, most of the launch times saw the lads on the water before 6 am. We tried out a few new launch sites, but the majority of our paddling involved revisiting some of our favourite places.



*Setting off at sunrise.*

Around Rangitoto was one of these. We launched at Narrow Neck Beach just before sunrise on a big rising tide. Allowing for tidal drift we tracked across the Rangitoto Channel towards the lighthouse. We just cleared the shipping channel as a cruise liner loomed up. Hugging the shoreline to avoid the inrushing tide, we worked our way along the rugged black volcanic rock coast towards Gardiner Gap.



*Going for the gap.*

On a big tide and with the gentlest of sea swells, this stretch of coastline is an absolute delight to paddle along. At times we were cruising just a paddle tip away from the lava cliffs which line much of this coast. We still had a bit of time up our sleeve before the tide peaked for our passage through the causeway channel between Rangitoto and Motutapu Islands. Nearing Gardiner Gap we had time to duck into the little coves where the bones of the ships graveyard were visible in the clear water, with other wreckage tossed along the rocky shore.

Some of the holiday makers overnighting at the historic Rangitoto bachs were out dragging a flounder net in the sandy shallows of Gardiner Gap. They gave us a friendly wave as we paddled past. Once through the shallow channel, we landed on the sand spit at the head of Islington Bay for our first cuppa stop. As expected at this time of the year, the bay was crammed full of moored yachts. We counted over 70. There was not much sign of life aboard as we paddled past, with only one crew topside suffering from the residual effects of a hangover.

Our next stop was further around the island at Rangitoto Wharf where we had an easy landing on the small beach nearby. We arrived just before the first ferry load of day trippers disembarked and watched as they swarmed ashore. We also took time to view the new wharf that is nearing completion here. It is almost double the length of the old one. The Rangitoto to St Heliers harbour swimmers will be setting new record times when it comes into use.

The tide had turned, but it was still too high to allow access under the bridge of the coastal roadway, to the lagoon area. Next up was the Gull Colony.



*Always time for a cuppa.*

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## HOLIDAY PADDLING

Continued from page 4

The residents here were rather excited to see us and some couldn't quite contain themselves. We hurried past. As we approached the shipping channel the large bulk of the mega yacht *Arctic P* owned by one James Packer, passed close in front of us. Its superstructure was a massive clutter of antennae and satellite dish domes, in size directly proportional to the power of the media magnate. Off in the distance we could see Narrow Neck Beach and it didn't take long to cross the channel to it. The beach was busy now with bathers and family picnic parties setting up camp for the day. One of the benefits of our early launch times is that we manage to snare the premium parking places. After a quick cleanup we were all sitting on the grassy bank above the beach enjoying another well-earned cuppa. It was hard to believe that we had just paddled right around Rangitoto Island with two leisurely stops and it was now only just past 10.30am.

We filled in the rest of the holiday break with many other similar early morning outings. Santa had hinted that a brand new ultra-light weight mid-sized sea kayak might turn up under the tree in time for Christmas. It wasn't quite ready but the perfectionist design team at the Barracuda factory is fine tuning the prototype and it will be launched on the market soon. It will be longer than the Beachcomber, narrower and with less deck volume, so it will perform better in rough windy conditions. The new hull shape will make it a speedster too. A little disappointed by the no show of the new toy, some of the expectant lads compensated for this by splashing out on new propulsion systems. They are very expensive but would have to be one of the lightest paddles available and are a sheer delight to use. It will be the perfect paddling accessory for the new craft when it finally arrives.



*Ships laid up at the old Wynyard Wharf.*

Some of our club paddlers are taking holidays a little later in the summer months. A few interesting coastal expeditions are in the planning stages. We can look forward reading about them in upcoming trip reports here in the newsletter or maybe even as the feature presentation at one of our Winter Lecture evenings. The early morning kayakers have settled back into their usual routine now. We are out on the water every week, paddling Saturday or Sunday mornings and often both. Attendance numbers have been strong with a couple of new recruits joining the ranks.

*Roger*

***If you would like to be part of the early morning group, be mindful of the requirement for regular commitment and a suitable degree of fitness and skill.***

## Poet's Corner – Verse or worse

*Paddling on the Waitemata  
Thinking of the life hereafter  
Not the one you think I mean  
I mean the life post paddling  
When it's time to stow my paddle  
Never more into the saddle  
But just for now  
I'll put that off until tomorrow  
While at this moment  
Into the wind of a Westerly  
What better way to spend a day*

*The chop the clapotis tide going in  
Past the posts loved by the Terns  
Who sitting there quite happily  
Feed their chicks  
Out of the wind  
Under the bridge  
With a cool current running  
On to the calm of Judges Bay  
Sombre thoughts now quite forgotten.*

*Mike Randall*



# Kayaking the Danube with the Tour Internationale Danubien (TID)

Philip and Sue Noble



**Further to the Winter Series talk, this article includes further information for those who may be interested in and considering participating in the TID.**

## **The TID – past and present**

In 2012 we kayaked the stretch from Germany to Hungary in the 57th year of the TID. The tour starts in Ingolstadt, Germany, on a Sunday about a week before the end of June and then passes through Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania finishing some 2500 km later at the Danube Delta where the river enters the Black Sea. This long trip finishes in early September. A tour leader is appointed for each country that the river passes through and is a member of the organising committee which liaises with the councils of host towns. He/she is the responsible person for safety issues and also carries the TID cell phone at all times while the tour passes through their country.

One of the reasons the tour was conceived in 1955 was to foster good relations with the ordinary citizens of countries through which the Danube flowed. During the “Cold War” period, some communist countries did not allow the TID to pass through and participants had to be bussed around. 2012 was the first year that passports were not required for the whole length of the tour.

We entered on the website entry form some 6 months before the tour, however only found a couple of weeks before departure that the entry had not been processed properly. We would advise also contacting the organiser in the country where you plan to join the tour to ensure that all goes smoothly. As a result of the glitch with the entry, we were not listed on the participant list of email addresses and contact details which are shared via the website amongst participants in the race each year which was something of a disadvantage.

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Our cost for taking part in the tour was approximately 550 in total (€290 for Philip and €260 for Sue (assume there was some boat cost included in Philip's fee) – this included daily costs for both of us and the odd day trip which we did such as the Vienna bus tour, the Passau tour and the Boat Trip on the river in Budapest. Any meals or drinks along the river in the evenings supplied for kayakers were free. We were with the Tour for 3½ weeks so it was an incredibly reasonable cost. These costs for each leg of the tour are well documented on the TID website. To hire our kayak and paddles was a further €200.

### Campsites

Campsites are organised for each night, and are often in the grounds of local riverside sports or boat clubs, village greens or rarely a commercial campground. Most were very pleasant often with superb views of the river. Only a couple of the campsites on our stretch did not have access to showers.



### Kayaks and gear

Many participants paddle Foldboats such as Kleppers or Feathercraft – some, well used, are bowed from the weight of gear and apparently used only for this event each year. There are a variety of other boats from rowboats to rowing skiffs (only used on short stretches), and Canadian canoes to sea kayaks as we know them and one stand-up board.

Because of the cost of repatriating a commercially hired kayak to the country of departure, this was not an option on our budget. We contacted Gabor, who was the Hungarian leader of the TID and through him we hired from his club in Budapest, for €200, a (almost new) Prijon Cruiser. He transported the boat to Germany when he travelled there to attend the opening night of the TID as the Hungarian leader. However, he was not paddling this TID due to work commitments; we met him again on the river in Esztergom in his role as Hungarian leader and he and his wife Gabrielle were most helpful and hospitable. Our plan was to depart the tour in Budapest, so we were to leave the boat at the boat club there. As it was, someone took the boat over from us to do a stretch of the river from Budapest so it continued its journey. The kayak came with spray skirts, paddles and cockpit covers but we had to supply our own lifejackets and a trolley which Philip made before leaving. Although there are trolleys available at most portages they are well used and in demand so one may need to wait for a turn to use them. We disposed of these items as planned at the end of the kayak part of our trip in Budapest.





As members of Couchsurfers, Sue placed a posting on their kayaking forum which yielded some helpful contacts and information re accessing a kayak, which as it turned out, we did not need to pursue. In retrospect it would seem to us that the best option is to contact leaders of the countries planned for inclusion in the trip. Contact addresses can be found in the "Adressen" part of <http://www.tour-international-danubien.org>.

Bus transport is available for participants leaving the TID at particular points, such as Mohacs in Hungary to return with their boats to Germany – this information, including cost, is also on the TID site and might give an option for returning a boat to country of origin.

Obviously one needs to be equipped with camping gear dry bags etc. – the expectation is that participants are self-sufficient as regards food and gear.

The choice of airline will need to take into account how much luggage (foldboat?) you have as the USA airlines have a very generous weight allowance. We travelled very light as we were heading off backpacking for a couple of months after the Tour.

### Food

Most evenings the local village or town where one camps, will provide a free meal of some sort usually accompanied with beer which we enjoyed, however, they are not guaranteed on a nightly basis and we carried food with us for evenings when meals were not supplied (infrequently). Usually served outdoors into our cooking pots, the meals varied in quality and were not always sufficient in calories and needed to be supplemented at times, especially with vegetables or salads. They were initially rather repetitive (schnitzel and kartoffel salat). As the tour progressed

the cuisine was more to our taste but still somewhat variable and we enjoyed some really tasty meals, along with one or two that were not great. In Germany we were issued with meal vouchers for the freebies. Access to shops is generally not a problem – sometimes there would be one near the campsite or along the route of the day. Water was always available at the overnight stop on our stretch of the TID.

### The Daily Paddle

Distances vary with some days of more than 60km but usually average about 40km. One can start each day whenever one wishes, however, paddlers are required to arrive at camp by 6pm. Should one not be returning to the campsite for whatever reason one should phone the country leader on the TID cellphone number. (Would be difficult since we did not have a connection on our phone, however instructions are to ask a local fisherman? to phone in this event.) Particularly in the Austrian valleys winds would pick up around midday and afternoon paddling could then be into an unpleasant headwind and possible choppy water.

Evening briefings include information about hazards, locks and portages, and further details of km markers, camp locations etc. are provided either in writing or in some countries on maps supplied to participants. The km markers with 100m sub-markers on the river bank, counting down to the Black Sea, allows one to locate the position of locks and overnight stops very easily especially in Germany and Austria. As one progresses down the river, though, the km markers are less easily seen (maybe non-existent on some stretches) and it is not always as easy to locate one's position. Campsites are marked with the TID flag but sometimes the river can be very, very wide, so you need to at least know which side to take out for any campsite.



*A great meal in Esztergom, Hungary – this time in a restaurant.*





It is worth researching the towns and villages along the way in advance and stopping off accordingly – there is some advice about good restaurants, shops etc. in the briefings. Google Maps and national tourism sites are also excellent resources for this. In addition on rest days there are often bus, or as in Budapest, boat tours organized for TID participants – this for the princely sum of about €5 per person. If one was to do only 1 week of the tour, the stretch through Austria would possibly provide a good taste of some of the best aspects and most beautiful countryside.

### **Extra bits and bobs**

Some participants sported their national flag on their boat so we would suggest taking a small flag with some means of attaching to the boat since this readily identifies your country of origin. (A national flag is obligatory in Serbia). The system of delegates

from each country is likely to mean that one of any group of New Zealanders would be expected to fill this function. Gifts are often exchanged between the delegate and the Mayor (Burgermeester) at the welcoming ceremony by the host town which takes place most days. Although one does not need to reciprocate, a number of delegates presented a small memento of their country – the best we saw were emblems of the delegate's own country or local kayak club – we took NZ pins and an assortment of other small memorabilia.

Overall it was a great experience – we enjoyed the varied aspects of the tour and we found the contact with other kayakers from many different countries, the waterside campsites and the quaint and historic villages, vineyards and orchards to be great fun. We would love to return to complete more of the tour sometime in the future.

*Philip & Sue*