



March 2014

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*Auckland Canoe Club inspection party coming ashore at the new Waitawa Bay Camp Ground.
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>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
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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 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 ...

Jacquie Fish, Fiona Heenan,
Stephen Laughton, Iain McIver,
Michael Pearce, Anne Purcell, Kay Shannon,
Noeline Whitehead and Vivienne Wynne



Deadline for Next Newsletter

15 March 2014

New Coastal Camp Ground and Kayak

Roger Lomas



Checking out the new shelter at Waitawa Bay Camp Ground.

We were out paddling near Kawakawa Bay in early February. The wind had picked up a bit, so instead of paddling out around the islands, we moved in close to the lee of the coast and headed towards the Clevedon River. Along the way, we passed the new Waitawa Regional Park. This is located on land previously occupied by the old ICI explosives storage facility. This new park has a special camp ground area that has been constructed with sea kayakers in mind. When we were there it was still brand new and awaiting its official opening ceremony in a few days' time. Our club had been involved in consultation about sea kayaker's requirements for this coastal facility.

Well naturally we went ashore for an inspection. It was pleasing to see that all our wishes had been met. The camping area is located in a small sheltered gully. A flat grassy area just above the all tide sandy beach has room for up to six tent sites. Nearby is an open sided shelter with benches. This has been constructed to provide a cooking/eating area. Around the back of the shelter is a washing up sink area. Fresh water is collected from the shelter roof and stored in a large water tank. A clever system using a small manual hand pump delivers the goods and controls usage. A discreet distance away on the lower slopes of the gully is a modern version of the long drop toilet.

This little coastal camp ground forms the missing link to a chain of overnight stops for kayakers wishing to paddle the south eastern shores of the Auckland region. The kayak trail starts at the Omana Regional Park, where you can leave your car in a secure area, and works its way south. There are kayak friendly campsites located in easy bite sized paddles all the way down to the Waharau Regional Park in the Firth of Thames near Kaiua. All of these campsites are located in Regional Parks and heading south are located at: Duder, Waitawa, Tawhitokino and Tapapakanga Parks. They can be readily identified at sea by the presence of a tall orange and blue pole just above the beach. More information on this new kayak trail can be found on the Auckland Council website.

When we do our early morning excursions, we usually rule the roost when it comes to getting the best spots. Recently we stopped off at Narrow Neck Beach for a cuppa, but found that we had to take second place to the locals. They apparently all get down there early for their swim before the out of towners' take over the place. After their swim, the locals all gather for a natter in the early morning sun on the sea wall seats. We were relegated to seating in the local bus shelter nearby.

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New Coastal Camp Ground and Kayak

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When the bus driver saw this motley lot at Narrow Neck, he just zoomed on by.

PHOTO JON ALLEN

Over the summer months we have noticed the huge proliferation of SuPers (Stand up Paddlers). They now outnumber kayakers all around our city coastline. No doubt driving this surge in the SuPers is the multitude of beachside hire outlets that have set up shop on many of the popular beaches. When we paddled along the great sweep of Takapuna Beach recently, we noticed a couple of these new enterprises. On the small roadside ramp leading down to the beach, the one just opposite the café, an entrepreneurial paddle board hawker had set up

camp. He had his hire fleet laid out right across it. We're getting squeezed out by this fad that everyone said would soon go away. Looking on the plus side though, we have met more than our fair share of bikini clad SuPer beauties out on the water lately.

Our early morning kayakers were used as guinea pigs recently. They were asked to water test and evaluate the prototype of a new sea kayak. We haven't seen too many new sea kayaks on the market lately and this one was quite special. It was a locally designed and manufactured craft. The lads were all quite excited as they gathered to await the arrival of the new kayak which had only just been completed the day before.

It was a good morning for testing with wind gust increasing out on the harbour. Our first guinea pig was somewhat reluctant to relinquish his seat in the test boat after his initial trial run. In fact he came back and wanted to buy the prototype straight away. At the end of the test session, the new model received a unanimous thumbs up from all the test paddlers. A few minor modifications will be made back at the factory before it goes into production in a few weeks' time. Four of the test paddlers were so impressed by what they saw, that they placed orders for the new boat on the day. The new kayak will be released on the market by Barracuda Kayaks shortly. It will be constructed of the same ultra-light weight material that is used on the successful Beachcomber sea kayak.



Test day for new kayak (centre of pontoon).

That's about all they will have in common though. It's an all new hull and deck shape that is longer, leaner and a whole lot faster. We may even get to see one into the club hire fleet soon.

Whilst on the subject of the club hire fleet, which we like to keep modern with regular upgrades. A new Quality Kayaks Skua sea kayak has just been added to the fleet. This is the same model kayak that a very plucky young Kiwi lass is using to paddle solo around the North Island at the moment. Her name is Tara Mulvany and you can follow her adventure on www.tarasjourneys.com. Last year she paddled around the South Island as a warm up.

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New Coastal Camp Ground and Kayak

Continued from page 5

We rounded off the rest of the month with our regular early morning paddles. As usual a cuppa stop is taken after about an hour or so of good steady paddling. We always choose somewhere with a pleasant view. On a recent paddle down near the southern end of Tamaki Strait we watched as a commercial fisherman hauled in his nets. He was only a couple of hundred metres offshore and in relatively shallow water. A few of us speculated as to what he might be catching. Flounder possibly? Curiosity eventually got the better of us and we paddled out to investigate. He was a cheerful chap who took great delight in telling us what he had just released from his net. A monster stingray and it was mighty agitated. Our sea kayaks can move very fast with a bit of motivation.

It will be interesting times in the next few weeks when the new sea kayaks arrive. We are always looking for the perfect kayak and with age our wants and needs alter. Talking on this subject with some of the senior members in the group, there was a general consensus for wishing to own a kayak that was lighter in weight. Loading the kayak on or off the car racks is probably the most loathed and dangerous part of going kayaking. Many of us have owned a rugged almost indestructible polyethylene plastic sea kayak in our earlier years. These weighed in the 26–28 kg range. We then upgraded to a composite kayak made of fibreglass or Kevlar at 22–24 kg.

The new kayak will be about 17–18 kg and although very light, is made of a material that is extremely tough. To demonstrate this, the manufacturer subjected a kayak to a severe thrashing with hammer blows. It survived (there is video footage of this on YouTube). The other desire that our experienced

paddlers wished for, was a kayak that was sleek and fast with good handling in all conditions. This is the area where most kayak designs struggle to deliver. In trying to be an all-purpose craft, compromises have to be made. We older more experienced paddlers have evaluated our true wants and needs over many years now. The bulk of our paddling is just day tripping. This comment is probably applicable to the vast majority of sea kayakers out there. So why do we not paddle a craft that better suits this purpose? Look at the number of bulky and heavy expedition sized sea kayaks that our fellow paddlers are using. Most of them are riding far too high in the water when used on short day paddles. As a consequence; they don't handle well in rough and windy conditions when lightly laden. It's also a fact, when we do go away on a camping trip, for most of us it is just on a weekender. A smaller volume sea kayak will better suit our regular paddling needs.

This new sea kayak at around 5 metres, is smaller in length than the kayaks most of us currently paddle. It has a V bottomed hull shape with just enough rocker to give it good rough water handling without compromising speed. A choice of two deck sizes will accommodate the storage needs and paddling weights of most users. A range of optional extras will allow purchasers to customise their craft. Built locally, it has the added benefit of factory service and support.

The ultimate quest for the perfect kayak will continue. At the moment that title will be held by the kayak that is a joy to handle both on and off the water. If it gets us out on the water more often, then it's got to be the best one for now.

Roger

Poet's Corner

*Paddling alone
I'll close my eyes
Maybe
Not so wise
When a Sharp Lookout
Is required
To avoid Collisions at Sea
But in my quiet waters
Whales and containers
Are rare at close quarters*

*Anyway
I do have a wee peep
Now and then
To make sure
I don't hit
The shore
Of South America
Or Browns Island.*

Mike Randall

Upcoming Ocean Masters 10 km Swim

The Ocean Masters are holding a 10 km swim (the equivalent to a marathon on land) on Easter Saturday, April 19.

It starts at the Glendowie Boating Club, goes down the Tamaki River and around past St Heliers and Mission Bay to Tamaki Yacht club and then back to St Heliers where it finishes. 10 km in all.

There will be a barbecue at the end with the swimmers.

Logically, supporting kayakers would put in at St Heliers and paddle around to Glendowie for the start – approx 3km.

Each swimmer needs their own escort as they will spread out a lot. The swim can take between 2 hours 30 minutes to 4 hours 30 minutes depending on the swimmer.

The swimmer numbers are restricted to 60 entries but only 10 – 15 kayaks are anticipated as being needed as many already have their own escorts.

If anyone intends to be in Auckland over Easter and wants a fairly relaxed 13km paddle on Easter Saturday, please contact the organiser Wayne Annan by email – wayne.annan@xtra.co.nz

If you want to know more about the swim, they have website and facebook pages:

- Website - <http://www.aucklandharbourswims.org.nz/events/acm10>
- Face book - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Auckland-10km-Marathon-Swim/1449837718564994>

If you have any questions, feel free to call me on 09 528 1682 or email me on ngscott@orcon.net.nz

Regards,

Neil Scott

Thankyou from Ocean Masters

Many thanks to all the people who turned up for the Ocean Masters swim escort on February 2nd.

We had 24 kayaks which was 2 more than the minimum requirements they needed of 22 kayaks.

The weather was great and the swim went off without a hitch.

I have had very positive feedback from kayakers, Coastguard and the swim organisers to the Numbered High Vis vests worn by kayakers with radios. It allowed everyone to see where the radios were and spread along the course accordingly.

The sausages, biscuits and drinks provided by the swim organisers were much appreciated and meeting under the trees at the western end of Mission Bay allowed us to get out of the sun.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who was involved. It made for a great day.

Regards,

Neil Scott