



## April 2014

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*There are not many places in the world where you can paddle your kayak inside the hulk of an old four-masted sailing ship. See Story Page 8.*

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
<i>Webmaster</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512

### Email addresses

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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 April 2014**

## No cheesecake at Vine House

Jackie Hillman



A change of weekend date thinned out the usual Vine House paddlers.

Early in the week the forecast was looking good for a sunny weekend with maybe a lumpy Friday crossing as the sea built to moderate with a 20 knots westerly.

So a quick text to Judith for a paddle buddy, we were amused to find a flat sea and no wind when we trundled our kayaks to the beach at Sullivan's Bay after work.

The tides were perfect for leaving the kayak wheels behind.

Always the evening light is a joy to paddle by when crossing the harbour after work on a Friday knowing you have two nights to relax in the peaceful surroundings.

A later text with cancellations indicated we might have a very quiet weekend.

The last visitors had left a jigsaw on the table with a plea not to break it up before completing it, so being good citizens we obliged and sat for hours trying to find the illusive pieces – don't you hate it when they leave you just the sky to finish!!

The sea was warmer than for months so swimming at Big Bay was a fabulous. Hard to leave that bath! Chores were completed, wine drunk and many books read and shared. Food of course was to the usual standard, but a first – no cheesecake. Sorry Matt just couldn't do it for just two of us!

Sadly just no time to paddle!! Where does the time go?

## Club membership renewals

**Membership subscriptions for April 2014 to March 2015 are now due.**

**Please update your details on the attached membership form and post with your payment, or fill out the membership form on the club website and pay online to our bank account – see *details on the inside cover*.**

**New members who have joined the club since January 1st are already paid up until March next year.**

**The June newsletter will be the last for members not renewed.**



## Te Ara Moana 'the sea-going pathway' on our doorstep

Jackie Hillman

I have been thinking of exploring this piece of coast for a while and it was interesting looking back at the last ACC newsletter to see that Roger mentioned visiting a campsite in his trip report. I planned to take a look at the campsites for future reference as a few members had expressed interest in a weekend camping trip. It was Jenny's last weekend before heading back to Scotland, so with a forecast of perfect weather, but only one day to paddle we decided to just paddle a section and make a nice easy day.

The tides were convenient with high at 1.50pm. I was keen to paddle towards Orere Point as I have never been along that part of the coast. Forecast was south westerly 10 knots building to 15 in the afternoon but dropping to 10 again in the evening – sea slight.

The full pathway is described from Omana Beach to Waharua Regional Park on the Firth of Thames. ARC publish it as a 5 day trip. That seemed a very slow paddle as the distances aren't far between campsites. They are in regional parks so I guess there is plenty of walking to enjoy when camping. I am not sure many locals would do that that long but maybe tourists might.



Waiti Bay.

Kawakawa Bay at 10.30am had plenty of water but later in the day it might become tricky so we headed along the unsealed road past the Kawakawa wharf to Waiti Bay where there is a small car park. It has a toilet block and easy entry to the beach using the slipway. A small grassed area is enough space to pack your kayak. It also looks as if it's OK in most tides without the need for kayak wheels.

There were plenty of parking spaces available when we arrived but returning later in the day it was obviously a popular spot for families.



Approaching Tawhitokino Beach.

On leaving the beach I managed to take a wave which filled my cockpit, so that delayed us while I pumped out the boat. It was to become a feature of the day, which was ridiculous given the sea conditions.

It was an easy half-hour paddle to the first campsite at Tawhitokino Regional Park. It seemed too early to stop so we planned to check it out on the way back. It's an attractive coastline with a few rocky outcrops with bird life that increased as we approached Orere Point. There are two boat ramps there. There seemed to be no one using the north western end but a group of 4WD's and campervans at the other end. We passed a few sit on top kayakers returning to the beach who were a work group enjoying a fishing weekend.

It was about an hour off high tide and there was quite a standing wave off Puati Point by Orere so we headed out to avoid it but it would be fun for those who enjoy surfing. Another half an hour and we approached Tapapakanga Regional Park. It was about 45 min off high tide. Jenny decided to try landing with her legs outside the kayak for a quick exit but miss-timed the wave and rolled beautifully! Another water filled kayak!

This regional park is really attractive. It has about 20 camping spots on the beach front site. There are several walking trails to explore and the south eastern end has several BBQ spots.



Tapapakanga Regional Park .

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## Te Ara Moana 'the sea-going pathway'

*Continued from page 5*

After lunch I re-checked the map – the kayaking campsite seemed to be at the far end of the beach which was confirmed when we checked the information board. Our options were to paddle or take the opportunity to do the 2 hour coastal walk. We decided to do the latter and set off for a walk that combined coastal scenery and bush. We passed the Armstrong's graveyard and eventually descended back the beach to find the kayakers campsite. Certainly more basic than the other campsites in this regional park! It's only reached from the water and identified by a post with an orange marker. There is room to pull quite a few boats up but the campsite is higher up the hill in a grove of trees. Apart from the shelter which has two cooking benches, a small sink and a toilet nearby, little else appears to have been done to define a campsite. Certainly no mown areas and the grass was very overgrown. There was a single picnic table away from the shelter in the trees. I am not sure it offers much apart from a spot with permission to camp along the coast.

Camping is \$6 per night there and all sites have to be booked ahead. I am not sure this one will get booked out. When I checked the website I note that wasn't the case for the Tawhitokino site (kayaker campsite) which was booked most weekends.

It was nearly 4 pm before we left the beach again for our return paddle. The sea had built up a bit and the wind had picked up. It managed to blow my hat off a few times nearing Waiti Bay. We were now 2 hours post high tide and the sea was still more disturbed around the headland points and although the standing waves near Orere were still there, they were less.

*Waikaha Stream kayakers' campsite.*



We ended up being too tired to visit Tawhitokino so will go back there another time. (Likely to camp next time as it looked fabulous from the water.)

I must have been tired as when climbing out of my kayak I was tipped over by the small next wave and had yes another water filled kayak!

The tide, as predicted, was well out when we drove pass Kawakawa Bay. We decided to bypass the famed ice-creams. You would certainly need kayak wheels if you approached at low tide desperate for an ice-cream!

When it came to tidying up, I have never seen to much sand in a kayak. The sand must be very fine and each wave was churning it up as it was noticeably brown as it met the beach. It took me several hours to clean up the kayaks the next day, and it's the first time I have ever needed a dustpan and brush.

There is still much more to explore but the concept of the sea-going pathway is great.

Just wonder why I never had ventured along that coastline before.



## Poet's Corner

*Another day has arrived at last  
To find out what happened to Cat  
You remember she paddled away in a huff  
She'd had more than enough of that.*

*The that in question was Owl and the Puke  
And also No Cats Allowed  
On the Isle of Rangi and a perigee moon  
Coming out from under a cloud.*

*Being a cat she had plenty more lives  
To reconsider her plight  
So she paddled on with nary a thought  
Of where to sleep that night.*

*The perigee moon was still up above  
When she landed on North Head shore  
She simply wanted to curl up and rest  
Where better than someone's door.*

*She soon adopted the owner's home  
Doing what cats do so well  
Three square meals and a place to nap  
The drawback was having a bell.*

*It was never a good idea she thought  
For a cat to marry an owl  
He was much better off with the Puke on the hill  
That ecclesiastical fowl.*

*It's probably not even legal to boot  
For a cat to get wed to a bird  
In spite of parades and banners displayed  
It does seem a trifle absurd.*

*So she got together with Tom next door  
A much more suitable match  
They kept the double for weekends away  
At a cute little hideaway bach.*

*Her thoughts sometimes turned to times long ago  
Of adventures with Owl and a boat  
How she nearly got married to that fickle bird  
Who sang such beautiful notes.*

*So that was what happened to Pussy my Love  
After leaving the Isle in a huff  
No more adventures for her she opined  
As for me that's enough of this stuff.*

*Mike Randall*

If you, like me, can make neither head nor tail of this,  
check newsletter June 2012

Even more apologies to Edward Lear b. May 12, 1812

## 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](mailto:ngscott@orcon.net.nz)

Regards, Neil Scott



## Autumn Action

Roger Lomas

Some of the lads in the early morning kayak group have been getting a mite miffed in recent weeks. Our on-the-water starting times have crept out to a rather latish 7.30 am in the last month. All this will change when Daylight Saving ends in the early hours of Sunday 6th April. We have however enjoyed some great late summer paddling adventures, even with our somewhat belated starts. Of course some of the keener members of the group like to arrive at the launch site nice and early. In fact, well over an hour before departure time. They find that it's a great time to sit back and enjoy a relaxed cuppa as Mother Nature puts on a spectacular dawn light show.

Earlier in the month, conditions were perfect for a paddle out to the cluster of islands just off the Mahurangi Peninsula. These include Moturekareka, Motuketekete and the smaller Motutara Islands. Our launch site was at Sullivan's Bay, just inside the entrance of the Mahurangi Harbour. This is part of the Regional Park and an electronic gate controls access. Summer entry time is 6 am. The early bird arrivals were somewhat stunned to find an enormous queue of kayak laden cars waiting in the darkness for gate time. Finally, at the designated hour, the gates whirred open and the huge car-borne kayak cavalcade rolled down hill into Sullivan's Bay. With the feeble glimmer of dawn we could finally see that

these very early interlopers were all SOT (Sit On Top) kayak fishers. Over fifty of them had turned up for a club fishing competition. When the rest of our lot finally arrived, parking was at a premium.

If you had ever thought that sea kayakers were a bit over the top when it comes to gear and gadgets, then take a good peek at the SOT kayak fishers. Not only do they have everything that opens and shuts, but they are also extremely well organised. We were amazed at how quickly they prepped their craft before launching. The pre-dawn darkness was no hindrance to this group. A light mast sprang up on each kayak and soon the car park area was aglow with mini LED lights. They were a friendly bunch and we exchanged some light hearted banter with them as we went about our own chores. Soon a steady stream of SOT kayaks departed from the beach, most heading out to fish the reefs around Te Haupa Island.

We paddled off up the coast towards Martins Bay and then crossed to our targeted islands. There was quite a bit of fishy activity going on just below the surface and we hoped that our SOT friends were party to some of it back at the reef. A keen eye soon spotted a little Blue Penguin bobbing on the surface, the first of many we would pass that fine sunny morning.



*It's all ashore for a cuppa on a nice sunny shell bank on the upper Waitemata Harbour.*

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Soon we were out at the islands and we commenced a figure eight circumnavigation of the two biggest ones. The tide was still rising and there wasn't yet sufficient depth to cross the shingle tombolo between Moturekareka and Motutara. A slight swell surge made for an exhilarating run along the rock ledges on the outer side of Motuketekete. We did the obligatory paddle inside the hulk of the Rewa and then found a nice sunny beach for a cuppa. The run home was made even better with the assistance of both the tide and a light sea breeze that had sprung up.

The weather took a turn for the worse latter in the month when the remnants of Tropical Cyclone Lusi turned up on our doorstep. We often head to the shelter of the Waikato Wetlands when wild weather is forecast. A couple of us got away early that Saturday morning and made our way down the South-Western Motorway. We both encountered a torrid time when crossing the Mangere Bridge with violent wind gusts buffeting our vehicles. Mindful of the fact that a few of the other lads were coming down from the North Shore via the Harbour Bridge about half an hour behind us, we postponed the paddle. Sometimes even the trusty bow line might not be enough.

I was driving past Okahu Bay recently and noticed a bit of activity on the ramp just along from the club locker. A crane was lifting a large steel pontoon-type barge up onto the ramp. This needed further investigation of course, so I called in to have a better look. There was a growing crowd of like-minded spectators on hand, and I struck up conversation with one of them. He just happened to be the new owner of the pontoon and was bringing it ashore for an extensive overhaul. In a previous life the pontoon had been moored near the front corner of the Maritime Museum on the city waterfront. It housed a boatshed workshop. Kayakers may well remember it because of the sloped wooden landing ramp which was perfect for coming ashore on.

This will not be available any more though. The pontoon will soon be re-decked and when back in the water, it will form an integral part of a new sea plane terminal. Operating out of St Marys Bay near Westhaven, the new venture will have sea planes alighting on the Waitemata once again after an absence of over 20 years. Trial flights started last month from a temporary facility using a vintage De Havilland Beaver floatplane. A second aircraft has been purchased and is due to arrive soon.

They are quite spectacular to watch coming and going and all the action will be up near the Harbour Bridge. This will no doubt give a few sea kayakers a bit of a buzz.

We are into autumn proper now, with the equinox having just passed near the end of last month. For many of us, it is the start of some of the best paddling conditions of the year. Gone is the muggy humid weather, to be replaced by cool crisp mornings. The sea temperature hasn't altered too much yet and here in Auckland and we can look forward to another two months of mild weather. The early morning group is planning a few overnight camping trips before the onset of winter. This will provide a good opportunity for some of the lads to try out their brand new ultra-light Barracuda Interface sea kayaks.

Whilst the club paddling calendar might appear to be lacking content in the newsletter, there is plenty of paddle action happening if you know where to look. Our club website will promote any new events. A recent pilgrimage paddle to visit club life members Ron and Nancy Augustin at the spiritual home of the Sea Bears was well attended and promoted via the club website. So if you would like to organise or lead a kayak trip at relatively short notice, then this is the place to do it. Of course there are always the regular events which have a permanent posting at the front of the newsletter. These include the coffee cruise and the monthly Vine House weekend. The latter event allows club members to occupy the facility in return for a small amount of working bee activity. There are a few other sub groups within the club that may appeal. Some of these require a bit of commitment and a good skill level.

Coming up soon will be the start of our popular Winter Series Lectures. These are used to showcase the paddling adventures of our fellow kayakers. It is also a good place to meet club mates and new members. A fair bit of networking and trip gossip happens here. It would be prudent to say that if you want something to happen for you in the kayaking world, then a bit of effort on your part will help get things moving. If you sit around waiting to be spoon fed organised events all the time, you won't be doing much paddling. In the past we have relied on a small group of hard working trip organisers and leaders. Some of these stalwarts need a bit of a break now, so perhaps it's time to transfuse some fresh new blood into the system and reinvigorate the pulse of the club.

*Roger*

# AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



- New Member**  
 **Renewing**

**IF YOUR DETAILS HAVE CHANGED PLEASE UPDATE US**

**Surname:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Family Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Suburb:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone (home):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone (work):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Rate your Experience:*  I have completed a basic skills course.

- No Experience**
- Novice** (confidently forward and backpaddle, paddle for 30 mins without rest)
- Intermediate** (able to brace, perform a deep water entry, paddle for at least 2 hours or 25 km)
- Advanced** (self rescue in all situations, off-shore paddling experience)

*Do you own a kayak?*      **Yes**     **No**     **If YES list type(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please select the types of kayaking you are most interested in:*

- Sea kayaking
- Touring
- Sea kayaking racing
- Whitewater
- Surf/rodeo/polo
- MultiSport

*Kayak trips: Are you interested in co-ordinating kayak trips ?*      **Yes**     **No**

*To comply with the Privacy Act 1993, please read and complete the form below.*

**I Agree**     **I Disagree**

To let the Auckland Canoe Club publish my name, address phone Number or any other information concerning me in the Club Newsletter or to National Canoe Associations. I accept responsibility for correcting this information where applicable.  
 The Auckland Canoe Club and its officers take no responsibility for any injury any person may suffer, or any damage to equipment, while participating in the Club's kayaking activities. Any Person, who does participate, acts at his or her own risk.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Fees for the year ending 31 March

- Member \$30**     **Family \$35**     **Life Member**

**Post to: Auckland Canoe Club, PO Box 9271 Newmarket, Auckland**

### Total Payment

- Cheque**     **Bank Transfer**

**Bank:** BNZ, Newmarket  
**Acct:** 02-0100-0023453-000  
**Name:** Auckland Canoe Club  
**Particulars:** **Your name & initials**  
**Code:** **Subscription**