



July 2014

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As seal numbers increase around the New Zealand coast, they are becoming common in many of the places we visit by kayak. This big fellow was sun-bathing near my favourite cup-of-tea beach on Puketutu Island, in the Manukau Harbour.

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>	Philip Noble	575 3493
<i>Secretary</i>		
<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>Webmaster</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512

Email addresses

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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 ...

Kathryn Molloy, Murray & Nell Nutsford, John Phillips, Eric Eason and Anne Nicholls.



Deadline for Next Newsletter

15 July 2014

Lucas Creek in the Autumn

ANZAC weekend 2014, and I hadn't paddled since that lovely trip with all those Sea Bears up the Whau about a month previously. On Friday morning (ANZAC morning), sensing an urge to paddle, I googled the 'metvuw' website. I could see the best weekend weather was going to be Saturday afternoon. High tide on Manukau Harbour was 7:57am, which was not suitable since I didn't want a predawn start to catch the incoming tide up the harbour. But in the Waitemata, high tide was 4:26pm. Okay for a paddle up Lucas Creek mid afternoon, and back out with the ebbing tide. So a quick email to Rosemary and Lester, and it was settled. We would enter at Beachhaven by the ferry wharf, explore Oruamo, otherwise known as Hellyers Creek, and then head up harbour and up the Lucas Creek. You really need a trolley to start at Beachhaven because although you can drive down to the beach, it's a pretty steep slope, and preferable to park up on the road, and tow your kayak down.

Oruamo Creek is fairly bush clad, more like an inlet or elongated bay really. There was another launching spot at its head, but its quite shallow, and you can probably only paddle a kayak from there about two to 2½ hours either side of high tide.

Around 2:30pm we paddled around the corner up under the rather lovely lines of the SH18 bridge over the Upper Harbour, stretching northwards up to Greenhithe and Albany. Then through the narrows between Herald Island and Greenhithe, and the dozens of boats anchored in the mouth of Lucas Creek. There, anchored just off Salthouse Boatbuilders was an ocean-going double-hulled sailing waka. We paddled up to inspect it and its huge rudder more closely. Then onwards, cruising gently up the creek keeping to one side, out of the way of a speedboat, towing a passenger on a tyre. At high tide, it's not unusual to encounter a speed boat or two, with water skier in tow. There's a ski jump anchored up the creek just before it narrows.

The creek is very bushy on its western side in particular, with lots of mangroves. There were more pied stilts than I've seen elsewhere in the central Waitemata, except perhaps near Dacre Cottage. There were also some quite substantial houses, especially on the less developed western side; while to the east are the open landscapes of the Schnapper Rock Cemetery and Crematorium, and the North Shore Golf Course.

About half way up Lucas Creek, it narrows significantly, and not far up from there it gets quite shallow. We wondered if we'd be able to paddle all the way up to Albany township without getting stuck in the mud. It occurred to me at this point that high tide up here is probably a bit later than the Waitemata tide table times. However I also suppose that a lot of silt has come down as a result of the frenzy of development at Albany. And that's not all that comes down. Our journey took us around a number of s-bend corners, with the creek getting more and more unsavoury as we paddled upstream, until we arrived at Kell Park, where there's a boat ramp, and a little beach at about 4:15pm. We disembarked into a soupy, greasy, bubbly, highly deoxygenated stewy looking mess. I used the ramp, but the other two chose the beach, thereby having to wade in the 'water'. Yicky!!

Ten years ago when I last paddled the creek I don't recall it being anything like this unsavoury. Perhaps this thick 'soup' was the result of a long dry summer. When I've paddled it in the past, it's been after the winter/spring rains. Or maybe, the beautiful kowhai flowers out during September commanded my attention during those trips so that the state of the creek made less impact on me. Anyhow it was very sobering and led to a lot of reflecting about our human refuse habits, and some discussion around how we humans in general are ignoring climate change, pollution and other environmental issues which would require each and every one of us to radically change our lifestyles.

Kell Park right near the head of the creek is beautiful, though it's a strange sensation to walk up from the mangrove-lined creek with its bush-clad slopes, and suddenly find oneself in the middle of Albany Village shops only 50 metres up the bank.

A quick toilet stop, and we were away again just after 4:30pm, in a rather rapid paddle back down stream to get back to Beachhaven at 6pm just before dark. I don't recommend this paddle, after a dry season, but it was a bit of a work out, and lovely to be in my Albatross again, paddling with friends.

Erica Law

Winter Lecture Series

Rakiura/Stewart Island Adventure 2014

Presented by Rosemary Gatland

Come along to the second of the Auckland Canoe Club Winter Lectures for 2014

Wednesday July 16 at the Marine Rescue Centre, Tamaki Drive

7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

Last summer Lester and I spent a fortnight in Stewart Island, kayaking and doing some walks. We started off in Port Pegasus, in the south-east of the island, where we camped for six nights.

We paddled up and down the area, had several encounters with curious sea lions, saw a Fiordland Crested penguin, visited some historic sites, had an encounter with the Navy, and generally enjoyed this scenic area.

Then we went back to Halfmoon Bay, and spent three days paddling in Paterson Inlet, exploring part of the coastline. We visited the Norwegian Whalers' base, which in March was made a Protected Reserve. We also climbed up Pryse Peak to look at the views and visited Ulva Island, which is the Stewart Island equivalent of Tiri.

This area has been described as "a sea kayaker's paradise", and we could see why.



Poet's Corner

*Each afternoon on La Charente
Each early summer afternoon
That wide serene slow moving stream
I'd paddle and dip the blade
In harmony with the silence
A heron on a lily pad
A quiet bird or two
Sometimes a faint glimpse
Of the rat like rodent Coypu
By the bridge at Bourg
Firmly on its ancient stones*

*The chateau looked down
And rounding the bend under the bridge
Drifting down a place to dream
I'd head for home the lock house
At Ecluse de Gardemoulin
The still water by the lock waiting
While the sluice the weir
And the fish ladder
Chatted amongst themselves
Forever*

Mike Randall

President's Annual Report 2014

(as presented at the AGM)

This is a special year in the history of the club...

When I was pondering what to say – in addition to the usual, but totally sincere thanks to all those who make the Club tick – I looked back at past records and what I had said so often before.

You have heard reports of progress on The Landing development year after year.

You have heard discussions on how the website needed to be modernised; you have heard so many promises that get repeated year after year.

Let me first make it very clear that slow progress was not the fault of the Committee members, all of whom have done a wonderful job during their tenure, but due to the exceedingly slow progress made by projects through the Council and other bodies and because so few members were willing to put up their hands to assist.

Why is this year so special? At last I can report actual progress on several fronts.

I have detailed the developments on The Landing and the development of the website in separate articles in this newsletter.

I will take this opportunity to thank all your committee members for their outstanding efforts this year.

We have operated with a small committee but an effective one.

Unseen, but not unheard is our Newsletter Editor, Claire O'Connor. Claire works hard on your behalf but is seldom seen. However I am sure that all of you would immediately miss her efforts if the Newsletter did not appear every month. Claire is however dependant on your contributions, so please write those articles, however small and get them to Claire so that the Newsletter can continue to provide us all with so much pleasurable reading.

Our Treasurer continues to ensure that the Club runs efficiently and is financially sound – more of that later. Matt will be producing his own report so I will not seal his thunder! I would however like to thank Matt for all his efforts.

Roger – thank you again for keeping me under control – it is Roger who rings me up and reminds me that the newsletter deadline is approaching; it is Roger who has organised the swim escort barbecues etc – always in the background but always there when needed.

I want to thank Rona for fulfilling the secretarial roll and keeping our minutes so efficiently, and to thank Gavin for looking after the Club Kayaks and storage.

Lastly my thanks go to Trevor who was instrumental in securing the club involvement with Vine House and who continues to maintain our dialogue with Council for the continued use of Vine House.

It was many years ago that the Auckland Canoe Club organised safety trials on the Harbour with Maritime NZ, Coastguard and the Harbourmaster. This was in preparation for the development of the Navigation Bylaws and ensured that the bylaws reflected what was practical for kayakers.

I continue to hold a position with Maritime NZ, Coastguard and Waikato District Council and that has made it easier to maintain this important network.

The Auckland Canoe Club continues to hold a special place in the area of kayak safety. We have a great safety record and we should be proud of it.

At the recent Hutchwilco Boat Show I was reminded of this pioneering work done by the club as several of the publications derived from that work have been republished and were being distributed by the various Government Authorities.

It was a year ago that I raised my concerns that the Club was not providing enough education and trips for the newer members and for young families.

As I said earlier we worked with a very small committee this year and it was not possible to do everything. Sadly the trips and educational opportunities were the items that missed out. A number of members made lots of noise about needing more trips etc, but the Club needs members who are willing to actively make things happen. Anyone can make a lot of noise and complain, but that does not translate into active development unless we have people willing to put something back into the Club.

May I ask all members to consider what they can put back into the Club. What skills do you have to assist others? How can we encourage our new members to learn and enjoy this great activity that we call kayaking?

I thank all members who have contributed to club activities this year and remind everyone that the Club is only what YOU make it.

Ian Calhaem
President

The Landing Development

It is now over 15 years ago that the Auckland Canoe Club worked with the Auckland City Council and other users of The Landing to develop a concept plan for the development of a paddling facility at the Eastern end of The Landing.

At that time public consultations were held and eventually the plans were agreed. But then nothing happened.

The Auckland Canoe Club has continued to communicate with the Council, and more recently with the Local Community Board to ensure that the development plans for the Landing were not forgotten.

This has resulted in ...

- The Landing development was put into the Auckland Unitary Plan 2013.

This was the result of a flurry of activity lead by a subcommittee of the Local Community Board, including weekly meetings to resolve any outstanding issues.

- Western end of The Landing – development Akarana Marine Sports Trust.

You may be aware of plans that have existed for some time for the development of the Royal Akarana Yacht Club. This was to be with assistance from the old City Council who was giving a grant to be matched by the Club. Without going into detail things did not work out as planned and the result is that a new entity has been formed – the Akarana Marine Sports Centre which will encompass a number of different groups engaged in Sailing.

- At the same time discussions were also on going into the development at the Eastern end of The Landing – our end.

Those who were around 15 years ago will remember that this was precisely the structure that we suggested then – Sailing at the western end and paddling at the eastern end.

We great assistance from the Local Community Board and its subcommittee, all paddling groups have decided on the overall structure of the entity to manage the eastern end – the Okahu Moana Activities and Education Centre.

Furthermore, since this is what was proposed and publicly discussed 15 years ago, the Council decided that it did not need to go out for public consultation again.

The fundamentals that were decided by the Auckland Canoe Club all those years ago have been honoured in the new structure...

- Basic storage for club kayaks
- It would be an advantage to have some storage for members
- The use of meeting rooms when required, but not exclusive use.
- Shared access to changing rooms, showers and kitchen facilities.

A memorandum of understanding was approved by your Committee confirming that all existing users would work together and a small group of users prepared a draft plan to put to the Local Community Board.

The basic plans were approved and the Board asked for more details before signing off the proposals.

With the assistance of Ngati Whatua O Orakei Development elementary designs were prepared encompassing all our requirements and giving the Local Board a flavour of what was being proposed...

In addition to our club's needs those of the other groups were considered and also the ability of the Okahu Moana Activities and Education Centre to raise funds for ongoing maintenance etc. It was felt strongly that any proposal had to be self sustaining.

In order to be financially viable various commercial models were considered and with assistance from Ngati Whatua a structure called a Limited Liability Partnership was proposed. This is a new concept for Council but will give flexibility to ensure financial viability of any development'

Existing users would be General Partners and would control the facility; Limited Partners could invest in the facility but would have limited control (e.g. Tourism NZ).

However, the critical consideration for the Canoe Club is "Can we afford it?"

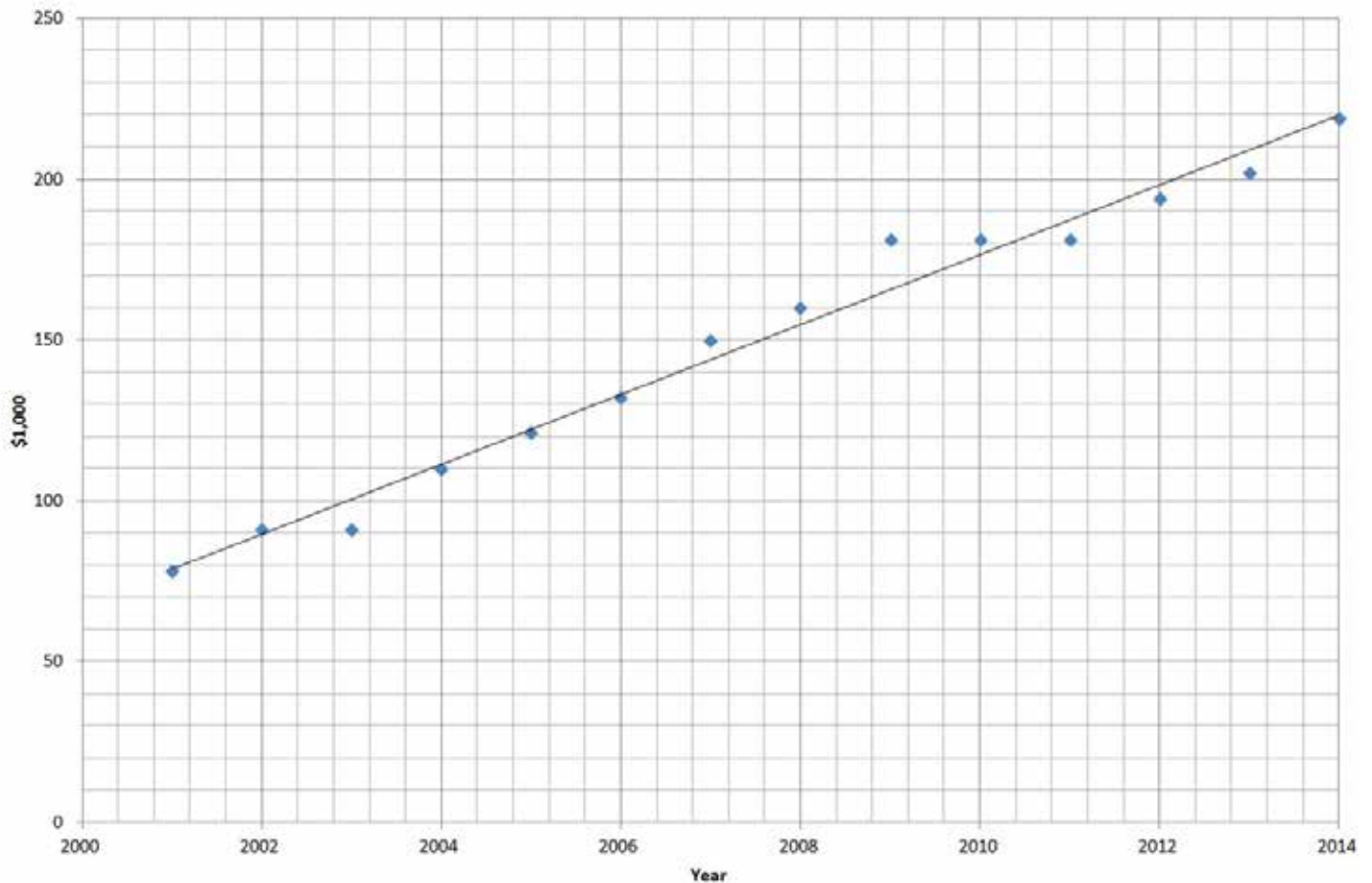
The Club building Fund has taken 60 years to reach its present value of \$219,000 (see graph on the following page).

- It is critical that this fund is used wisely.
- The Club should not engage in an activity that would put the club into debt.
- The modest requirements of members must be kept in mind.

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The Landing Development

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One of the reasons for the user group engaging an architect to draw up preliminary plans was to cost out the proposal and ensure it was viable.

We examined in detail the architect's plans and what had been included. We believe that it is more than we need and the cost can be trimmed back, but even as it stands now, the area allocated to the Canoe Club, which is greater than we have now and more than we asked for, can be paid for out of the existing Building Fund. (\$ per sq m.)

Although it is still in the initial planning stage, the proposal is therefore viable for the Club and the proposal will not put the Club into debt by borrowing to pay for the building. Of course, before any funds are actually committed, a Special General Meeting must be held to inform all members of the details of the proposal and to obtain membership approval. At this stage everything that the Club has been asking for in the last 15 years is in the proposal.

The Council's Concept Plan has thus now moved to being a Development Plan and has been signed off by the Local Community Board. The next stage is to plan the detail and ensure that it remains financially viable.

It has taken 15 years of hard work by many different groups; but the paddling centre is now a major step nearer to being a reality.

We are hoping to have the final plans ready for member consideration before the end of 2014.

The initial architect's plans can be viewed on the Club Website at www.aucklandcanoecub.org.nz/images/landing

Ian Calhaem

Club's Website

It is now over a year since your Committee drew up a list of essential requirements for the new website. One of the most important requirements was the site needed to be self maintaining – this means that no one had to look after the content on a daily basis. So many websites contain out-of-date articles, references to events that were scheduled in the past and other irrelevant information. This is always a bad look and does not reflect well on the organisation.¹

The new club website was set up so that articles and trips could have a start date for publishing and also a finish date. Thus trips that have already occurred are not displayed and only relevant articles are displayed.

Since this is automatic no one has to spend time “maintaining” the information.

A good example of this is the Newsletters. The Committee realised that members are interested in accessing past copies of Newsletters, but also realised that if the current newsletter was available immediately on line, people would have no incentive to join the Club. The Newsletters are therefore put on the website each month but the publish date is 6 months in advance. Old Newsletters are now available back to 1998.

Use of the Website

When I examined the statistics for the website I found that an incredible 24,300 people had accessed the articles that have been published.

There are now 393 articles on the website including back issues of the Newsletter since 1998.

The most popular club articles are The Club (3147), How to join the Club (2104) and Kayak Hire (1063).

The most popular articles submitted by members are Roger's trip to Thames (2142) and Colin's Auckland Destinations (1064).²

A number of other members are starting to put articles up on the Website and I thank everyone for doing so. This is your site and can only reflect the club if we keep it interesting and keep adding new material. New articles are listed at the bottom of the home page – automatically of course!

I encourage all members to have a go at publishing on the website. There are two different mechanisms for publishing – Trips and Articles.

By design new Trips can be entered by members and Trips will appear immediately on the website – that is they will be visible to anyone browsing the website. This design enabled new trips to be published at short notice without waiting for anyone to “approve” them. However, all new material does create an automatic message to a small group of committee members (publishers) so if inappropriate material was published it could be removed quickly. So far nothing has been put up that is inappropriate.

Members will be aware that when a new trip is published an automatic trip alert is also generated and emailed to all members. Initially the Committee thought that a weekly alert would be sufficient as they were aware that members did not want to receive a lot of unsolicited emails. However due to member demand this was changed to a daily alert so trips put up at short notice will be sent out to members.

If you are publishing a new trip you can either choose a pre-existing location or you can create a new one. It is even possible to specify an address that Google map can identify and a map will automatically be added to your trip article.

In contrast Articles are initially in an “unpublished” state. This is so members can enter material gradually whilst they write an article, but also so if a member requires assistance with formatting an article one of the committee members can assist them. This means that everyone can have a go, knowing that however bad their first attempt turns out, it will not be public until they have received assistance to tidy it up.

Most computer users will be familiar with the concept of “Cutting” and “Pasting” in programs such as Microsoft Word. You may not realise that this is all you have to do to publish on the website! You can write an article using Word and cut and paste into the new article window on the website. The article will be unpublished and a notification will be sent to certain committee members for review and publishing.

To start entering your first article do the following...

1. Login to the website with your username and password. (This was sent to you when you joined the Club), or if you have lost it use the links on the front page get a new username or password.

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¹ An example of such a site is Sportsground.co.nz where someone has entered unauthorised old information purporting to be from the Auckland Canoe Club but which is from 2012. This site contains out of date and incorrect information. I urge the new Committee to attempt to find out who is responsible for this bad information and try to get it removed. There is a notice saying that the site is not currently active but this is still a bad look for our Club.

² Roger correctly pointed out that his article has been on the website longer!

2. After logging in you will see a new tab at the top of the page "New Article".
3. You can then enter a title for your article, and the text and pictures that you want to include. Start simple – you can experiment with advance formatting later.
4. Remember that until one of the committee members has reviewed the article no one else will see it so you will not be embarrassed by your first attempts!

Trip Alerts

At the AGM several people commented that they were not getting the email alerts for trips. However many more users confirmed that they were receiving the emails as expected.

I assured members that the alert system had been checked and I confirmed that all members who had supplied an email contact address were on the list. Our secretary adds new members to the list when they join the Club. By default members receive notification for all trips and receive them daily. Each member has the ability to change these settings if they wish. Since the AGM I have rechecked and again found all current members are on the alert list.

However any email system consists of two parts – the part that creates and sends the email, and the part that receives and displays the email. We can control the first part but not the second. The user has control over how their email system deals with incoming emails. To avoid the possibility of members email systems declaring incoming emails as spam the Club sends out alerts in batches of no more than 40 messages at a time. However the receiving system can be configured to declare any message to be either spam or junk mail. These will be found in special folders labelled spam or junk mail, or even held by your internet provider and not even sent to you.

If you think you are still not receiving the message you expect, then contact one of the committee members and they will talk you through testing your system and maybe send you a test message.

Behind the scenes

In this review of the Club website it is appropriate to remember how the website has developed. We are indebted to a past member, Andrew, who was instrumental in designing the first website, but most importantly for finding the Web hosting provider – Dreamhost. It does not matter how good a web design it if the hosting service is poor.

I was introduced to Dreamhost by Andrew and since then I have created many commercial sites using Dreamhost as the hosting provider. The power of this site is that the user can be as involved as they want to be in the design and operation of their website. A lot of processes can be automated and the support service is phenomenal. I indicated earlier that the design goal for the Club website was to have a site that looked after itself. I have discussed the issues associated with keeping the content up to date, but it is also important to manage the entire site and all the hidden programs that make a website function.

The club website is automatically backed up every week, and there is an associated recovery service should it ever be required.

Dreamhost operate a Cloud environment so that in the unlikely event of a computer being unavailable, a copy of the website is automatically available from some other site "*somewhere in the Cloud*". This may not be as responsive as the main site but the site will still be available to all members.

Another service offered free with the standard hosting is a service to automatically monitor and fix any security issues on the website. In combination with the Cloud service this makes it very unlikely that the Club website will ever suffer from hacker attacks – or let's say successful hacker attacks. Unfortunately it is a fact of life that the internet is under constant attack from hackers and spammers.

As I write this article Dreamhost has just announced that they are upgrading the hardware that is used for the Club website. By the time you read this article we will be running on new faster servers – all at no extra cost. (Dreamhost now operates over 1500 dedicated web servers).

Ian Calhaem

Our 2014 Winter Lecture Series got off to a cracker start last month. The full house sign went up quite early and it was getting close to 11 when the tea urn was finally unplugged. It's all on again later this month. Wednesday 16th of July is the date to remember.

The plucky trans-Tasman solo kayak crossing attempt is still underway. It has been a feature item in the news of late. As we hunker down during each successive storm that sweeps through, spare a thought for our intrepid kayaker, out there alone at sea. A few Auckland lads are keeping a watchful eye on progress, and hope to be around when a landfall is imminent.

A new batch of old club newsletters has just been added to the archived collection on the club website. It now provides us with the opportunity to take a pleasant meander down memory lane. We can go right back into the 90s now. There is a wealth of helpful kayaking information tucked away in these old journals. Well worth a peek on a cold wet night.

With all the rigmarole and rush of the club AGM out of the way, the new committee settled down to business as usual. At our last meeting, Martin Ball called in to seek support from the club. Martin is quite active with the Friends of the Whau group. Their basic goal is the enhancement of this West Auckland waterway. Many club paddlers have trekked up to the headwaters of the Whau River. Some have even gone a bit further and portaged across to the Manukau Harbour from it. Martin was lobbying for help from the club to support a proposal to have a small pathway built at the head of navigation of the Whau. This pathway would link up with existing pathways behind Olympic Park at New Lynn. The benefits to kayakers would be in providing for an easy landing and portage point and also a good cuppa stop. It would also provide the public with a pleasant place to interact with the Whau, which is what Martin's group is all about. The club endorsed the proposal.

There has been a flurry of activity out on the water in the last month. The inaugural paddle for the new club president was enjoyed under sunny skies (see photos on the club website).

More again please Mr President. Later in the month, club paddlers were out in force again, this time on the Manukau. Colin had thrown down a rather audacious challenge to the weather gods some weeks earlier with a proposed mid-winter paddle to the mouth of the Manukau. Somehow he managed to pull it off. Bravo, Encore-Encore. Now perhaps it's time for a few of those, "why doesn't the club do more", types to pop their own hands up and help with a trip or two.

Have you got a touch of the mid-winter blues? Perhaps a paddling holiday to a tropical island is the tonic required. How about this for something a little bit off the beaten tourist track? A four day outrigger paddle tour through the remote outer islands of Vanuatu. It is priced for local tour content only and will set you back 31,500 Vatu. The holiday also includes meals, accommodation and truck transfers. Their promo arrived in the club e-mail letterbox. You would have to admit that it all looks rather attractive at this time of the year. More info can be found here. <http://www.malekula.travel/maskelyne-islands-4-day-outrigger-canoe-adventure> Now if you do decide to give it a go, then we would love to have you along to present a Winter Lecture around about this time next year.

It's been hard work keeping the early morning kayak group satisfied. The lads are all so keen, that on some weekends, paddles have been programmed

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An easy landing for kayakers at the old Hobsonville flying boat base.



The Hudson bomber's remains are still visible in the mud some 70 years after it crashed.

for both days. Highlights for the month have included paddling up to view the wreckage of an old WWII bomber aircraft in the upper Waitemata Harbour. The last few metres of this mission involved wading in knee deep mud. The twin engined Lockheed Hudson meet its demise in 1943 on approach to Whenuapai Air Base. You can catch a glimpse of the wreckage out on the mud-flats as you drive down the Greenhithe Bridge. It looks a bit like a barnacle encrusted rock from a distance, but you would too if you sat around for that long.

On our way back down the harbour, we called into the old Hobsonville flying boat base for a cuppa. A farmers market-type enterprise is up and running in one of the old aircraft hangars just above the all tide ramp. This is the very same ramp that was used to haul out those magnificent old flying boats around maintenance time. It is a slippery ramp at low tide and a bit tricky around mid-tide when a strong tidal stream flows across it. Hobsonville is well worth a visit and don't forget to take a stroll out along the new ferry wharf. A fine photographic display of the region's history is exhibited here. Some of the lads wandered off to sample the tasty treats at the market whilst others enjoyed the ambiance of the historic precinct.

Later in the month we were over at the North Shore Bays. We were paddling up the coast towards the Okura Estuary. As a legacy of some wild winter weather earlier in the week, a bit of a swell was rolling into Long Bay. The lads always like to have a bit of fun in this type of scenario. The ever present

threat of a big set rearing up keeps the inshore paddler on edge. We all managed to stay upright and dry; well at least the visible parts were. It was then time to head off into the calmer waters of the estuary.

The big sand-spit midway up the estuary is an ideal cuppa stop. Whilst supping our tea and biscuits, a passing boatie called in. It was Mr Canoe and Kayak, Pete Townend, who had detoured over to say gidday. A guardian for Dacre Cottage just around the point, Pete had been out there to do the early morning chores; clean the loo and mow the grass etc. We chatted for a while on things kayaking. Pete is one of the good guys for all of us Auckland kayakers. He along with others like our former president Ian Calhaem, have spent countless hours negotiating with council officers on kayak related matters. The ever expanding coastal kayak trail is a splendid

example of success from these discussions. They have committed to a whole lot of unpaid work and expense, all for our benefit. We owe them both a big thank you for their on-going efforts.

Forumites are in for a treat next year when the big Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers Forum rolls into town. Scheduled for February 2015, the event will be based at the MERC in Long Bay. These sea kayak show and tell weekends fill up pretty fast, so first in. Cost and other details can be found on the KASK website. Whilst you are there, consider taking out a year's subscription to join KASK. A mere 35 dollars will get you in. As a bonus you will receive the best bi-monthly kayaking newsletter in the country. You are already reading the best monthly one.

Girls can do anything and Rosemary Gatland will be along to present our next Winter Lecture talk on Wednesday the 16th of July. Lester Miller penned an excellent article in last month's newsletter to preview the show. It's the usual format of meet at 7 pm for a 7 30 start. The venue is the waterside Marine Rescue Centre at the city end of Tamaki Drive. It's all good honest fun and a chance to catch up with club mates and make new friends. Brian Strid drove all the way in from the back blocks of Pukekohe for last month's excellent talk. Whilst he was receiving a pat on the back for his efforts, Adrian Davis from Thames strolled past with a steaming hot cuppa and a chocolate biscuit or two. See you there.

Roger

Upcoming Trips and Events

Sunday 20th July

Wenderholm to the Puhoi Pub

Meet at the ramp at Wenderholm Regional Park. Paddle with the incoming tide to the historic Puhoi Pub for lunch (yum). Then back to vehicles with outgoing tide.

Please phone John Hotham on 48 21417

Saturday 26th/Sunday 27th July

Kohi to Rangitoto

Join Philip for an easy paddle to Rangitoto and a walk to the summit for great views.

Bring tea/lunch and walking shoes.

This is a weather dependent trip.

Phone Philip Noble on Thursday night for further details on 575 3493

Sunday 10th August

Matakatia Bay to Tindalls Bay

Leaving Matakatia Bay and paddling anticlockwise the Whangaparaoa Peninsula to Tindalls Bay. It is a 600m walk back to fetch the cars at Matakatia Bay. Bring lunch. This paddle is suitable for intermediate or advanced paddlers.

Please phone Owen Sprosen on 444 9309 for further details.

Sunday 17th August

Charcoal Bay, Beach Haven to Albany Village

Launching at Charcoal Bay, paddle with the incoming tide up the Lucas Creek to lunch stop in Albany. Back to vehicles with the outgoing tide!

Please phone John Hotham on 482 1417

Sunday 31st August

Cockle Bay to Whitford Return

Join Kevin on this scenic trip leaving from Cockle Bay for coffee/lunch at a local café in Whitford.

Please phone Kevin Sargent on 536 6308

Sunday 14th September

St Heliers to Browns Island

Join Philip for this easy paddle to Crater Bay. Bring lunch and walking shoes.

This paddle is suitable for novices wanting to do some open water paddling. This trip is weather dependent, with fall back trip a paddle up the Tamaki Estuary.

Please phone Philip Noble Thursday night on 575 3493

Sunday 30th November

A pleasing inner harbour ramble

Starting from Devonport, cruising past the Naval Base, under the bridge. Lunch stop and further course details by consensus on the day!

Please phone John Hotham on 482 1417