



August 2014

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*A mid-winter picnic overlooking the Manukau Harbour entrance.
See page 4 for the full story.*

PHOTO COLIN QUILTER

Auckland Canoe Club Information

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P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

Clubrooms

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

Website

<http://www.aucklandcanoecub.org.nz>

Officers

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<i>President</i>	Philip Noble	575 3493
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<i>Treasurer</i>	Matthew Crozier	817 1984
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(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 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>



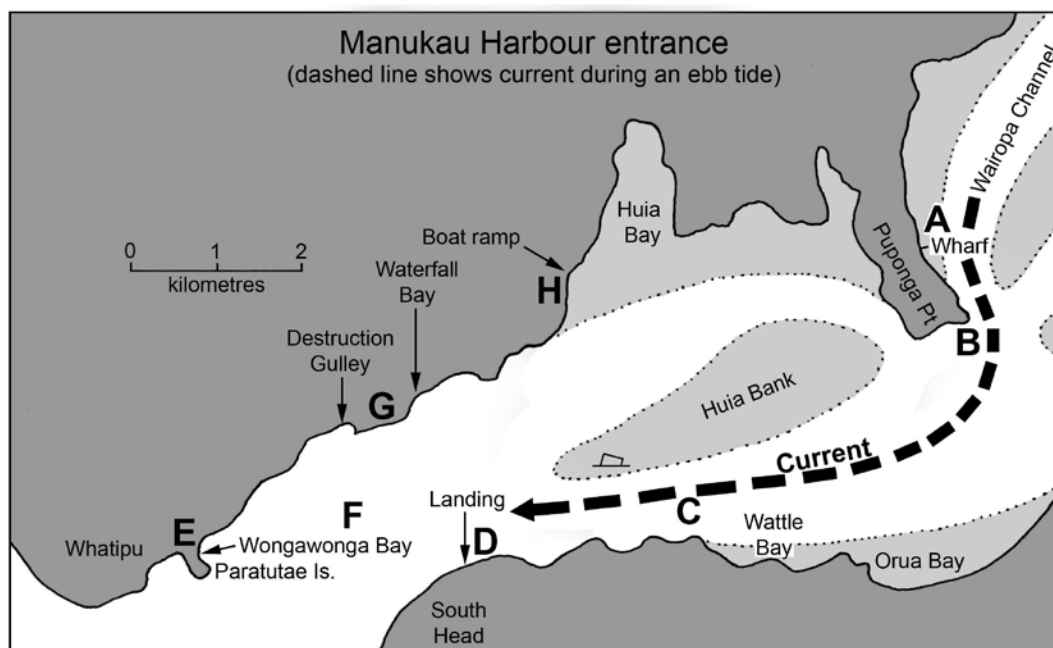
Deadline for Next Newsletter

15 August 2014

Manukau Harbour entrance

Colin Quilter

On 22 June thirteen club members enjoyed a mid-winter paddle out to South Head at the entrance to the Manukau Harbour. This is a place we have visited many times before. It is a trip of unexpected pleasures because although the harbour entrance is almost within sight of the city, it is wild and seldom-visited; and although the trip out there by kayak looks intimidating, it usually turns out to be an easy paddle well within the reach of intermediate paddlers. Here are some notes about the trip which might be helpful to others who want to repeat it. Letters A–H refer to points on the map, (which shows the harbour during an ebb tide). Photographs were all taken on 22 June.



A The usual start-point is at Cornwallis Wharf. There is a boat ramp, parking and toilets. Choose your day and time carefully! Most trips on the Manukau are timed to coincide with high tide; this one is the opposite, and you should aim to reach South Head at low tide. In that case the ebb tide will carry you out, and the flood tide will bring you home. The distance out to South Head is about 8km, which (with tidal assistance) will take less than an hour to paddle.

B Puponga Point. This peninsula deflects the tidal flow. The outgoing tidal stream runs down the eastern side of the peninsula, then flows southward like a river (dashed line) across the main body of the harbour towards Orua Bay. The stream of fast-moving water is easy to recognize because it is a narrow lane of rough water, with calm (slow-moving) water on each side. If you want a quick trip, stay in the fast lane! This short section across the harbour will probably be the roughest part; once you are across in the shelter of the hills backing Orua and Wattle Bays, conditions will be much calmer.

C In the main channel, heading west, with the Huia Bank (invisible, about 4-7m depth) forming the northern edge of the channel. In this part of the channel (according to the marine chart) the current runs at 3.5 knots (6.5km/hr) at mid-ebb on a spring tide, and 1.6 knots (3km/hr) at neaps. I don't know of any other place around Auckland or Northland where the tidal stream is as swift as it is here. On our club trips we usually cruise at about 3.5 knots, so a kayaker paddling with this current (at springs) would travel at twice the normal speed; and a kayaker meeting the current head-on would be brought to a stand-still.

One story will illustrate the speed of the current. The western end of the Huia Bank is marked by a red (port-hand) can buoy (shown on the map). With several knots of current running, this buoy will have a foaming bow-wave like a ship, and a wake streaming behind it. On a trip many years ago, we were paddling westwards towards South Head, and approaching the buoy at a closing speed of perhaps 5 knots. I warned Rona, who was paddling alongside me, "Be careful or that buoy will run you over." She looked at me as though I was crazy, but then realized that the big metal can was racing towards us with an audible rumble from its breaking bow wave. We dodged to one side just in time.

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Manukau Harbour entrance

Continued from page 4

(A note about tides on the Manukau Harbour. Spring tides occur at fortnightly intervals, at the time of full and new moon. At those times, high water always occurs at or near mid-day and midnight. Neap tides occur when the moon is in its first quarter or third quarter, and high water will always occur at or near 6am and 6pm. To visit the Manukau Heads you will probably choose a day when high tide occurs at about 6am, because you want low tide to occur at mid-day when you are at the harbour entrance. In that case your trip will coincide with neap tides, and the ebb and flood tidal streams will only flow at about half the rate which they attain at springs. Don't worry, they will be fast enough!)

D The landing spot below South Head. Although not marked on a map, this little sandy cove is a constant feature, and always gives a sheltered landing. Don't get swept past it by the current!



Our landing below South Head is always at this sheltered sandy cove. However at the water's edge the beach drops steeply into deep water, so care is needed when landing.

Once ashore, several options are possible. In the past we have usually scrambled up a track which leads steeply up towards the South Head lighthouse. There's a picnic spot on a grassy ledge half-way up with sun, protection from the wind, and a wonderful view out across the breakers of the Manukau Bar; (however this year we found the bottom section of the track washed away due to recent erosion, and had to settle for a picnic spot much lower down). If you can reach the top of the hill, it is possible to walk southwest along the cliff-edge for a kilometre or so, with great views. You can then regain the beach by a steep descent to the west which involves jumping a small but vertical drop ("Rona's Leap") part-way down. Walking back along the beach will return you to the kayaks. I would allow about 3 hours for lunch plus the walk, so you would need to reach the landing cove about 1.5hr before low tide, and plan to leave it 1.5hr after low tide.



Jodie and Rosie crossing the main channel towards Destruction Gully. The swell always rolls in here from the west, especially during the flood tide.

E Wongawonga Bay, near Whatipu. An alternative destination at the harbour entrance. The bay is named after the steamer *Wongawonga*, which played a part in rescuing survivors of the *Orpheus* shipwreck in 1863. The bay is sheltered by Paratutae Island, (now joined to the mainland by a sandy spit, and no longer an island). Take care landing here. The bay is always deceptively tranquil, but small swells surge onto the sand with some force. It's easy to take an unexpected swim when landing or launching. Once ashore you can follow the path (10 min.) towards the carpark behind the beach, then another track (30 min.) which climbs a hill east of the carpark for wide views towards South Head, and out across the bar.



Eric paddling along the northern edge of the main channel near Waterfall Bay.

Seaward of Paratutae Island there be dragons. The main shipping channel (Middle Deep) leads due west, with breaking banks along its southern edge. In 1998, on a spring low tide in calm weather, four of us landed on the shallowest part of these banks, out in the ocean nearly 4km west of South Head. The banks never dry; we found ourselves standing in calf-deep water with waves approaching from both sides. The so-called North Channel which swings around to follow the beach north towards Karekare is impassable; its northern end is always closed off by surf.

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Manukau Harbour entrance

Continued from page 5

F Main channel. Conditions here vary with the state of tide. On an outgoing tide the main channel will be calm, (assuming there is no wind). However when the tide turns and begins to run inwards, then the main channel can get suddenly, and dramatically, rougher. If you compare the channel to a river, the explanation is obvious. The Manukau Bar, several kilometres to the west, acts like shallow rapids in a river. Upstream of rapids a river is always calm; downstream of rapids it is rough. A kayaker in the main channel between South Head and Whatipu is upstream of the “rapids” during an outgoing tide, and downstream of the “rapids” during an incoming tide.



Kevin and Karen in their venerable wooden Sea Bear double, (one of three plywood Sea Bears on this trip).

So you should expect the main channel to be rougher during the return trip from South Head to Cornwallis than it was during the outward leg. But this will seldom be a problem, because there is usually some wind from the southwest, blowing in the same direction as the current, and this will minimize the sea state.

G Destruction Gulley and Waterfall Bay. Worth visiting to spot seals hauled out on the rocks, but no easy landing at either place.

H Little Huia, where there is a beach and boat ramp. An alternative launching point for a trip to the harbour entrance. If, with an outgoing tide, you want to cross the harbour from here to the cove below South Head, make sure to allow for the distance the tidal current will carry you westward, as you cross. Don't get carried beyond the cove and out to sea through the South Channel!



Our party approaching the Cornwallis Wharf on the return trip. It's proof that kayak trips can be had in calm, sunny conditions even in mid-winter.

Winter Lecture Series

Hunua Kokako Recovery Project

Presented by Rosemary Gatland

Come along to the third Auckland Canoe Club Winter Lecture for 2014

Wednesday August 20 at the Marine Rescue Centre, Tamaki Drive

7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the Hunua Kokako Recovery Project which I have been involved with since 1996 and with which several other club members are also involved.

The first few minutes will be about kokako behaviour and will include some close-up video clips of kokako moving about feeding in the trees.

There is also a video clip taken with a camera above the nest of adults feeding the chicks.

The rest of the presentation follows the project through from its beginning, with only one breeding pair left, to the present day, where the birds are now spreading outside the Management Area, and being reported in other areas of the Hunuas.

Upcoming Trips and Events

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

FIORDLAND 1955

Jim Mason



Anita Bay was known around the world with sealers and whalers. A tiny islet just off shore was New Zealand's first Post Office. Ships would leave their mail for the next visitor to take it back to England.

In January 1955 we headed back into Milford Sound with our greenstone souvenirs. Between the boulders on the beach we found polished pendants of tangiwai, the clear greenstone. It is said that there is a block of greenstone down the coast large enough to carve a coffin for Queen Victoria, but she didn't want one!

Before leaving Milford there is an interesting short climb to the top of Bowen Falls. The view is spectacular.

At the foot of the falls is Cemetery Point, a grassy promontory where one of our parties camped before running down the Sound to Anita Bay. Two days later they returned in rain and darkness and camped on that same spot. The rain got heavier. It fell in sheets and soon the ground was awash along with the tent floors. We tried to make an island of packs to keep dry on it. The rain got even heavier!

No one could listen to Colin's narrative of his Fiordland adventure without feeling tempted to repeat it. We had tried to do the same thing 60 years ago but a sample of the Tasman white caps off St Ann's light quickly cancelled that.

Colin is a highly experienced canoeist travelling alone. It was a very different decision for a large party in the early days of our club. We had an alternative if the weather packed up, a 200 mile inland waterway from the Milford road to Tuatapere on the Southland Coast.

We were sad to leave Anita Bay. The shipwrecked seamen's cabin had become our home. A long table served for a New Year dinner and we even had some decorations.

A hermit gardener had built a stone cabin in the bay where he grew vegetables for the hotel. DoC has now imported a stone mason from U.K. to rebuild the cabin, but without a roof in case it was used in an earthquake! We should donate a large tarpaulin to make it habitable.

Daylight finally dawned. We looked out and saw a clear blue sky. No sign of rain. We had camped under the waterfall!

Ahead of us lay 200 miles of rivers and lakes. No one knew if they were canoeable. We decided to launch on the Eglinton beside the Milford Road. A smooth run led into a short gorge before lake Te Anau. The gorge was spectacular with vertical rock walls and overhanging trees. We could then cruise down the lake to Te Anau Downs Station where we hoped to do some deer stalking.

Leaving our canoes in a delightful sheltered cove, armed with our trusty ex-army 303 rifle, three of us headed inland through the marshes.

Finally we found a target. A fine stag with a good head of antlers, 12 points. A shot and it was ours. But what can you do with a big deer with darkness rapidly approaching as it does in the South.

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We skinned it, trophied the head and took a big forequarter, enough for the whole party for the rest of the trip and headed off to retrace our route through the marshes as darkness fell.

The sullen black pools of the marsh looked ever more threatening. We decided to select a rush islet and the three of us wrapped up in the deer skin and tried to sleep.

From Te Anau Downs it was a pleasant cruise down the lake. Fresh provisions at the township and then on to the Waiau River as it dropped to Lake Manapouri.

The Waiau is reputedly our fastest river with an average flow of four knots. But before we tackled the river we decided to enjoy the lake. Paul Souter, and Andrea, Auckland Canoe Club members, later won a Government ballot for a block of land there, where they settled by the Lake.

At the outlet the two Morrell brothers ran their old homestead as a boarding house. They had also built a log cabin a few miles away at the Southern head of Hope Arm. It proved irresistible. We stayed there for two nights. This allowed time to climb the Monument Hill and survey the outlet arm to the East. We spotted what looked like an easy portage that would save miles of paddling. It did, but out from under the warm spray covers of the canoes, we nearly froze.

From the Manapouri outlet the Waiau sped on. It was a big river with no rapids of concern. We passed Cliffden perched above limestone cliffs and its historic bridge, now being restored by the Historic Places Trust. It opened a huge area of Western Southland to vehicular traffic. Just below it, on the true right bank, was the hydro power station.

All too soon, Tuatapere Bridge appeared. This was the Southern railhead where we folded the canoe fleet and headed home. Mission accomplished.



We had greatly enjoyed the inland waterway and it cost nothing to get our canoes out! Don't take any risks on the Fiordland coast. Rescue choppers are very expensive.

We did not shave for the month over Christmas and encouraged a good beard. As we unloaded at Newmarket Station a child pointed to me and said "Look Mummy. There's Jesus!".

The antlers are still in our collectables.

Poet's Corner

*Plunging into the middle of summer
Where breezes over the icebergs
Keep the temperature
To a nice Auckland day
If you're lucky
In Canada's oldest
And most Eastern city
I consider the possibilities
Of paddling this wild*

*And rocky coast
Not all that far from
The home of the paddle and roll
Greenland
But just for the moment
Here in old St John's
Water Street downtown
Is the closest I get
To being wet.*

Mike Randall

Last month's Winter Lecture on kayak adventures at Stewart Island was a treat for all the attendees. As with most of these inspirational talks, there were many useful ideas to be garnered during the evening. At the July event, during question time, we got around to discussing the pros and cons of kayak hire when one is a long way from home. It has been difficult in the past for some of our explorers to hire single kayaks. This was largely due to the safety and legal constraints imposed upon the kayak hirer. Colin reminded us all of a simple solution. Arrange to buy the kayak from the hire outfit. This is done on the basis that the seller will buy it back from you on completion of your little adventure. With financial adjustments to cover the "hire" period agreed upon, everyone is happy.

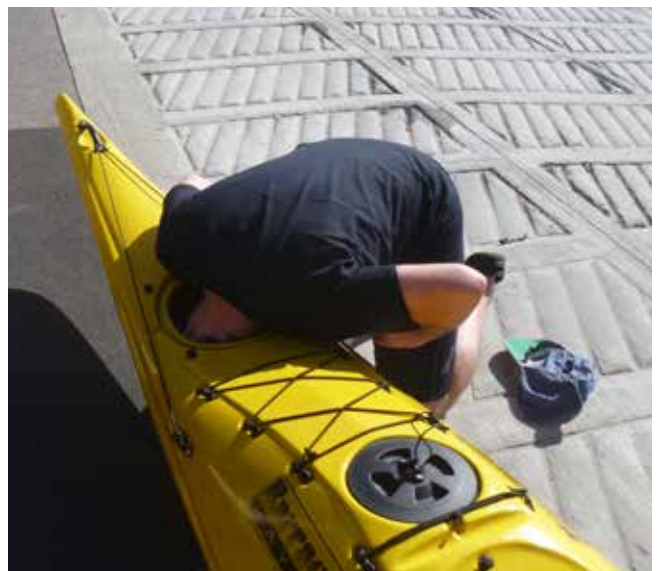
We have our own club hire fleet which is available for members to use. One should remember that our own insurance and legal liability only covers financial members. A family membership will cover all named family members and is currently a mere five dollars more than an individual membership. Non-members should not be using our club hire fleet. Recent reports from concerned members indicate that a few individuals have been booking out the club hire fleet to their non-member friends on a regular basis. Come on folks, a club membership cost a meagre thirty dollars. Ferg's Kayaks immediately next door to our club locker is the appropriate place for public hire. Membership has its privileges.

An avid early morning club kayaker was solo paddling up the northern side of Motutapu Island a couple of weeks ago. It had been a while since he had been up that way and he was enjoying the tranquil conditions on that sunny Sunday morning. Approaching Administration Bay, his keen eye spotted something that was a bit different. The barrack accommodation buildings, a legacy of the army era, looked as if they had been re-roofed recently. Being a man in the trade, he closed in for a better view. The new roof was actually a vast array of solar-electric energy panels. The Administration Bay Outdoor Education Centre now has New Zealand's largest off grid photovoltaic energy system. Some years ago Admin. Bay was a regular venue for club away weekends. A hefty diesel generator supplied the power back then. It was a fantastic facility for winter paddlers. It boasted: a large warm friendly kitchen dining area with magnificent Gulf views, hot showers and cosy bunk rooms. But best of all was the massive drying room. It was here that we strung up all our soggy wet kayak gear to dry to toasty warm for the next day's paddling. All that wonderful warmth was courtesy of the big diesel's cooling system.

It must be heartening for the good souls who have put their hands up to organise and lead trips for club members. During the winter months some of us can be a bit fickle as fair weather participants. Auckland Canoe Club members have however rallied to the call. Attendance numbers have been strong on just about all of our organised events. A little bit of liaison or influence with the weather gods by the leaders may have helped.

Coffee Cruiser regulars Suzanne Johnston and Lester Miller arrived back at Okahu Bay some fifteen minutes behind the vanguard of the group recently. An anonymous male, when asked of his female paddling companion's whereabouts, replied "Well you know what women are like. When they start talking, they have to stop paddling."

Sparkling in the sunshine down at Okahu Bay recently was a brace of brand new Barracuda sea kayaks. These were two of the new Interface models, finally out on public display. A few club members were quick to accept the offer of a test paddle and gave it the thumbs up. They are a little bit different from your everyday sea kayak in many ways. Probably the most striking feature of the Interface is its wind cheating shape. The very distinctive deck style will also make the new craft extremely easy to Eskimo roll. Another feature that is quite unique to the Interface is that it comes in three volume sizes: small, just right and large. Perhaps we should call it Goldilocks.



Matt Crozier gives the new Barracuda Interface a low level inspection.

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Whilst the paddling programme of the club is active and well attended, Vine House is stagnant. No it's not another infamous episode of decomposing rat's carcasses being discovered in the water tank again. Some of our members are still traumatised by the thought of all the rodent genes that they ingested back then. And spare a thought for those poor vegans. The intensive liver cleansing took weeks. No, it's just a plain old lack of attendance that's leached in now. On many weekends the numbers are down to just two or three. There have even been a few occasions when the sole occupant is Vine House stalwart Matt Crozier. It was a somewhat contentious issue when the club became involved in the Vine House arrangement all those years ago. We well remember those keen advocates pledging their undying support. It would appear that they have all curled up their tails to hibernate, or scuttled away to find a warmer hidey hole. Perhaps now it's time to rethink how the club could make better use of this facility.



A month of wet weather gave us a feeling of Milford on the Manukau.

Scattered around our two magnificent harbours are a multitude of Auckland Council parks. Most of these are kayaker friendly. They have convenient facilities including launch ramps, flash new toilets, drinking water and shelter. Many also have gas barbecue hotplates for picnickers to use. Peter Sommerhalder called into one of these splendid parks recently with a club cruise group. It was lunch time. Soon Peter and the paddlers were tucking into their tea and sandwiches. One club member couldn't help but notice another luncheon party in progress nearby.

It was a band of homeless swagman type characters cooking up their Sunday special on one of the free council barbecues. Now that sounds like a great idea for the next lunch stop on club paddles.

The early morning kayak group has been active as ever. The lads have been out on a few wild weekends in recent weeks. We are just so lucky to be Auckland based paddlers. Even in extreme conditions, there is always a sheltered and safe shore to paddle along. We are just spoilt rotten for choice. Highlights of our paddles in recent weeks have included: paddling amongst a profusion of waterfalls along a rain drenched Manukau coast, and groping our way down the upper Waitemata on a foggy Saturday morning. True, temperatures were a bit brisk on some mornings, but with the right paddling gear on, spirits remained high.



Salthouse Boatyard slipway at Lucas Creek now has a pontoon for rowers (and kayakers) to launch from. Perfect on a cold foggy morning.

This month's Winter Lecture involves something that is dear to the hearts of quite a few of our club members. (See the promo on page 7.) Many of us have been to Tiri Tiri Island or deep into the forest in search of these elusive creatures. Rosemary Gatland and the forest ladies will be along for another inspirational show. A few rumbles of discontent from tardy non attendants were voiced recently. This was because the Winter Series had not been properly promoted on the club website and they had missed out. Point taken and remedied with action, but just remember that you read it first right here.

See you there.

Roger