



September 2014

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Sunrise at Okahu Bay boat ramp.

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>

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<i>Publicity</i>	Roger Lomas	846 6799
<i>Storage/kayaks</i>	Gavin Baker	528 5188
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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>



**Deadline for
Next Newsletter**

15 September 2014

DESTRUCTION GULLEY 1955

Jim Mason

I was very pleased to see Destruction Gulley mentioned on the Manukau map in the last newsletter. It brought back fond memories. My class mates would spend a week there waiting for their exam results to appear in the Herald.

The two beacons with their high white trellises and small light port windows guided boats through the South passage of the Manukau bar. The lower beacon could be moved sideways as the South channel shifted.

Silting in the South channel led to them being abandoned and the keepers house removed. With no road access it was serviced by boat. A cliff side track leads to a point where a flying fox could link with the supply vessel.

In 1950, when the historic Wanganui cruise led us to form the New Zealand Canoeing Association, we were looking for joint projects to undertake with the Y.H.A. As Regional Chair of the Y.H.A. and N.Z.C.A. Chair, I had a large labour force available. We decided to build a chain of overnight cabins for our cruising parties. The beacons were our first choice.

A big rubber dinghy, piled high with roofing iron and wire mattresses, accompanied by a fleet of canoes, left Cornwallis wharf to round Puponga Point and head West for the task of re-roofing the lower beacon.

The beacons were heavily built with a room about 4m square supporting a trellised marker about 20ft high. They had a small window for a navigation light and a timber planked door for security. The lower beacon had a plank missing off its door.

More recently the lower beacon must have blown over and been removed. The South channel still gets some use so it was replaced with a metal marker. The top one hides in the bush about 100 yards from the beach, but its tower will still show from seaward.

My ambulance driver lives nearby and knows the area well. I asked him if the top beacon had been vandalised. He said he didn't go there often. "They were too spooky".

A strange thing did happen on our restoration visit. I went ahead of the party and landed on the beach at half tide. Lying there half way up the beach was a plank. It looked about the size of the missing door plank. Its paint was worn thin and all the corners were ground away from drifting around the harbour. I tried it on the door. Every nail hole matched the gap on the door. It had come back to be restored!

The beacons made ideal cabins. They were immensely strong and their high stud let two double

wire woves be stretched under the gable so 5 or 6 could sleep there and still keep the floor clear. Destruction Gulley became a popular destination with the caves and attractions of Whatipu nearby.

WHAT OF THE BEACONS TODAY?

We bought an old boatshed at Onehunga as a base for our trips around the Manukau. The shed has long since gone but the Cornwallis wharf is an ideal launching point for trips to Destruction Gulley. An expedition to search for the cabin would be great for a winter trip.

But don't open a track in, or clear around the building. That would encourage vandals on the ridge track from the Whatipu road which joins the valley stream almost opposite the hiding cabin. Keep it hidden until we can show it some t.l.c.

I don't think our driver's comment that they are "too spooky" will scare anyone off!



The upper beacon from seaward at Destruction Gulley 1955. Can anyone find it?

I was not on the last club trip to South Head on the Manukau Harbour entrance. However reading Colin's notes explained to me many "mysterious happenings" which occurred when I paddled in that area in January this year.

We had the privilege of hosting Tara Mulvany for about five days during her circumnavigation of the North Island earlier this year. Heading north up the West Coast, Tara took shelter in the Manukau Harbour, landing in Foster Bay, Huia. Her road map stopped there, as she had to concentrate on coastal details. When the weather improved, I volunteered to escort Tara on the Manukau, as I was familiar with the area near Whatipu and had been to South Head on club trips. We launched in the dark at Foster Bay at High Tide, 6am. Within 20 minutes we had daylight and paddled along on a smooth sea. Tara and I chatted away, confident that conditions to cross the Manukau Bar were going to be favourable. The plan for me was to turn around well before the harbour entrance, and leave the hazards of the Manukau Bar for Tara to sort out. Paratutae Island on our right grew bigger rather quickly, and so did the butterflies in my stomach. Yet we still felt that the sea conditions around us were excellent for our adventure. When level with Paratutae Island I decided it was high time to turn back, before getting too close to the bar. It was a quick shouting good by and wishing Tara good luck on her way north. Then we were alone on our separate ways.

I was now facing "upstream", paddling hard against an outgoing tide. On my left was the rugged coast of Paratutae, with a few fishermen on the rocks. I barely noticed them, as I found myself surfing down standing waves, with my front deck buried almost to the cockpit at times. It took all my strength to fight the tide rushing out, but I did make headway slowly. I kept as close as possible to the rocky shore, to avoid the force of the current. Aiming for Wongawonga Bay and then Destruction Gulley, the waves got smoother and the current eased off. I followed the shore eddy hopping and eventually arrived back at Foster Bay.

About three days later we received an email from Tara. Clear over the bar she had turned north way off shore and landed early afternoon on Muriwai Beach, as planned. Over the following weeks Tara had more challenges to overcome at the Kaipara Harbour entrance and when approaching Cape Reinga.

Here are my conclusions after reading Colin's notes

Tara wanted to launch at high tide making use of the outgoing tide over the bar. The aim was to cross soon after high tide. We launched from Foster Bay at high tide (6am), about one hour's paddling away from the bar. As Colin states it was a smooth ride at reasonable speed helped by a flow of 3km/hr because of neap tide. We progressed effortlessly towards the harbour entrance, chatting away in the belief that we picked a day with perfect conditions for Tara's crossing. Only once I turned around alongside Paratutae Island to head home again it became apparent to me that I was in for a hard paddle. I now was riding the white water "below the rapid", rapid meaning in this case the Manukau bar behind me. I was surfing one meter high steep standing waves with the current racing towards me. I kept close to the rocky shore on my left and clawed my way towards Wongawonga Bay. Then heading for Destruction Gully the channel became wider and conditions improved markedly. But facing mid-tide by now, the water flow was still considerable. However I landed back safely at Foster Bay mid-morning.

But how about Tara? I can only gauge her progress by some comments on her blog. We discussed the North Channel which looks safe, but is not. Tara actually made landfall somewhere near Whatipu and climbed a hill to get a good look over the Manukau bar. Back in her kayak and on water level, she was unable to find the channel she wanted to use. The clashing waves around her prevented a good view of the situation. Her option was to keep heading out. Paddling amongst house-sized waves for "a very long time" caused her to remark that the Manukau Bar was her most difficult time ever in a kayak. Tara had just successfully circumnavigated the South Island in winter, and is an experienced white water paddler. She then headed north and around mid-day surfed into Muriwai Beach as planned. In an email she enquired to find out if I made it back safely.

So this is how Colin explained the "mysterious happenings" around us. I must also explain that I do not have salt in my veins. I was not brought up on a beach and was about 19 years old when first swimming in the sea and tasting salt water. My upbringing was hiking in the Swiss mountains and paddling rivers and white water. But slowly I learn about the tides, and I enjoy sea kayaking immensely. I look forward to many more trips with Colin and my paddling buddies, instead of climbing mountains.

See photo of Tara on page 9.

Kayak Pilgrimage – 2nd and 3rd March to pay tribute to Canoe Designer and Visionary, Ron Augustin

John Hotham



With plywood profiles and duct tape and after much trialling, the single Sea Bear was produced as a plywood stitch and tape kitset. John and Colin each got one of the original five kitsets cut out by Ron but which one was on the water first has been lost in the antiquities of time!

Double Sea Bears followed and finally by customer demand many variations were produced in fibreglass and advanced materials. Many major tourism operators run Sea Bears in their fleets. The Sea Bear Packhorse is a major player in the Able Tasman fleets.

Ron formed a company to produce and market his kayaks called Paddling Perfection and more than 800 kayaks have been produced.

The manager of Paddling Perfection, Carol Kuper exports Ron's designs all over the world.

This trip was organised by myself and Peter Sommerhalder. Among the 47 participants a number were from the Auckland Canoe Club, including Colin Quilter, Linda Frey and Su Sommerhalder who did a wonderful job on the barbecue and in the hot soup department. Of course Ron and Nancy were themselves Auckland Canoe Club members from the 1980s and they gave lectures with Peter Sommerhalder at Mechanics Bay.

In 1984 Ron Augustin decided it was time to design and produce a safe and serious sea kayak.

On the 'Canoe Pilgrimage' 47 canoeists, many from Auckland Canoe Club paddled 35 of Ron's creations from the Point Chevalier Yacht Club, alongside the western motorway, up the Whau Creek to Archibald Park which is next to Ron and Nancy Augustin's home Kelston. A photographic plaque was presented to Ron by Carol Kuper recognising Ron's major contribution to see kayaking in New Zealand.

So many wonderful kayak adventures were recounted by those present, thank you Ron.

So many wonderful kayak adventures were recounted by those present, thank you Ron.



John, Ron and Peter (where did all the grey hair come from?).



Su hard at it, she had some topless customers to contend with.

Rangitoto Trip – July 2014

Sue Noble



Rangitoto is such an iconic feature of Auckland – visible from so many beaches. The different views are hardly distinguishable, if one does not notice the subtle changes in the shape of the crater rim depending on the vantage point. It is always surprising to come across Aucklanders who have lived in the city all of their lives, yet never visited this very special island.

As kayakers we are fortunate to have such easy access, and one never tires of paddling across for another visit to the summit or a circumnavigation of the island.

In the last weekend of July, a group of us met for a club trip led by Philip Noble on a calm day typical of a number of Auckland winter days. It was great to welcome some new faces on the paddle as well as the usual stalwarts and we set off with Rona, Owen, Mike, Judith, Linda, Kathryn, Rolf, Neil, Lester, Sue and Philip.

The forecast was for possible showers, which fortunately did not eventuate, and for the wind to pick up in the late afternoon. The day was in fact clear and after a pleasant paddle across in perfect conditions, we pulled the boats onto the small “beach” past the ramp and after a quick cuppa, changed into dry shoes and set off for the summit. The vegetation continues to flourish around the path



to the top, and over the years the path has gained more and more shade. Odd trees have sprung up in the midst of the huge areas of lava flows which have typified the walk on the lower slopes, and one wonders how many years it will be before they are swallowed up by vegetation. It is good to appreciate the evidence of the awesome power of this volcanic event to the landscape. We also enjoyed seeing the kidney ferns plumped up and shiny in the moist conditions – they are so often shrivelled and dry when there has been little rain. The shade makes it a pleasant walk and, on the way up, we were fortunate enough to watch a couple of saddlebacks close to the path.



The view from the top was, as always, panoramic and time spent in the sun gave a welcome break in the day.

After returning to wharf for lunch we found our boats were now stranded high above the low tide, with a large area of not so pleasant mud in between boats and sea. We enjoyed lunch on the deck alongside the old tidal pool, before carrying the boats to the ramp which allowed an easy launch for our return trip and we were soon back on the water.

Conditions were less calm than on our trip over in the morning and we faced something of a slog against a headwind that had picked up during our walk. It was an admirable achievement for one of the paddlers who had not paddled much previously to persevere, despite the conditions, and make it back to the beach entirely under her own steam. All in all a good day out.



Charcoal Bay, Beach Haven to Albany – Sunday, 17th August

John Hotham

After a nice warm up carrying our canoes down to charming Charcoal Bay (named number two in Auckland's 10 best kept secret beaches), our party of 10 followed the attractive coastline towards Albany.

Graham Ward who had never paddled before and Neil Hellerman who could hardly fit his long legs into the rear cockpit of a double Sea Bear, lead the way.

There were many interesting houses to view in amongst the trees as we passed. The Sunday morning markets at Hobsonville were in full swing, but we resisted dropping in for a coffee! Under the Greenhithe bridge then a right turn into the Lucas Creek.



PHOTO SUE NOBLE

The waterfront houses at Greenhithe slipped by. With virtually no wind and with high tide approaching we cruised up to Albany with everybody in good spirits. We paddled past the lunch stop to go the extra 400 m to the waterfall below the pub to find that you now

cannot reach it. A very large tree, which on the last trip about a year ago, you could just paddle under, has now settled to water level and is impassible.

Never mind more time for lunch! Landing is not ideal here so everybody helped one another and out came the sandwiches cakes and Thermos flasks. Totally rested and revived and with the current now running quite nicely we were back on the water for a much easier trip home.



PHOTO SUE NOBLE

Almost like paddling down a river. Back at Charcoal Bay, chef Michelle had the hot muffins and coffee ready on the deck overlooking the Waitemata, a perfect end to a great day, thank you Auckland Canoe Club!

It is quite noticeable that with the improved trip notification system, we are getting good numbers out on these trips. Excellent!

Our group: Philip and Sue Noble, Jody Yates, Graham Ward, John Hotham (leader), Trevor Arthur, Neil Helermann, Gavin Baker, Rosie Thom and Linda Frey.

Poet's Corner

High up above Old St John's
Looking out to The Narrows
Nursing my coffee
The window of the museum cafe
Allows a spectacular view
Of the famous landmark Signal Hill
If it weren't for the thick fog
Common enough in these parts
The same fog that over the millennia
Beothuk would have encountered
And much later the Vikings
Those early people long gone
Replaced by the Irish and English
In recent centuries

Enduring hardship in this rocky
Windswept place
To be consoled by songs of home
Not much has changed
The hills and rocks remain
Cod still caught
Now oil rigs maintained
Tourists throng the streets
Icebergs and whales on the list
And it seems to me
Memories of the old days
Linger on in this small city
Dwarfed by the vastness
Of Newfoundland.

Mike Randall

Island Bay Wharf to Riverhead Pub – 22nd February

John Hotham



Linda Frey.

PHOTO SUE NOBLE

After launching from the wharf our group of four headed for a lunch stop at the Riverhead Pub.

The incoming tide swept us along to our morning tea spot at Clifford Park which is at the entrance to Paremoremo Creek. Auckland City Council have bought this wonderful headland farm and developed

it into a mountain biking area with trails around the property and also a children's course at the top and very nice facilities including a shower block.

Down by the water a very large *Macrocarpa* tree stump (12 m high) has been professionally carved and it will take your breath away. Dolphins, ships' prows, sea captains, various fish and animals stare down at you. Well worth a visit.

On to the pub which was full of people, most arriving on ferries. The pub has been refurbished to a very high standard. We enjoyed a bistro lunch under a large umbrella, and just as well as it started raining quite heavily. After a tasty lunch we took to the water again, the rain of course stopped on queue and the outgoing tide was just right to whisk us back to Island Bay. What a pleasant day.

Our group: Linda Frey, Peter Sommerhalder, Robert Barrack and John Hotham (leader).

It was during this trip the idea was born to do the canoe pilgrimage to the home of Ron and Nancy Augustin in the Whau Creek.



Tara Mulvany at Cape Reinga.

PHOTO TARA MULVANY

We have had a kind donation from a benevolent club member. A near new yellow Storm sea kayak is now part of our club hire fleet. Replacement craft were discussed at a recent committee meeting and the trusty Storm model was mentioned. A popular product from the Quality Kayaks range, the Storm ended its long production run a year or so ago when the Skua sea kayak arrived. The club already has one of the new Skua models. We also operate two ultra-light Barracuda Beachcomber singles and an Adventure Duo double. All of these kayaks are stored in our club locker at Okahu Bay and are available for members to hire.

It's important that members read and abide with our club hire and safety guidelines.

These are prominently displayed in the club locker, just above the hire register book.

Okahu Bay has been a popular place with the early morning kayak group lately. The lads have been launching down there quite a few times in the last couple of months. When there is a brisk South-Westerly wind blowing, the bay launch site is often preferred. Staying close to the southern shores, there are some good paddling options to enjoy both up and down the harbour. At journeys end, Okahu Bay has proved to be a great place to partake in that post paddle cuppa. It's rather nice sitting outside the club locker, sheltered from the Southerly and basking in the sunshine. We were able to catch up with quite a few of our fellow club mates as well. Some of us didn't want to go home. We just might have to consider purchasing a few more sun chairs for the club locker.

Our advertised club trips have been a real success story right through autumn and now the winter months as well. Some of our senior and most experienced club members have rallied to the call to organise and lead these events. On a recent outing, trip leader John Hotham had club members reaching for their maps when he designated Charcoal Bay as a launch site. Not many paddlers knew that one. Participants on that pleasant Sunday excursion up to Albany and



Shape up for summer workshop Okahu Bay. Peter Sommerhalder 3rd from right.

back will well remember the launch location. At the completion of the paddle, they were all invited back to the trip leader's hillside home for afternoon tea. From a deck overlooking the bay, they enjoyed freshly baked muffins with their cuppa. Well done Mr and Mrs H.

Also out leading the club trips and events last month were Owen Sprosen, President Phil and Peter Sommerhalder. The breeze picked up a tad for the last leg on a couple of the trips, but everyone managed to dig in and make it home under their own steam. Good character building stuff.

Peter held a half day shape up for summer workshop on the beach at Okahu Bay. In stunning late winter weather, an eclectic crowd of both newer and older members gathered to listen and learn from the master paddler.

It was a nostalgic sentimental moment for me last month. My trusty old sea kayak was laid up and is in semi-retirement now. Built twenty years ago by Gordon Robinson this sea kayak was the very first of the Barracuda craft and heralded the Discovery series. I have owned and paddled it for the last eighteen years. It has served me well and clocked up in excess of forty-five thousand kilometres of

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pure paddling pleasure. Essentially a wooden craft, but reinforced with Kevlar and fibre glass it has been one extra tough kayak. Over the years, it has had three major facelifts and has been used to trial many innovative ideas. Barracuda 1 is still in first class condition and will stay in reserve as a stand-by craft. Barracuda 3 is my new replacement kayak. It was one of the last of the Discovery models produced. Of Kevlar construction, it is over eight kilograms lighter than the original it replaces. Hopefully this new craft will enable me to keep up with the younger lads in their new ultra-light sea kayaks. If not, Barracuda 2 "The Bullet" might have to be deployed. Watch out lads.

Whilst on the subject of speedy things, we caught up with Racing Rona last month. Rona earned that title many years ago when we ran a series of winter sea kayak races down at Okahu Bay. These were low key events, and we all had heaps of fun participating in them. Rona was one of the regulars. Back then we all huffed and puffed our way out and around a ten kilometre course. There was always a spirited sprint to the finish line because the handicapper was watching and adducting. Racing Rona certainly had her fair share of time on the top tier of the victory podium. After all the pomp of the prize giving, we all tucked into a hearty barbecue breakfast of bacon and eggs. Rona is still huffing and puffing around the bays in her X Factor sea kayak, and even goes quite a bit further on a her bicycle. It's often a trek from Mission Bay to Mangere Airport and back via the long scenic route. Rona tags along with Colin, Mike and the Friday Wanderers team. She is certainly an inspiration to us all.

Our Winter Lecture Series is over for another year. Another big thank-you goes out to all the presenters. We already have most of the programme in place for next year's series, but if you would like to participate, then give me a call. Preference will always be given to our people.

The early morning dawn patrol has been launching from Castor Bay quite a lot lately. We have all but given up on the Takapuna ramp. Its parking areas are constantly clogged on the weekends now. Even with our very early starts, we are competing with the likes of; hoards of long distance ocean swimmers out training, waka paddlers, fishermen with fizz boats and those ever prevalent SUPs. Castor Bay is a quite backwater by comparison, and holds special memories for me. It was here some fifteen years ago that I encountered a genuine ancient mariner. He was bobbing gently about in an old plywood kayak

just off the beach. What really caught my attention was the sea-gull perched up on the deck near the bow. I tried to capture that magic moment with my camera, but alas it was not to be. The bird took flight. I paddled closer to apologise to the old timer, but he didn't mind at all. He joked that the blinky bird, which he had been feeding, was like a buzzard and probably waiting to eat him too. We engaged in a delightful ten minutes or so of kayak talk. The old boy confided to me that he was 94 years young. Now that's got to be hard to beat.

Whilst we are only just into September, President Phil is already talking of Christmas. He was busy forward thinking about the club Christmas party paddle. In the past, Browns Island, Watchman Island and Judges Bay have been venues that we have often used. Perhaps one of our more interesting ventures took place some years ago. This was a visit to a small rocky reef just off the Bean Rock Lighthouse. It was a large flat outcrop, about half the size of a tennis court. The rock platform was awash at high tide, so careful planning picked a date when a low tide obliged. Mother Nature came to the party as well and in magnificent calm sunny conditions we scrambled ashore and set up our picnic. Everyone was having a thoroughly marvellous time and I snuck away in my kayak to take a photograph of the occasion. The novelty of the event was also attracting considerable attention from other passing boat traffic. That proved to be our undoing. The big Fullers Quick Cat ferry zoomed past for a close look too. It pushes up a tsunami sized bow wave which moves mighty fast. Our picnic party was engulfed by the surge. Everything was all at sea including most of the unmanned kayaks. I had only just managed to launch and missed that photo, but was quick to the rescue of the wayward kayaks. We haven't been back for a while.

Salt water on our cars is something we like to avoid. Most of us make an effort to clean our kayaks before loading them atop our vehicles after an ocean paddle. The early morning group has refined a simple speedy solution to the cleaning dilemma when hose power is not available. Most of the lads give their kayaks a good fresh water wash down with the assistance of a large watering can. A 15–20 litre plastic jerry can full of water is the other essential ingredient for this operation. Some of the lads are real die-hard regulars and can be found out on the waves over eighty times each year. With a good kayak wash down, their vehicles have all managed to avoid premature corrosion problems.

On the waterfront

Continued from page 11

Our most popular launch sites always seem to have a healthy growth of lush green grass as well.

At last month's committee meeting we got around to discussing summer trips and possible accommodation options. Vine House, up on the Mahurangi Coast is always available at the end of each month for club use. Trevor reported that demand was often high in the summer months and beds were limited to a prescribed comfortable level of around eight. It is advisable to book in advance here. Other options were talked about including a return to the fabulous Tiri Tiri Lighthouse Lodge. President Phil likes this place, and that probably reflects the thoughts of many others within the club. Bookings can be made online

for this lodge, but get in early or else. The Tiri Channel can whip up into rather nasty conditions, but a ferry option is often available. Holiday houses were also mentioned. We have used them many times before in winter, but the premium summer rates can be painful on the pocket.

However, when it comes to summer and kayaking, there is only one accommodation option that stands supreme. Camping and kayaking are synonymous. With a couple of new coastal campgrounds now operational, we can look forward to the summer paddling programme featuring lots of opportunities to indulge.

See you out there.

Roger



Roger's Barracuda fleet. Left to right B1 The original, B2 The Bullet, B3 The Kevlar Discovery. All kayaks are 5.8 metres long. B1 and B3 have a 520mm beam and the Bullet is 470mm and weighs 18kgs.

Upcoming Trips and Events

Sunday 7th September

Martins Bay to Kawau Island

Leaving from Martins Bay we'll catch the ebb tide for an approximate 8km openwater paddle to the south west of Kawau Island to visit either Mansion House or Bosteque Bay. If the weather is unsuitable there may be an alternate trip.

Please phone Will Henden on 09 550-3699 to register your interest and discuss the trip.

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 on Thursday night on 575-3493

Sunday 21st September

Cambridge–Hamilton Cruise/Race

This annual event will be held on September 21. Join the many "cruisers" in single sea kayaks, fight it out over the 23km with fast Multisport and Marathon racers in kayaks and on surfskis, or give it a go on a stand-up paddle board.

For details and entries go to www.theboatshed.net.nz/cambridge

Saturday 20th or Sunday 21st September

Please contact Philip if you are able to lead a trip to a favourite destination on one of these days.

Saturday 27th September

Slippery Creek to Drury

Join Rosemary Gatland for an interesting paddle up Slippery Creek to Drury, then return on the midday 4 metre ebb tide. This area is rich in abundant birdlife and we may be lucky enough to see the elusive spoonbills. Bring your camera, lunch and flask.

Contact Rosemary on 267-5087 for further details including departure place and time.

Sunday 12th October

Cockle Bay to Whitford

Join Kevin and Karon Sargent on this, rescheduled, scenic trip leaving from Cockle Bay for coffee/lunch or BYO at a local café in Whitford. Arrive at Cockle Bay Beach at 9:00 am and be on the water at 9:30. An easy paddle for all levels up the river with the tide, pull up on the lawn at the front of the Cafe and have a break / coffee. Sidetrip after with a short paddle up the river to the Golf Course and then back to Cockle Bay with the outgoing tide. Full tide at 11:00am. We will paddle over from Beachlands if anyone wants to join us.

This trip replaces the cancelled trip of 31st August.

Please phone Kevin or Karon on 536-6308 to register and discuss the trip.

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

Sunday 7th December

Christmas Party

Keep this date open for the Club Christmas Party.

Details and venue to follow.