



October 2014

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Early morning kayakers doing the Mangere Bridge circuit.

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

Auckland Canoe Club Information

Postal Address

P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

Clubrooms

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

Website

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

Officers

<i>Patron</i>	Jim Mason	
<i>President</i>	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 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 October 2014

Poet's Corner

*A brisk North East
Bright Spring day
Sparkling sea
Off Kohi Bay.*

*Tucked into my boat
An ageing bod
Dipping the blade
Years are shed.*

*Calm of mind
Ruffling sea
Into the wind
Spring to a tee.*

*Round the port mark
Keep on going
Cool airs in the face
A fair sea flowing.*

*Next day on the briny
Expecting some sun
Optimist always
Bad weather I shun.*

*A dull grey sea
Whitecaps abound
Afternoon sun
Not to be found.*

*Mist in the distance
Rain on the head
Springtime for certain
So it is said.*

*All that is needed
Is snow on the shore
For perfect Spring weather
Do we need more.*

Mike Randall

Master Swim Association 2014 / 2015 swim and swim escort details

The following are the dates and times for this season.

Kayakers need to ensure they are on the water 15 minutes before the start of each event.

Event	Date	Start time	High tide
Herne Bay	16 November 2014	2:30 pm ¹	3:18 pm
Chelsea	23 November 2014	7:30 am ²	8:43 am
Judges Bay	8 February 2015	10:30 am ³	11:22 am
Rangitoto	22 March 2015	7:45 am ⁴	9:42 am
10km Marathon Swim	26 April 2015	7:00 am ⁵	1:18 pm

1. Herne Bay swim runs from Herne Bay Beach to Masefield Beach via Watchmans Island. Kayaks launch at Masefield Beach at 1.30pm to paddle to Herne Bay for briefing at 2.10 pm.
2. Chelsea swim runs from Masefield Beach to the Chelsea Sugar refinery. Kayakers briefing at Masefield Beach beach at 7.10am.
3. We are swimming a Judges Bay circuit in lieu of the Bays swim due to conflicts with other events this year. Judges Bay is also the backup course for all the other short course events. Kayakers will paddle from Okahu Bay leaving 9.30 am. Briefing at Judges Bay at 10.10am.
4. The Rangitoto Swim runs from Rangitoto Island wharf to St Heliers Bay. Kayakers leave from St Heliers Bay beach at 6.15am to paddle to Rangitoto for briefing at 7.25am.
5. The marathon swim runs from Mairangi Bay to Devonport Reserve. Details to be advised.

On the waterfront

Roger Lomas

I enjoyed reading Jim Mason's excellent article on the beacons at Destruction Gully in last month's newsletter. It reminded me of an incident out there some sixteen years ago. I was with a club group paddling out to picnic at Paratutae Island near the northern entrance to the Manukau Harbour. We had launched at Cornwallis wharf and taken the longer scenic route, keeping close to the coast. Our reward for this little extra effort was immense.

Shortly after rounding Puponga Point, we called into the Kakamatua Inlet. On the ebbing tide we drifted across the sandy shallows of the inlet with the company of a large school of eagle rays. Further along the coast we paddled past a "daycare centre" for fur seal pups. They were all busy basking on the rocks in the spring sunshine. All too soon we were getting close to our landing at Wonga Wonga Bay in the shelter of Paratutae. I took leave of the group about here to visit Destruction Gully.

My intent was to make a quick shore excursion up the gully in search the beacons. I had read about these old redundant navigation aids in a lighthouse book borrowed from the library. With the tide well out, it was a rocky landing and the sea surge didn't help. It was not long before my enthusiasm for that mini expedition expired. Steep slippery slopes and inappropriate footwear soon turned me back.

My kayak felt much more comfortable and safer as I paddled away. Thoughts of a hot cuppa and lunch

spurred me along. It was now time to indulge in another passion, a need for speed. I always enjoy this sensation best when paddling close to the coast. Well here I was, at the narrow throat of the Manukau with the massive push of the ebb tide behind me. The rocky shore was at my paddle tip as I sped along the coast.

Soon I spied an offshore rock ahead. There was just enough of a gap for a skinny kayak if I timed it right with the sea surge. Suddenly the surge looked menacing and its powerful hydraulics elevated me upwards in a clapotic foaming frenzy. I was swept onto a rock ledge and only frantic brace strokes kept me upright. The sea surge washed away almost as quickly as it had arrived. I was left perched high and dry. Two lesser surges followed, but not enough to sweep me free. After awarding myself a well-earned pat on the back for staying upright in the melee, I fell out onto the rock ledge when releasing my spray skirt.

In assessing the situation, I found that I was now high and dry on a ledge one and a half metres above a now strangely tranquil sea. I could see our club picnic party away in the distance, no doubt tucking into something tasty for lunch. That was where I wanted to be too. Marooned on that elevated platform, with no easy access to launch, there was only one option. I threw the kayak off the ledge and leapt in after it. The early spring swim was rather brisk and encouraged a very quick re-entry. I was busy sponging the cockpit dry when one of my old



*The inside passage of Chelsea Wharf.
A storm is brewing in the distance – it will be a fast run home.*

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One of those magic cuppa stops out near the Wade River mouth. Dolphins cruised by as we supped.

mates, long time club member Noel Townsley paddled up alongside. He had been loitering behind the group taking photographs of the stunning sea-scape. Thankfully, he had just missed getting that beaut “silly old soggy sea kayaker” front page photo for the newsletter. As a postscript to this little tale. Jim Mason mentioned that his friend felt that Destruction Gully was a spooky place. Well it sure is. A couple of hundred years ago it was the site of a bloody massacre as utu was exacted during Maori tribal war.

Our early morning kayak group has been active as ever. We have dodged a weather bullet or two in the last month with the arrival of the wild equinox winds. Even when extreme weather conditions are forecast, we still manage to organise a safe outing. Our paddle alert system has a big part to play here. The call is left as late as possible and when all the essential ingredients for a good paddle are known: latest weather, tides and attendees, a suitable venue is decided upon. A simple text alert is then sent out to the paddlers. This will advise of the launch site and the on the water departure time. Options are left flexible right up to launch time. There is always a plan B and C, just in case.

In the last twenty-five years, only two paddles have been cancelled. One was because of a tsunami alert and the other was weather related.

On a recent outing, we were mindful of the strong winds forecast to gust up latter in the morning. We were well up the harbour keeping close to the shelter of the lee shore when a squally front rolled through.

The timing was perfect as it arrived just as we were about turn for our homeward leg. It gave us an exhilarating downwind run with the added bonus of a tidal assist. The thunder boomed and sheets of rain laced with hail lashed out at us. Some of the lads were rocketing along at speeds in excess of fourteen kilometres an hour. This was in the wild wind gusts at the head of the front. We were then able to throttle back and cruise home at a more sedate twelve kilometres an hour.

At the post paddle cuppa we were all agreed that it was one heck of a run home and we all had heaps of fun. The group all stayed together and nobody felt compromised in the safety department. Opportunities to join the group are sometimes available. The group size is kept compact for logistical and safety reasons and this works well. It's not everyone's cup of tea, with break of dawn

departure times and an expectation of regular attendance. The reward is like minded paddling companions, increased fitness and skills and the opportunity to venture into exciting and interesting paddling areas. Give me a call if you are keen. Part time and fair weather paddlers need not apply.

Comments about Vine House and its lack of use during the colder winter months drew a few helpful suggestions. A girl's only weekend was one. Similar events have been successful in the past using the old Scout bach out on Rangitoto Island. A couple of older club members also remember earlier years when our club had a hut up in the headwaters of the Rangitopuni Stream near Riverhead. They put it to good use organising training and skills weekends. All were well attended, and new members were able to bond in well with the club. Former trips officer Morgan Lewis also had the right idea. He organised many successful overnights with food as the focus for the weekend. The fun just naturally followed. And still on the food theme, a fishing competition with a prize or two would probably pull in a few punters.

Whilst on the topic of awards, isn't it about time that we upped the ante and introduced a few more for our club? We currently have one award trophy. It is the prestigious Evan Stubbs Memorial Award for services to kayaking. In the past, the club presented a plethora of trophies. Most of these were competition related and harked back to an era when racing and river skills were the mainstay of club activities.

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That era has passed on and a dusty sack full of the competition trophies is long lost and forgotten now. Our club still thrives however and has now focused on something that we have always done well. That is getting out there and paddling for pleasure. In organising and doing this we have relied on a backbone of very generous voluntary effort. The club has the ability to recognise long service for these efforts with the provision to bestow a life membership upon a deserving recipient. There was a little bit of confusion in the past over the purpose of this provision and a couple of recipients snuck in on the basis of long membership only. After clarification of the intent of this provision we were proud to make further presentations. Colin Quilter was deservedly recognised in this manner most recently.

Just a month or so ago Colin received another award. This time it was for his writing skills in an article that he had submitted for publication in the KASK Newsletter. KASK make many awards to their valued members. Perhaps now, it is time for our club to show a bit more recognition to its own members. We could start with recognition and appreciation for that backbone of voluntary effort that often goes unrecognised. A few awards could also be created for areas of excellence. These award presentations would certainly compliment and crown our AGM evening.

Water quality at Okahu Bay could be in for improvement thanks to an initiative of the local iwi. Last month four tons of live mussel spat were carefully seeded onto reefs and rocks in the bay environs. The aim of this venture is to re-establish the vast beds of mussels that once thrived in the region. Once established, the mussels which are filter feeders will start doing their eco thing. The seeding operation was overseen by a kaumatua who remembered Okahu Bay in a more pristine time as a young lad. One cheeky and perhaps somewhat opportunistic club kayaker was overheard trying to convince the old kaumatua that four tons of live crayfish would make better filter feeders.

Trans-Tasman sea kayaker Scott Donaldson was a happy chap last month. His lost kayak finally made it home. Scott is out on the speaking circuit now and the big Barracuda will no doubt be a star attraction at the shows. This kayak does have a special claim to fame in that it did make it across the Tasman, eventually. Scott also had another reason to smile. He had just taken out line honours in his race division at the recent Cambridge to Hamilton event. Scott gave the new Barracuda Interface sea kayak its perfect race debut. Keep an eye out for Scott who will be in Auckland this month for a couple of fundraising talks.

Auckland's new electric trains are out on the tracks now and council authorities are keen for us to catch them. They would also appear to be keen to catch a kayaker or two under the rail bridge near Judges Bay. Someone appears to have got a little carried away with the fencing below the bridge. The waterway under the bridge is one of two channels that allow paddlers access into Hobson Bay. Take extra care and stay well clear of the abutment channels when being swept under the bridge by the strong tidal stream. It might not be just a strand of seaweed left strung up in the mesh.

See you out there.

Roger



*Judges Bay Rail bridge at high tide.
The fence goes way underwater.*

Upcoming Trips and Events

Saturday 4th or Sunday 5th October

Kohi Beach to Browns Island

Join Philip for this pleasant paddle to Crater Bay. Bring your favourite beverage, snack and walking shoes.

This paddle (which replaces the cancelled trip of 14th Oct), is suitable for all levels of paddler, however is weather dependant.

Please call Philip on Thursday night for further details on 575 3493.

Sunday 12th October

Cockle Bay to Whitford return.

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.

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

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.

Saturday 18th October

Paddle and walk on Rangitoto

This trip is an old favourite, could be done many times without getting tired of it. Meet at Kohimarama Beach at 8.30am for an 8.45am departure. We'll paddle across to Rangitoto Wharf, walk to the summit, and paddle home again in time for lunch. Bring a thermos, snacks, and walking shoes or sandals.

All those intending to come should register their interest by emailing Colin, colin.g.quilter@gmail.com

If the weather requires a change of plan or cancellation, he will use email to contact you. If you haven't emailed him, you won't hear about the change of plan.

Labour Weekend

Saturday 25th to Monday 27th October

Paddle and Camp at Motutapu

Time to check your camping gear, flex your paddling muscles and join us on one of the great Gulf Islands. Paddling there is half the fun and relaxing and enjoying the company at the destination is the other half.

The plan is to paddle from Kohi leaving 7:30 am to pass through Gardiner Gap at about 9:00am, where we will stop for a cuppa before continuing around Motutapu to Home Bay to camp.

Weather dependant.

Phone Philip on 575 3493 nearer the date for more information if you are interested.

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 4821417

Sunday 7th December

Christmas Party

Keep this date open for Club Christmas Party.

Details and venue to follow.