



Our Yak Chat

Issue 5

July 2007

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Army Bay Biggie

Hi all

Sean (Leonard) and I went fishing on a Saturday morning in June at Army Bay. All up, a bit quiet considering time spent on the water braving the wind and chop (5 hours). Sean got the ball rolling with the first snapper of the day, after having lost one or 2. I then landed one of 35cm which I released (my karma theory of first fish of the day going back, however should that first one be.....).



Things got quiet, so I paddled off a little deeper towards a drop off, towards where a boat was anchored, by this time the wind had picked up big time and combined with a strong current, made things interesting. I fired out a 4 inch Nuke chicken, and it had barely touched the water, when it was gobbled by something LARGE. It sped off, fortunately downwind since I was not yet anchored. Before I knew it, all 100m of 6lb braid was stripped from my "kids" 3-5kg Shimano Beastmaster, and the backing was now also starting to disappear at an alarming rate which has not yet happened on this or any other rod (including trout).

I quarter turn the drag, stopped the rest of line being taken, and I was now being towed downwind in pursuit of this beast, which I thought might be my first Kingie judging by its initial run which seemed to last forever, and being a novice on double digit

snapper.

Having stemmed the tide of nylon vanishing from my anorexic looking spool, I was now able to work the rod and regain some line. Before long I had most of the braid back with the fish somewhere below my yak.

I had visions of this "kingie" busting me off in the vast amounts of foul scattered in the 7m of water. I continued to chip away, keeping a constant bend in the rod, slowly lifting his head. After a short time I could see the silver coming up, which meant he could also see the white hull of my yak, this caused the usual "last run" which delayed the inevitable. A few more cranks and he was again within sight. My heart skipped a beat when I saw my biggest PERSONAL BEST snapper appear with the tell tale signature bump on the head signalling a fish of merit, which prompted a mad scramble for the gaff in my hatch.

I eased the lad alongside and did not waste time aiming the gaff to avoid the prime fillet area, but made a rather crude grasp at my quarry which sent the point



The Prize Fish.
Corona Bottle = 24cm

through the middle of my prize. Geoff Thomas style whoops, shrills and yelps echoed off the cliffs as I wasted no time slipping the big boy into my Stealth hatch for safe keeping. Needless to

say my heart was pounding and I was over the moon having caught by far my biggest snapper.

I carefully administered the coup de grace, not wanting to "tag and release" another dispatched fish to the hunting ground (unlike another unfortunate club member). (see *the Sheriffs report Ed.*)

We continued to brave the elements for another few hours, Sean caught a few more fish, 2 KYs and another snapper or 2 and I lost another big fish which did not run as much, but took me into the foul.

This was my first time to Army Bay, and it promises to provide a lot more good fish and I will most certainly be back to try better my record of 68cm (fish not weighed, but estimated at 9lb).

Tight lines

Vaughan



Vaughan and his Snapper

Steering Committee:

- **President**
Jackie Dainton
jackie@gokayak.co.nz
 - **Treasurer**
Rod Addis
raddis@xtra.co.nz
 - **Secretary**
Sue Denby
sue@benoit.co.nz
 - **Committee:**
Steve Branch (Sherriff)
ste.yvo@xtra.co.nz
- John Read
bucksph1@yahoo.co.nz
- Ron van Dam
vandam@ihug.co.nz

**AGM &
Prizegiving
Wednesday
1st August 2007
6.30pm**

Club Trip to Coromandel 26 and 27 May 2007



Lined up on the beach at Te Kouma



Sandra in the Mussel Farm



Breakfast on Saturday Morning.



Alex's catch and very large gaff!

The club trip was officially set for Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th May.

Those who could travelled down on the Friday, and booked themselves into the Papa Aroha Holiday Camp.

Alex (Remkes) and Rod set off on Friday morning and on the way called in to see Jackie and Rob at Te Kouma. After a good chat about where the best spots were they set off to Papa Aroha and arrived at the camp around midday. After booking in, and buying some more "necessary" fishing gear, they were keen to get on the water. It was good to see that the camp shop had lots of fishing gear, and prices were better than most of the big city outlets.

Friday was definitely the best weather for the whole 3 days, and it was an easy launch off the beach straight in front of the camp. A paddle out to the scallop beds proved to be the best bet. Within a couple of hours just drifting with the soft baits Alex had his limit, and Rod had 4 good fish, including one at 2.7kg.

Mid afternoon saw the arrival of Trevor, Lama, and Clive, and when they saw the catch from Alex and Rod were also keen to get in some fishing before it got dark.

By this time the wind had got up, and was blowing straight into the beach. However, they managed to get some fish between them.

A few more had arrived by early evening, and after Alex and Rod had filleted the fish, set about cooking up a storm with freshly

cooked snapper sandwiches in the communal kitchen.

As Sandra is the proud owner of a lovely knife set, there was a brief attempt to teach her the fine art of filleting fish. However, it is probably best to leave the fish filleting to the men, and leave the ladies to do the cooking in the kitchen. (where they belong I hear you say!!!) *(Editors note: the views of this contributor in no way reflect the overall attitude of the club or this female editor!)*

Whilst filleting the catch they got chatting to one of the locals who was also filleting his catch, and get this, he had been surf casting and uses only soft baits with the surf caster!!

After tea, there was then a very informative session from Rob on the finer points of fishing with soft baits, including the best type of gear to use. Rob also showed us best knots for joining fluorocarbon leaders to braid, and for tying a loose loop for the jigheads. Pete from the camp also imparted a lot of information from all his experiences using soft baits. It is interesting to note that the charter boat operating from the camp now only uses soft baits.

Next morning dawned with an even stronger westerly blowing directly on shore, so after a communal breakfast of bacon eggs, toast and coffee, it was decided that the days fishing would be around the mussel farm in Te Kouma. Interesting to note that some of those city girls just "had" to have their flat white or cappuccino for breakfast brought through from Coromandel town. How else

could they get through the day!!

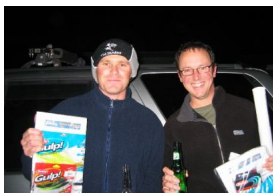
It was great to see that the newest members of the club, Rob and Sue, Adrian and Christine and Brad were able to join us, so a big thanks to them for making the effort to come on the trip.

Off to Te Kouma we went, and it was great to see the gathering of approximately 25 kayaks setting off to the mussel farms. It was a bit blowy, but the keen ones set off with Rob and Jackie to explore further away. A good number got in amongst the lines of the farm and tied up to the farm. Others were picking up a few fish drifting along the outside of the main farm.

Weigh in was delayed to enable everyone to get back to camp. Sadly the heaviest Kahawai caught was beheaded before weigh in so Alex won (again) as he was the only other person to catch a Kahawai. There was a mass filleting session under a dim fluro light, Lama aroused interest in the benefits of keeping Fish Heads so much that we have a Fish Head Soup recipe contribution - see back page. We had fish and salad for dinner and the prizegiving afterwards. Prizes were awarded for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd heaviest Snapper, heaviest Kahawai and Trevelly as well as an average weight prize and a hard luck story prize. Thanks to Jackie and Rob for donating the prizes for the competition.

It was a very successful weekend fishing despite the weather, any chance to get together with friends and to make new ones is a good weekend!

Coromandel Prizewinner Gallery



Brad - 1st Heaviest Snapper
Vaughn - 3rd Heaviest Snapper
Brad - Heaviest Trevelly



David - 2nd Heaviest Snapper



Alex - Heaviest Kawhai



Clive - Spot Prize - Average Weight



Sandra - Best Hard Luck Story

Thanks to Jackie Dainton and Rob Fort of [www.gokayak](http://www.gokayak.com) and www.robfort.com for donating the prizes

Next Trip 29 July Omana.

From the Chair...

With the cold weather of late and the need to go somewhere for the school holidays, I decided to head north in search of some warmer weather and check out the good fishing I had heard about in the Cape Kari Kari area. We stayed at the Top 10 Holiday Park at Whatuwhiwhi which is located on the Eastern side of the Peninsula. Matai Bay is north and only a very short 10min drive from the camp.

The fishing in the area was exceptional and it was the middle of winter! I have been told by a local mate that February is the time when it really goes off in the area. We spent 6 days in the area and we didn't manage to fish all the areas that we had hoped to and look forward to going back in February for a kayak/spear fishing session with a couple of mates from Aussie, Cameron and Steveo.

During our visit to the Peninsula I made time to take the kids to Cape Reinga on a bus tour which departed Kaitaia, traveled up by road and returned down 90 Mile Beach. A highly recommended trip. The area has much to offer for the whole family and would make a great trip away for the club. Check out this website

www.whatuwhiwhitop10.co.nz

The clubs AGM is coming up on the 1st of August and we encourage you all to come along as it is also the prize giving night! I can't wait to see who receives the Sheriffs Award! But the Sheriff should watch out as this is re-election time and if anyone has been picked on this year, this is your time to get your mana back by nominating yourself to be elected as Sheriff and the Sheriff may just have to watch his step, or should I say paddling /fishing skills! Steve (Sheriff Tin Star) has done a

fabulous job, his crime reports are a highlight of the newsletter.

It was great to see so many club members and their families attend the away trip to Papa Aroha. It was nice to be able to show you a few tips on softbait fishing and to take you to our favorite spots around the mussel farms off Te Kouma. On behalf of the club I would like to thank Rob Fort for imparting his knowledge on the subject. Thank you, Rob. It was disappointing that the weather played up a little stopping us from taking you all out to the islands off Papa Aroha as the area holds good fish stocks and is a really picturesque place to visit. Next time? Vaughan and Sean are planning another trip to the area, but this time up to Port Charles in early August. We hope to catch up with them but we have a lot on our plate with the Hamilton Boat Show being held 10-12 of August at Mystery

Creek and the Whitianga Scallop Festival on the 25th August, a one day food and wine festival, looking forward to that one!

Another special project that both Rob and I are involved in, in conjunction with Johnson Outdoors and Watercraft (Ocean Kayak) and Pure Fishing NZ (Berkley Gulp! Soft baits) are seminars which we will hold throughout the Country in 8 locations starting in Wellington on the 1st October and ending in Auckland. Full details will be published in the New Zealand Fishing Coast to Coast Magazine due out in the next couple of weeks.

See you all at the AGM.

Take care and tightlines.

Jackie Dainton

Come along to the AGM and Prizegiving on Wednesday 1st August at Panmure Yacht and Boating Club, 6.30pm for drinks and snacks and the formalities will be at 7.30pm.

Fishing the Upper Harbour

My usual Upper Harbour spots - mainly the shallows 2 - 4m adjacent to the West Harbour Marina channels have been 'red hot' thru April - May. With the mild Autumn the fishing has remained good thru to June. Berleying on the outgoing tide often enticed large schools of baitfish and snapper with the odd John Dory as a bonus.

On some occasions I have caught and released in excess of 20 fish and still had plenty to keep. I have caught a number of good snapper in the 2-3.5kg range tied to mooring bouys in the channel, 200m from my local ramp at Island Bay.

I am convinced that some good

fish live in the Upper Harbour all year. Winter might be worth a visit.

On Queens Birthday weekend June 4/5th I visited my usual territory off Castor Bay, I hadn't been there since January. On Sunday, 2 of us caught 14 snapper in the kelp area. We lost quite a bit of gear in the process. The S/Westerly made conditions a little nippy, but there were good fish around. I couldn't resist a revisit next day at first light and was rewarded with 8 nice snapper up to 3.5kg.

The fish here are dark and kelp coloured and are here year round. Unfortunately my current work arrangements make it

difficult to organize some club activity over this way - but I am keen to show any members around the Milford/Castor Bay area as they produce good fish thru Winter and are sheltered from most winds. Let me know if you are keen for a fish and maybe we can arrange something. My email is on the front page.

Regards

John Read




Best so far 5.7kg - 725mm

Schedule of Events

- **29 July 2007**
Club Trip to Omana
- **1st August 2007**
AGM and Prizegiving PYBC 6.30pm
- **26th August 2007**
Club Trip to Castor Bay
- **5th September 2007**
Club Meeting PYBC 6.30pm
- **16th September 2007**
Club Trip to Orere Point
- **3rd October 2007**
Club Meeting PYBC 6.30pm



Committee meetings to be confirmed after the AGM.

August 2007


Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 	2	3	4	5
		AGM				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



September 2007

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2007

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name (Individual Membership)

Names: (Family Membership) _____ Spouse/
Partner

FM = Mum, Dad & Children _____ Child Age

_____ Child Age

If more than (3) write on back _____ Child Age

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mobile: _____

E-mail: _____ Can we circulate your email address for
purposes of arranging fishing outings?

KAYAK (Circle to indicate) **Yes/ No** (please circle)

- Sit on Top
- Sit in "sea kayak"
- Do not have a kayak yet

KAYAK EXPERIENCE (Circle to indicate)

- None
- 1 – 2 years
- More than 3 years
- Expedition Leader/Courses completed _____

FISHING EXPERIENCE

- None
- 1 – 2 years
- More than 3 years
- Extensive

THIS IS "YOUR CLUB" IT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT. Are you able to help by way of assisting with administration or the organizing of events for the club?

Please circle if you can help * Administration * Organizing Events * Other areas

Payment options: Cheque payable to East Auckland Kayak Fishing Club posted to PO Box 33, Beachlands, or bank deposit to National Bank 06 0293 0087794 000. Please put your name as reference.

Cash can be paid at club meeting nights to the treasurer.

Office Only:

PAID ___/___/___ CARD SENT ___/___/___ Yearly **INDIVIDUAL \$35**
MEMBERSHIP NO: _____ **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$60**



Sheriffs Most Wanting File

“Don't pull the trigger, just squeeze” is what many a rookie deputy has whispered in his ear as he nervously gets the cross hairs settled on the baddies holed up in the bank.

Your own sheriff, just so you know, has no need to whisper into any ears. I do not do that any more, you can so easily have your actions misunderstood and the accusations fly and reputations are in tatters. But enough of that, just believe... I do not whisper in any ears any more.

But who is it that whispers in the Sheriffs ear??? Oh you would be surprised, there are so many people with little stories to tell, little snippets of information, little bursts of data in a continuous bit stream of sound bytes that could overwhelm the normal intellect but not your Sheriff. He sifts through the offerings and discards all of the believable and explainable, these innocent mistakes go unpunished and unpublished. But the unbelievable items that stretch the credibility, they are acted upon. Yesiree, armed with a multitude of malicious malevolent mouthings from the malodorous mouths of members the sheriffs carefully settles the cross hairs of exposure on one of our own. And like

any baddy in front of the NZ law courts, our own baddies get immediate name suppression because I am a new age gentle sort of guy trying to make our club a loving touchy feely sort of environment.

Crime Report

Crime Scene 1. Army Bay.

This story is all to do with stability, not only mental but also physical.

But first some background. Have you ever noticed how different kayaks react when different people sit in them? Some kayaks settle down and are very stable due to the kayaker having, what I will delicately call, a low centre of gravity. Indeed it is true, people of wider bottoms have a lower C of G which gives a greater stability (take a look and compare next time you all slip into your paddling seats, but please, no crude comments)

By the converse, people of narrower hips but of larger craniums suffer more from a high C of G and wobble about a lot (look again at the others around you in their yaks). See if it is not true.

Another little known fact is that when fishing the C of G can change. Normally big bums rule out the effect of most waves but when big fish are being caught, blood flows to the brain, egos are swelling, heads are getting bigger and ... be very careful as we are now getting very tippy.

Yes, folks, I can report that a 'clubbie' (C.S.) caught the 'biggest snapper ever'!!!! Just off Army Bay. So impressed was Clive that he pulled the snapper on board and dreamt of fame (and his ego grew a little). He spiked the fish and hoped he would get an honourable mention in the club news (and his ego grew even more). Others in his group marvelled at his skill (and his ego grew hugely). And then, of course, it happened, the C of G had shifted so high that the Law of Shakiness took over and Clive fell into the water. And so did the snapper, it saw its chance through its lifeless eyes, to quietly and without any fuss just slip away into the deep. Far, far away from CS's despairing clutching clammy hands.

Man, doesn't that just tear your heart out? How could you do that in front of witnesses??? Where is the stringer? (the what? asked the luckless CS).

I personally did not want to report this terrible occurrence but soooo many clubbies told me about it that I thought I had best get it out into the open so we can all commiserate.

Happily, I can report that our CS had an immediate return of his normal C of G once he submerged his head under the cold water and after getting back into his yak did not fall out again that day.

Penalty. Paid, in full.

Crime Scene 2.. Kawakawa Bay.

This story is all about mathematics and the numerically challenged, but first a little background info.

I know if the fishing is quiet we do little games to pass the time, for example take the number 2 and double it and double it again and so on, until we reach 15236 which is 2 doubled 25 times. Lots of us do that just to keep our numbers skills up.

One of our clubbies (LT) though, is more challenged than most and in the most basic way.

Something you will need to know from years gone by to help explain. When in the primers at school, when LT took off his socks and counted his toes he always got to 23 or some such number. His teacher, Mrs D of room 12, explained to me, 'we did not understand how he came up with such inflated numbers and then we realised, Lama had the unfortunate habit of not only counting his own toes but would continue counting the toes of the other kids sitting next to him'.

And so it has come to pass that this last month while fishing in Kawakawa Bay, that when LT was asked how was the fishing, he clearly replied in very definite terms "I got my quota". (editors note. 'Quota' means 9, just like 1 toe less than two feet full)

Reality was that, just like toes, LT counted in his "my quota" five fish that another clubbie (SL) had caught and passed to him while at sea.

Oh, LT, the ignominy, the dilatory digital dancing around quadratic equations of definitive deductions.

Correct answer, LT, is "we caught our quota" or "I only got 4". That's it, nothing more than four!!!!

When I reported this regression to his old ways to Mrs D she was not surprised. She just cried a little and mumbled something about, "when will they ever learn" and booked herself back into rehab.

I think she is hoping for a snapper LT.

Penalty, A dollar for every toe after four on the right foot. (this should be worth quite a bit to the club)

Political Initiatives

Your sheriff has caught the whiff of something not very nice from our very own political rest home, called Parley-lament, in Wellington. Yes folks, it appears that some little backbench list party member looking to make a name for him/herself has our clubbies in sight. Why? You might ask and I can reveal why, it is because we are a Resource.



We need to be managed and registered like mad dogs without collars. Why? you might ask (stop asking the same question) and I can reveal that we are actually multi million dollar carbon credits waiting to be discovered. How so? You might ask (better question than the last two) and it is because our kayaks are rich in encapsulated and captive carbon. Do you start to understand...cold winters...global warming...excess CO2... Carbon credits...multinational trades...carbon trading...Kayak. YES, KAYAK.

Quite simply... each kayak is made from hydrocarbon derivatives, rough calculations reveal that with a molecular structure of $H_2 Nc_3(CO_2)CO_2CH_4$ (not including the anchor), and a weight of 10 kilos, each kayak has the rough equivalent of 15 barrels of Kuwait light crude captured within its hull. Add the food miles equivalent to transport the oil to our fair shares plus the losses due pilferage and the under-reporting for customs duties and it is easy to make a case for another 5 barrels. These 20 barrels are a ticking time bomb of encapsulated carbon credits sitting under our bottoms.

So you farmers amongst us can understand the enormity of this issue, each kayak is equivalent to at least 5 hectares of pine forest, with a planting density of 27.35 FDU's per linear unit (not including the gorse).

These kayaks, my lucky little millionaires in waiting, are worth a bomb.

And this sticky fingered little polly from Wellington wants us to forgo our rightful big dollar bonus.

I have it on good authority that moves will soon be made which will end up with all kayaks owned by the state and we will lease them back...without compensation.

It sounds far fetched but...remember folks, you heard about it here first.

I am doing all I can to stop this abomination from proceeding but it looks like I need to 'slip a few envelopes' into a few greasy palms. Accordingly I will be looking for some financial support from you all. Nothing too fancy, just used notes in big bundles will do.

To set the ball rolling I have sent my 'contact' in Welling Town a bag of pipi's to use to best effect. I will report on that later.

In the meantime do not let any body try to stick a tag on your kayak or a little chip behind your ear.

Steer a straight course and watch out for cactus at sea.

Sheriff Tin Star

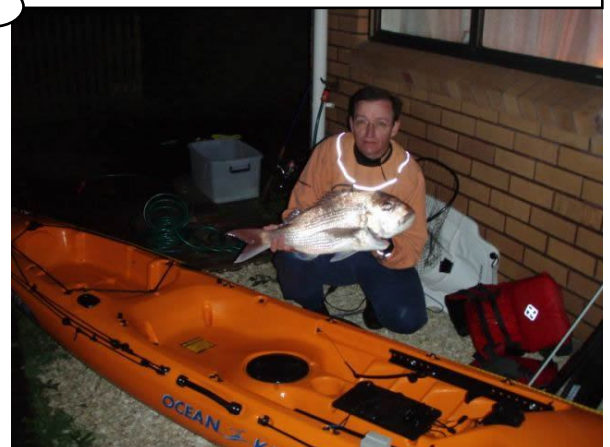


Bragging Corner

Congratulations to Trevor and Eileen. Baby boy, Nicholas arrived on 27th June. 7lb 7oz. Biggest fish you've caught this year Trevor!

Fishing on my kayak, catching the big one.....

Sean caught this beauty off Browns Island on a lovely Monday afternoon in June! 64cm long.



A Big Thanks to our Sponsors



www.pybc.org.nz



www.gokayak.co.nz



www.fishingcoasttocoast.com

www.boatbits.co.nz
51 Barrys Pt Rd,
Takapuna
09 4896475

Looking for something to do and can't get a pass to go fishing?

Take the family and/or friends up to the marine reserve at Goat Island and paddle around on your kayak. Its great if you like snorkeling or have kids that want to try it out. Take some dog roll with you and you'll have the fish literally eating out of your hand! You'll wish you had a sneaky soft bait on the end of a hook believe me.

Check out this photo taken at Goat Island.



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Recipe Corner

Fish Head Soup - contributed by Steve B

"This is not a traditional recipe so much as the 'method' we use, with variations being applied to the vegetables and curry etc, according to how the cook feels on the day." - Steve

Prepare the fish.

Grab a large pot.

Get your three snapper heads and frames (no guts or gills) after you have filleted the fish.

Put them all in the pot and cover with water.

Bring to a slow boil and cook for about 30 mins.

Stand a side to cool.

Once cool enough to handle remove all the heads and frames.

Strain and save the liquid from the pot (this gets rid of all scales and debris) into another bowl.

Pull all of the meat from the heads and frames. Set aside. (you have removed all bones, skin and scales).

To make the soup.

Finely chop an onion.

Dice a carrot and a potato.

Sweat the onion in a chunk of butter (about three tablespoons) until soft, add

carrot and potato.

Cook for three to four minutes.

Add two teaspoons curry powder, cook a little longer. (you can please yourself about whether to bother with the curry)

Thicken with three tablespoons of flour and add the saved liquid slowly, while stirring.

Bring to the boil.

Add the fish meat and then add salt and pepper to taste.

Simmer for 20 minutes. Add a bit of chopped fresh coriander according to taste.

Damn good....

Oh, what is that staring up at you??? Sorry, but you should have removed the eyeballs along with the bones.

