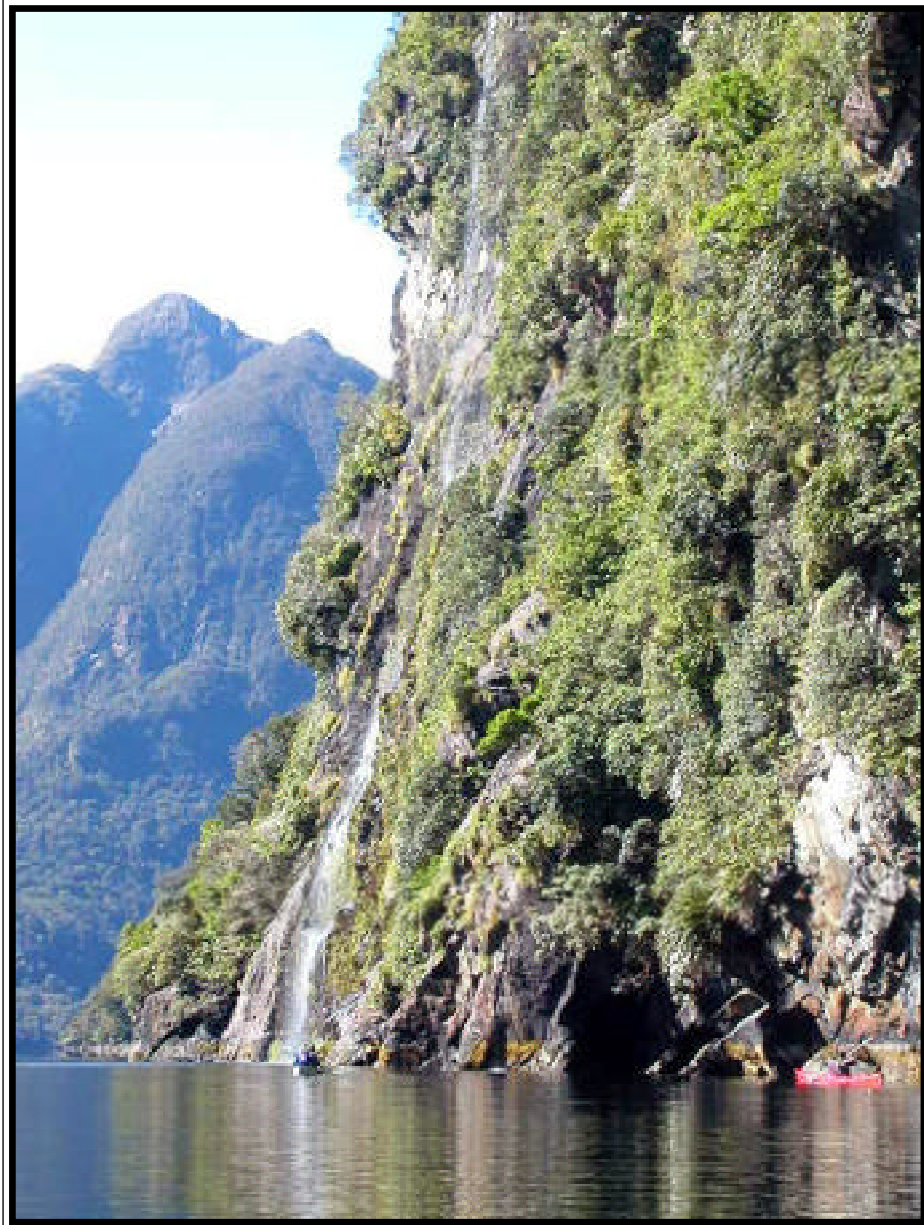


No. 103 February - March 2003

THE SEA CANOEIST NEWSLETTER



Crooked Arm, Doubtful Sound, Fiordland. Photograph by Brenda Anderson. See article on p. 15.

**The Journal of the Kiwi Association
of Sea Kayakers (N.Z.) Inc. - KASK**

KASK

KASK, the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (N.Z.) Inc., a network of New Zealand sea kayakers, has the objectives of:

1. promoting and encouraging the sport of sea kayaking
2. promoting safety standards
3. developing techniques & equipment
4. dealing with issues of coastal access and protection
5. organizing an annual sea kayak forum
6. publishing a bimonthly newsletter.

The Sea Canoeist Newsletter is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (N.Z.) Inc.

Articles, trips reports, book reviews, equipment reviews, new techniques, letter to the editor, and moments when the word 'Bugger!' was said singularly or often {referred to by some as incidents} are sought to enliven the pages of the newsletter.

Send in a plain brown envelope, or via cybermail to:

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KASK Annual Subscriptions are:

\$25 single membership
\$30 family membership.
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KASK HANDBOOK

For a copy of this mother of all sea kayaking handbooks, contact KASK Treasurer, Max Grant,

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COST:

New members: gratis

Existing members: \$14 + \$1 p&p

Non-members: \$18 + \$1 p&p

Make cheques out to KASK (NZ)IncTrade enquiries to Max Grant.

THE LRB2, or the Little Red Book 2nd. Edition, is a mammoth compilation on all aspects of sea kayaking in New Zealand, by many of the most experienced paddlers in the Universe. Following a brief introduction, the handbook is divided into six sections:

- Kayak, Paddle & Equipment
- Techniques & Equipment
- The Elements
- Trips and Expeditions
- Places to Go
- Resources

Each section contains up to nine separate chapters. The Resources section, for example has chapters on:

- guide to managing a sea kayak symposium
- Paddling Literature
- Author profiles
- Guides and Rental Operators
- Network Addresses
- Sea Kayaks in NZ listing

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THANKS

To the contributors, Max Grant for arranging the printing, Maurice Kennedy for the labels, and Ruahine Whitewater Club for distribution.

EDITORIAL

Both the Rotorua Lakes Symposium and the Whites Bay Forum were very successful, and it was great to be able to put faces to paddlers who have been contributing via email to the newsletter. Vincent Maire, in his committee column and AGM president's report, brings KASK news up to date, while the gatherings are covered by Garry Sheeran and the editor. So I'll use the rest of the editorial to discuss a search and rescue call out at Patea in late February.

NORTH ISLAND PADDLE

From: Bob Talbot

Here is a interesting happening in Taranaki on 28 February. I am in the communications business so I monitor lots of different frequencies during the course of a day and as it happens I was monitoring the emergency channels including the police. At around 0900 a call came in from a member of the public that a lone kayaker off the river mouth at Patea in a yellow kayak and possibly no life jacket had disappeared from there sight as they were watching , so a 111 call was made to the local police. This instigated a quick search in that area and no sign of the kayak. Now about 0945 the fire service as well as SAR and police went to the area to search along the coast in both directions and also the Coastguard was called but they had trouble getting to sea over the bar at Patea for a while.

By now time rolled around to 1100hrs still no sign but travel of kayak was probably in northerly direction as there is a strong coastal current running south to north.

Approx. 1115hrs a spotter plane was put up to aid the search, so now there are a lot of people out there on land and water.

About 1230 the kayak was spotted of the coast at Hawera and coastguard travelled to the area aided by the spotter plane and located the kayak to offer assistance only to be told this person was on a trip around the north island and would be landing at Ohawe beach in about a hour which takes the

time out to around 1330hrs. That's when police went to question the person.

These questions spring to mind

- 1= Did our kayaker have a trip plan
- 2= Did any of the services (Coastguard) know of this?
- 3= Is he/she a member of KASK
- 4= Was there anyone in NZ aware that this trip was going on?

All in all as you all can see there was a terrible waste of time and money and putting peoples lives at risk as well as experience to locate this person.

Comment from the Editor.

Bob sent me a press clipping dated 1 March with a little more detail. The paddler, Simon Weekes from Tauranga, is attempting a paddle around the North Island. A recreational fisherman and Coastguard member first spotted Simon a long way off the Patea River mouth. A south-east wind was freshening and the fisherman advised the Patea Police of what he had seen.

I can appreciate the views of Bob, the Police and Coastguard, but I have to ask why the fisherman instigated the S&R callout? Surely a check first with binoculars or a telescope from a vantage point on shore would have shown Simon paddling, and not out of his boat. Off Ohawe Beach, Simon's destination, the Coastguard launchmaster observed, "He had all the gear, plenty of water and was very well equipped." On that basis I would assume Simon could have called in a rescue, by flares, radio or signal mirror, if he was in trouble.

On a paddle such as this, weather and sea conditions dictate progress. It is impossible to stick to a set schedule. Perhaps in retrospect an early press release to the newspapers would have let people know that Simon was paddling the west coast.

And the S&R callout was a wakeup call for the searchers, as the Coastguard launch and the aircraft were unable to communicate as they were using different radio channels.

KASK Committee Column

**March 2003
from KASK President,
Vincent Maire**

Did I get as much kayaking in this summer as I had hoped? Well yes and no. I had a marvellous trip around Cape Brett and into the Bay of Islands. We camped at Whangamumu Harbour, paddled through the famous Hole in the Rock and stayed at Otehi Bay on Urupukapuka Island.

Until mid-last year, sea kayakers were unable to stay on this wonderful island because of the need to carry a chemical toilet. This is no longer the case and Otehi Bay provides an excellent base camp; bar and busy wharf alongside. I have attended a swim escort with my club, led trips to Tiritiri Matangi and Rangitoto islands, been out off Manly a few times and attended the fantastic KASK Rotorua Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium. So no, in retrospect, I haven't done as much kayaking as I could have.

The release of the draft sea kayaking 'qualification/proficiency' document certainly generated a lot of interest and some very positive feedback. I am heartened by the level of support given to the idea that recreational sea kayakers need their own qualification and at the Rotorua symposium, the two workshops and discussion sessions held after the symposium had ended, were very well attended and generated plenty of great ideas and suggestions. I wish also to thank the people who uplifted the draft syllabus off the KASK website and provided feedback.

All this information is currently being processed and will be used to guide us on the next step. Suffice to say, there is overwhelming support for the idea that recreational sea kayakers should have access to a qualification of their

own, and that KASK should be the organisation to develop and oversee this important development.

The Rotorua Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium was a HUGE success. It was very professionally run by a team of local paddlers, who wisely perhaps, steered away from the usual workshops and instead, devoted the event to sea kayaking destinations and activities in their region. Garry Sheeran has written a review of the symposium and if you weren't there, well shucks boo-hoo!! I wish to express my thanks and admiration to the team who organised this event and to publicly let them know, that yes, if you do wish to repeat this exercise at some time in the future, you already have 100 or so very satisfied sea kayakers willing to attend.

The Rotorua team included: Doug Vickery, Brian Pickering, Phil Alley, John Feisst, John Flemming, Graeme Bruce, Emma Haxton, Dayle Smith, Steve Birch, Ian Suckling and Carol Patterson. Well done and a big thank you from everyone who attended.

The annual KASK Forum was also a great event some 50+ people in attendance. It was held at Whites Bay near Blenheim and will be remembered as a Drought Buster. Yes, after many, many months of drought, the rain started to fall as the forum got into full swing. This did not dampen our spirits; indeed, it generated a feeling of camaraderie. A very big thank you to Helen Woodward for taking on the job of organising this event and making a huge success of it.

The KASK website has had a significant rise in the number of hits over the summer. This has been due to the number of people seeking downloads of the qualifications document plus information on the Rotorua symposium and the Port Underwood forum. From a stable hit rate of 800 or so a month, it peaked at more than 1200. In spite of this positive increase in hits, in the survey we carried out last year, we found that only 36.5% of members had ever visited the site and they rated it only 3.77 out of five for being informative. We clearly had to

do something about making the site more relevant.

In February we went back to our design company and briefed them on what changes had to be made. Developments include a news section on the home page, a subscriber service, and a new page devoted to the training qualification. Other changes have also been made to the existing pages. Our goal is to make the KASK site more interesting and more relevant to New Zealand sea kayakers. If there is an EVENT happening in your club or network, then please email it to the webmaster, as we will put it in the news section. This invitation also goes out to the trade to make use of this service.

KASK is essentially an information resource forum for sea kayakers in New Zealand. Along with the Sea Canoeist newsletter and the KASK Handbook, the website is a vital part of the services that members can call upon to increase their involvement with the sport.

Finally, I wish to congratulate two of our members, and regular newsletter contributors, for having books published in recent weeks. Sandy Ferguson of Christchurch has had his South Island sea kayaking guidebook published by New Holland Publishing. Although not all of the South Island is covered, it includes most of the popular destinations.

Kerry Howe has also had another book published, and this will be of great interest to sea kayakers and indeed anyone with an interest in voyaging across the Pacific in small craft. 'The Quest for Origins' (Penguin \$29.95) examines how the ancestors of the Polynesians emerged from China 5000-6000 years ago, reached the western Pacific 4000 years ago and around 3000 years ago, a definite Polynesian culture began to take shape. This journey, of course, ended in New Zealand about AD1300. Kerry is one of New Zealand's foremost Pacific scholars and he writes with great verve and style.

Sea Kayak Proficiency Update

Two months ago a draft document on the proposed sea kayak proficiency was circulated around the country and added to the KASK website for downloading.

This document was received with a great deal of interest (there was a

record number of visitors to the KASK site once word got out about the document being there) and people from around the country took time to reply to specific details in the document.

The next stage in the process is now underway. This includes developing a model for assessment and having

the qualification embedded (if that is the correct word) into the framework.

A summary of the feedback received from sea kayakers is in PDF format and can be found on the KASK website on the training page. Visit www.kask.co.nz for further information.

Vincent Maire
KASK President

KASK ROTORUA LAKES SYMPOSIUM

ROTORUA LAKES KASK FORUM REPORT by Garry Sheeran

I'd been kayaking for five years before I even heard of KASK. That has more to do with my yen to paddle solo or with my partner Alison than it has with any perceived failure on the part of KASK to adequately publicise itself among sea kayakers. Living five minutes from a beach, it's all too easy to trundle your boat down to the water, and take off by yourself. I also have come to enjoy the solitary aspects of kayaking.

But the light finally dawned when I went on my first weekend away with the Yakkety Yak Club to Ponui Island towards the end of last year and learnt, among other things, of the sea kayakers' network. I guess I knew all along that kayaking is a bit like sex in the sense that it is something you do with someone else, although in the case of kayaking mutuality is more for safety's sake than sanity's.

And in all my solitary paddling expeditions I put a few self-imposed limitations in place with regard to destination and route to ensure as best I could that I kept alive to paddle another day. I'm still around to write this, and have nothing of substance to contribute to the bugger file, so in that sense I succeeded.

But now I have my Little Red Book, 2nd edition, a growing supply of KASK newsletters to read and place alongside my growing stack of Canoe & Kayak's Kayak magazines, and now the experience of my first KASK symposium - at Rotorua Lakes.

Before coming, I asked a friend who is also into kayaking - and has about the same amount of experience as I do - if he would like to come along too. I got the impression he felt KASK was all a bit too hairy-chested and hemannish, with nothing else in mind than expeditions that circumnavigated New Zealand, or something even more hair-raising.

I knew nothing about KASK, but was comforted by the fact - and amused by the irony - that my first SEA kayaking symposium was being held in a LAKES district. Not that lakes can't cut up wild too, but paddling round the Rotorua lakes was something that Alison and I had done several times in the part few years.

We have a friend whose holiday home backs onto the Ohau channel that runs between Rotorua and Rotoiti, and have delighted in launching off the back lawn into the channel, following it down to Rotoiti and paddling up to the hot pools on the western side of the lake, then trekking back to Okawa Bay where we holidayed as kids, and dragging our boats via road back to the holiday home a few hundred yards away. Better than paddling up the Ohau!

We had also been to Mokoia Island when landing was apparently allowed - or at least not prohibited by aggressive signage - and managed to catch up with more native birds than our dawn chorus expedition at the symposium allowed.

We had also - with the tramping club to which we belong - paddled on Lake Rotomohana a few years back after getting appropriate permission. Dur-

ing the really interesting and informative session on paddling the Rotorua lakes on the Sunday morning at the symposium, one local said it was his favourite lake to paddle, as much for its quietness and beauty as anything else. That day we ventured there we were suddenly hit with wind gusts up to 40-50 knots, coming apparently out of nowhere and tipping a back-country hut load of unwary trampers into the water.

Luckily, no one was too far from the shore and most had left their boots behind. We managed to round everyone up and dry them out without too much fuss. But it was a reminder to us of the unpredictability of kayaking in even apparently-placid lakes, and on reflection probably provided material for the bugger file, though more the tramping club's bugger file than ours. If things go wrong when you're out walking, at least you can sit down under a tree for a bit and think what to do next. On the water you might have only a minute or two before things can get really serious. Stick to what you know.

So, with a bit of lakes paddling already under our belt, and a knowledge of the area, we felt confident enough to join whatever man-eating, muscle-bound kayakers KASK could serve up, and look after ourselves if that was what we had to do. In the event, it was nothing like that at all, of course. What really impressed upon us at the weekend was the careful preparations and safety measures that were put in place even by obviously very experienced paddlers. That had to do in part with sheer numbers of paddlers out at the same time and difficulties of accounting for everyone at the end of the

KASK ROTORUA LAKES SYMPOSIUM

day. But we came away from the weekend with a determination never to take safety issues lightly, either paddling within a group or by ourselves.

Of the several talk sessions on both Saturday and Sunday, the 10-minute burst I caught up with on Sunday morning with Vincent Maire on training I found the most interesting. Confused by the welter of acronyms within the kayaking and outdoor world (KASK is a breeze, but what about SKOANZ and others now forgotten), delighted to know other grey-beards don't find Eskimo rolling a necessary part of their repertoire, and keen to get stuck into any kayak proficiency certificate that comes along, the interaction between people in the workshop was great to tap into, and may be one day contribute to.

I must admit that on Saturday when Don Stafford launched into some of his own history and the history of the Rotorua lakes area I began wondering: when are we going to start talking kayaks? You see, I'm quickly becoming a one-eyed paddler! Of course, Don's presentation was magnificent and a privilege to hear from someone so knowledgeable about the area, and so personally involved over many years. Equally, Kim Young's meticulously prepared and imaginatively presented talk on indigenous fish was a wonderful.

But I also appreciated direct kayak stuff - how to, how not to, what to do, what's available, where to go, what to watch out for, and so on. Rubbing shoulders with other - and more experienced - kayakers I am starting to understand there's a whole world of information and know-how to catch up on. Yes, it can become obsessive, but happily so!

The other big thing from the weekend was just catching up with people like ourselves, and from places other than Auckland, and being able to swap yarns, learn more. Last year Alison and I went back to Europe for the first

time in 30 years and hugely enjoyed Turkey. Over morning tea and scones we bumped into Gerry Maire and learnt he had been there recently as well, but with kayaks. That really set me going. As did the Rotorua lakes paddling opportunities session on Sunday morning, with the prospect of doing a grand paddle-portage exercise around the whole lakes area. I can see this kayaking business is going to develop into a fulltime activity, if I don't watch it. More so if I do.

So a great weekend. Port Underwood was not a goer for us, but when next symposiums come within cooe of home, we'll be there. Thanks to the people who did all the work. Thanks Steve Birch (Rotorua paddle), Brian Pickering (trade), Dayle Smith (liaison), Carol Patterson (secretary), Graeme Bruce (Rotoma paddle), John Feist (free pills!), Phil Alley (guest speakers), Emma Haxton (co-ordinator), John Flemming (displays), Ian Suckling (workshops) and Doug Vickery (MC etc).

Special thanks for Doug for his Saturday morning ice breaker. You won't have missed it, but may not recall the words. For posterity's sake, here they are:

Ih diddley ih di
Ih diddley ih di
Ih diddley diddley ih di (repeat)
Welcome all to Kask Symposium
Rotorua Lakes
Hope you have fun,
Yes, we will have fun
On our beautiful Rotorua lakes.
CHORUS

We have guest speakers two
Don Stafford and Kim Young
with lots of things for you
CHORUS
Then off we go to Rotoma
What a beautiful lake
A paddle and lunch on Rotoma
What a lovely day.
CHORUS
Then back to camp for an evening
meal or barbecue
Followed by function with spot prizes
It's bound to be a wonderful do.
CHORUS

KASK FORUM

My wife Linda and I were at the Rotorua Forum and I would just like to say that it was a real ripper, the food, accommodation and event set up, weather and guest speakers, the Rotorua Kask crew did a brilliant job and the weekend went perfectly. The gang over there need to be congratulated for how well it all went
Evan Pugh



Birthday boy Gerry Maire (left) with KASK President and brother Vincent.



The organizers for the Rotorua Lakes Symposium, known as the Red Team.

RED TEAM PHOTO

Back Row : (Left to Right)
Brian Pickering, Doug Vickery,
Graeme Bruce, John Fiesst.

Second Row: (Left to Right)
Dayle Smith, Ian Suckling.

Front Row : (Left to Right)
Phil Alley, Carol Patterson,
Steve Birch, John Flemming.
Absent: Emma Haxton



Kayaks as far as the eye can see, during a lunch stop on the paddle around Lake Rotoma. And no worries about the tide coming in!



KASK symposium participants undergoing training as Waka paddlers under direction of Te Waiariki Purea Trust instructors, on Lake Rotorua.

2003 NATIONAL KASK FORUM - WHITES BAY

2003 NATIONAL KASK FORUM REPORT WHITES BAY - MARLBOROUGH 27 - 30 March 2003. by Paul Caffyn

Fifty eight paddlers with all shapes and sizes of kayaks attended the Whites Bay KASK Forum.

For many, including myself, it was a first visit to this lovely, secluded bay. Road access is via a sealed road off the Blenheim to Picton highway, through the small coastal village of Rarangi, then via a steep, narrow winding road to a spacious DoC campsite at Whites Bay. From a carpark, extensive grassy camping areas lead down to a two storied surf club, then a curving strip of sandy beach with rugged cliffs at either end. Regenerating native bush swathes the hills behind the coastline with a network of DoC walking tracks.

At midday on 27 March, forum organizer Helen Woodward teamed up with two of her slaves (Kevin Killilea and Paul Caffyn) to move chairs, tables and a marquee to the bay, where early arrivals were chain-ganged into erecting the marquee and setting out the venues for lectures. Both AJ (with kayak trailer) and Paul met ferry arrivals at Picton, while Helen picked up paddlers from Blenheim airport. Some 35 paddlers were ready for the first evening slide show by Kerry-Jayne Wilson on the 'Fauna of the Forbidden Isles.' Without power, candles lit the upstairs room of the surf club until Bevan Walker's timely arrival with a gen. set and kilometres of power cable.

Kerry-Jayne, a senior lecturer in biology at Lincoln University, gave an informative slide show on the offshore islands surrounding New Zealand, particularly those protected wildlife refuges where paddlers can circumnavigate, but even though they are in desperate need of a pee, large signs say 'No Landing.' Reasons given

for why landings are prohibited on certain islands were:

1. animals living there are very rare
2. animals living there are abundant
3. animals are not present
4. any two of the above
5. all three of the above.

Kawau Island was given as an example of a badly devastated island with all manner of biota introduced by Governor Grey. Marvellous slides of threatened marine bird species were shown, along with examples of the predators (rats, cats, stoats) which have decimated some of the species. Footwear styles for islands with honeycomb-like burrows of nesting shearwaters were intriguing, with rectangles of plywood attached to the feet. Kerry-Jayne noted the old days of using bits of twine to attach these around the ankles and feet have now gone, with modern crampon like straps used. And the message was there, that with so much effort and money going to keep the recent island wildlife refuges predator free, paddlers should abide by the warning signs. I have always been reluctant to believe that sea kayakers could actually bring a predator to an island, but there is a gospel story of a group landing on an island in the Hauraki Gulf, a hatch being removed, and a mouse jumping out. Apparently the kayak had been stored for the winter in a garage with the hatches removed.

Grey skies greeted the dawn on the Friday, with the morning program kicking off with a show and tell of a varied collection of wooden, plastic and fibreglass kayak. John Dobbie passed on his knowledge of both boat design and building. After morning smoko, Paul lectured on navigation skills and equipment, and used a recent circumnavigation of Mana Island with the Ruahine Club in a strong southerly wind and flood tidal stream to illustrate the need for using transits in holding a course.

After lunch of filled rolls and fruit, paddlers were keen to hit the water and see the outside coast.

On a choppy north-easterly sea, all the boats were launched for a trip up the coast towards Port Underwood. Dinner was supplied by a Blenheim caterer, after which Paul Chaplow showed slides of whales and paddling in British Columbia. Helen's slaves unfortunately missed the slides, while picking up a group of eight Welling-ton paddlers from Picton.

And then the five month Marlborough drought broke, with skies lowering and Scotch mist turning into drizzle, then light rain.

Spirits however were in no way dampened, and Cathye Haddock held an excellent workshop on risk management first thing on the Saturday. Author of the Mountain Safety Council manual on Risk Management, Cathye used as an example, the 13 December 2002 'Bugger! File' incident that occurred in Lyttleton Harbour. John Kirk-Anderson's well written article, from KASK newsletter No. 102, was read out to refresh paddlers' memories, and then small groups were formed to analyse what went wrong. Although Cathye had stipulated a maximum of 16, she had a full house and received good feedback from each group with respect to her loss causation model and pathways to change table. One of the key phrases stated with respect to the Lyttleton incident was, 'Challenge by Choice', rather than the old style experiential learning.

Concurrently with Cathye's workshop, a session on wooden boat and paddle building was run by Malcolm Geard in the marquee.

With most paddlers now in attendance, pod leaders were briefed for an afternoon group paddle north towards Port Underwood. Play-lunches loaded into hatches, the pods set off before midday for a bouncy ride on a choppy south-easterly sea. One large pod remained in the shelter of the bay with tuition on paddling strokes from Conrad Edwards, Susan Cade and Dianne Morgan.

2003 NATIONAL KASK FORUM - WHITES BAY

Several pods reached Robin Hood Bay where they surfed in to land for a cuppa (Kevin brought his cooker) and lunch, while the fast pod almost made the entrance of Port Underwood before being surrounded by pea soup conditions. John Dobbie's pod was the last to return, but they managed to reach the beach at Ocean Bay where they lunched in a smelly barn out of the rain. Rain and the south-east headwind led to a slow trip back for the pods.

The surf in Whites Bay kept lifting as the pods made their way back, just big enough for experienced paddlers to play and just enough for other paddlers to be intimidated. Despite persistent rain, there were thrills and spills a plenty in the breakers, particularly when kayaks skewed into a broach, with capsizes always towards the beach. I was pleased to see wet be-draggled paddles being picked up on the beach, boats emptied and then going out to practice. A debrief of the afternoon paddle followed with each pod leader spilling the beans.

Steaming paddlers then assembled upstairs in the surf club for the KASK AGM which was over in a record 32 minutes. (See separate report from KASK President Vincent Maire). There is much to be said for holding the meeting immediately before dinner. Replete after a sumptuous dinner, I pulled the power lead out of the light socket, to kill the lights and fire up the slide projector, only to jump after a good shock from the socket - bare feet on a wet floor! My slide show of the Kuala Lumpur to Phuket paddle, was going a treat with some wicked interjections and comments, until a Nelson paddler collapsed off her chair onto the floor. Nothing to do with the red wine, I was told, simply overtiredness! Fancy going to sleep during my slide show!

Steady rain persisted through the night and through early Sunday morning, when sound sleepers were dragged out of tents and bunks at some ungodly hour by Sue Cade for a dawn paddle. Two rescue session were then

run in the bay after breakfast by Sue and Dianne Morgan, while Conrad and Helen coached paddle skills and bracing on the water. Sue had prepared a detailed handout on self and group rescues, which had been circulated the previous day.

Paul then ran a tides and tidal stream session before lunch, and a forum debriefing. Feedback from the participants with respect to the venue, food, lectures was all pretty positive. I heard no serious moans about the cold water showers - perhaps a few mild screams - and Helen Woodward was soundly applauded for her pivotal role in organizing such a successful forum. At least half of the paddlers were attending their first forum!

In an amazingly short time, the marquee was down and rolled up, tents packed up, and the trailer loaded with chairs and tables, and the shuttle of paddlers out to airports and the Picton ferry commenced. Poor Helen was left stranded with a carload of paddlers and kit bound for Picton while her husband headed back to Blenheim with the trailer and her car keys! Mind you, you get that after the big forums!

Despite the drought breaking weather, the forum was a brilliant success. Helen and her slaves, the caterers and lecturers did a great job. Big mobs of thanks to Helen and her slaves, AJ and Kevin.

Paul Caffyn



View from the surf club of the show and tell kayak session



Conrad
Edwards
and forum
organizer
Helen
Woodward.

2003 NATIONAL KASK FORUM - WHITES BAY

Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers President's Report 2002/03 from Vincent Maire

The past year has been a period of progress and challenge for KASK. Your committee has been busy on a number of important projects and in some parts of the country, members have been actively involved in running forums and participating in training courses.

Last year a group of paddlers began to prepare for the KASK Rotorua Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium. The event was held over the weekend of 22-23 February and was a huge success with about 100 sea kayakers in attendance. Earlier this month the recently resurrected Otago Sea Kayakers Association – OSKA – held a mini-forum at Aramoana. This was also very successful and OSKA now has some 100 or so members on its database.

Here at Port Underwood we have the all-important annual KASK Forum. It is great to see so many sea kayakers travelling from all-over to attend and participate in the range of activities in the programme and to help us meet our obligation of holding the AGM. To this end I must offer Helen Woodward a special vote of thanks for making this event possible.

It is also important to note that in Tauranga, the Bay of Plenty Sea Kayak group reformed and is now a fully-fledged club with more than 100 members. 2002 also saw the start of the Gisborne Sea Kayak Network and from what I see and hear, right around the country the sport continues to grow in leaps and bounds.

Looking back over the past 12 months three matters of significance stand out as being of major importance to our organisation.

In the earlier part of the year we undertook a survey of members. This provided us with very valuable information on a number of areas concern-

ing the newsletter, the website, how members perceive KASK, marketing, training plus some basic demographic facts about our members.

Over the first weekend of August your committee met in Wellington and devoted a weekend to discussing the results of the survey, the important matter of training and had a long hard look at our finances. This was a very valuable experience and enabled us to cover many more issues in much greater depth than would otherwise be the case. At this stage we are planning to repeat the exercise in 2003.

The third important issue that has involved your committee in many long hours of discussion is the establishment of a national proficiency for sea kayakers. Encouraged by the success of the KASK Sea Kayak Leadership course that has been run in centres between Whangarei and Dunedin, the committee decided it was appropriate to extend the opportunities for upskilling our membership. Key points in the proposed national proficiency are as follows:

1. Mindful that sea kayaking is a potentially dangerous sport, the committee believes it has a responsibility to act in every way possible to reduce risk and develop skills.
2. At this stage KASK has support in principle from Water Safety New Zealand to proceed with funding applications targeted to this project.
3. KASK is putting in place a national system of training that is financially sustainable and achievable for a voluntary organisation.
4. KASK is not compromising the interest of its members who are volunteers in a recreational sport. This is not an academic approach but a proficiency level assessment that will be easily accessed and implemented by clubs, networks and individuals.
5. KASK is not acting alone. It has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sea Kayak Operators

Association of New Zealand (SKOANZ) and the New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association (NZOIA) to work towards a shared goal of developing qualifications that covers all aspects of sea kayaking in New Zealand.

6. By linking to a national qualification, the committee believes it is providing the option of a training pathway for recreational sea kayakers who one day may wish to seek qualifications to become professional guides or advanced level instructors.

Your committee will keep you informed via the website and the newsletter as this project evolves.

More KASK leadership courses were held in 2002 and even more are planned for the year ahead. Although we do not have firm numbers, it is likely that more than 100 sea kayakers from around the country have benefited from this very successful course.

Our hard-working editor Paul Caffyn produced six more excellent issues of 'The Sea Canoeist Newsletter' these past 12 months. From time-to-time Paul worries that he will not have enough material for an upcoming issue, but he nevertheless manages to maintain a very high standard. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Paul and also the people who send him stories.

Paul has also started work on a third edition of the KASK Handbook and he promises that it will be a bigger and brighter edition than its predecessors.

Following on from the membership survey we have just upgraded the website. A new page has been included that will be devoted to training. In the months ahead we also plan to implement a message alert via the website. This will enable us to promote events and happenings within the sea kayaking community on a national scale. It was heartening to see a dramatic rise in the number of visits to the website over the summer months. In January and February we

2003 NATIONAL KASK FORUM - WHITES BAY

were peaking at just over 1200 distinct hits a month, significantly up on the winter monthly range of 700 to 800 hits. This, we believe, was due to posting details of the Rotorua, Aramoana and Port Underwood forums plus a draft of the proposed sea kayak assessment.

Our two conservation officers, Bob Talbot in Taranaki and Rob Tipa in Otago have kept a weather eye on issues pertaining to conservation and coastal access. While no major issues have emerged in the North Island, Rob has kept the committee informed on matters relating to Otago, Akaroa, Marlborough Sounds and Abel Tasman National Park.

One matter that has perplexed the committee is the rise and fall in membership. Twelve months ago we had over 500 paid-up members. This fell back to just under 400 mid-year but has once again surged towards 500. In spite of what the research told us, it does seem that some members join KASK to get the handbook, and then fail to rejoin in spite of our best efforts to convince them otherwise.

This report would not be complete without marking the untimely deaths of Grant Rochfort and Dave Herrington. Both men made unique contributions to the sport of sea kayaking and are sorely missed by their families and many friends.

Finally I wish to thank the hard working committee who make the six-weekly tele-conferences so enjoyable. Rob Gardner, Bob Talbot, Maurice Kennedy, Max Grant, Rob Tipa, John Kirk-Anderson and Paul Caffyn are a wonderful team to work with and together we have achieved much over the past year. Ron Tipa and Rob Gardner are stepping down and I wish to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and insightful contributions to the many issues that confronted the committee in 2002.

Vincent Maire
President of KASK
White's Bay, Port Underwood,



KASK Treasurer, Max Grant, holding forth after the AGM.
From left:
Mike Wilkin,
Max,
Dianne Morgan,
David Fisher



At dinner following the AGM,
from left to right:
Joy Comrie, Lois Cowan &
Moira Pryde

2003 NATIONAL KASK FORUM - WHITES BAY

GRAHAM EGARR TROPHY from Vincent Maire

And the Graham Egarr trophy goes to: Just prior to the AGM committee members Vincent Maire, Max Grant, Maurice Kennedy and Paul Caffyn met to discuss the format of the meeting. While everything seemed in order, Paul was concerned, indeed dismayed, that somehow, the committee had forgotten all about the Graham Egarr trophy.

The Graham Egarr trophy is a very special part of KASK history and culture. Graham was a founding member of KASK, a pioneering river and sea kayaker, founding editor of the Sea Canoeist Newsletter and author of guides to river kayaking in both North and South islands. Sadly, Graham's life was cut short by his tragic death from melanoma in 1991.

Past trophy recipients include current treasurer Max Grant (1998), Bevan Walker (2000), Dave Herrington (2001), immediate past president Helen Woodward (2002). It is not awarded

every year but only when the national committee deems a particular person merits the distinction of having his or her name included on this handsome trophy.

The trophy takes the form of a laminated wooded paddle mounted on a base with inscribed plaque of recipients. Back in 1997, kayak builder and designer John Dobbie crafted this lovely trophy, which is inscribed:

'Graham Egarr Memorial Paddle.
Presented by KASK for Services
to sea kayaking in New Zealand.'

But back to the AGM. Paul did not have time to work up a head of steam about the tardiness of his fellow committee members. The meeting started with calls for apologies, a reading of the 2001/2 AGM minutes and reports from secretary Maurice and treasurer Max. All was revealed when president Vincent delivered his report and during this, the presentation of the Graham Egarr trophy was made to Paul. During his thank you speech, Paul remarked how perplexed he was at the behaviour of his fellow committee members during pre-meeting dis-

cussions. They seemed embarrassed and not at all keen to discuss this important matter.

Paul's nomination was very well received by the audience and later drew the comment, 'How come it has taken so long to get Paul's name on this coveted piece of wood?'

It seems that one of the reasons is that Paul almost never misses a committee meeting. This means that the committee can never get to discuss the matter without him being around. Anyway, he missed the first meeting of the year, (it's rumoured he was sipping merlot and eating olives in his plunge pool) and this meant the matter could be put to rest once and for all.

Just for the record, Paul was nominated for the award for many reasons. He and Graham Egarr are co-founders of KASK. When Graham died Paul took over the editorship of 'The Sea Canoeist Newsletter', he is a past president, he has devoted many, many long hours to editing the KASK Handbook, he has either organised and/or attended most of the forums and symposiums held in New Zealand over the past decade and run many workshops while doing so. His contribution goes well beyond KASK. He is arguably the best expedition sea kayaker anywhere in the world and is without doubt this country's most unrecognised adventurer.

A week never goes by without someone, somewhere in the world, ending up in the KASK website because Paul's name was keyed in as a search topic. Paul has written four books about his expeditions and is in the process of writing another. But as everyone knows Paul is a very humble man who eschews fame and gives of himself selflessly to sea kayaking and to people who are equally as passionate about this wonderful sport. KASK, and indeed New Zealand, is very lucky to have Paul Caffyn.
Vincent Maire
President.



Kayak show and tell at the Whites Bay KASK Forum

2003 NATIONAL KASK FORUM

CHANGES TO KASK COMMITTEE from Vincent Maire

The AGM generally marks the time when people choose to step down from the committee. This time we lost the services of Rob Tipa and Rob Gardner. Rob Tipa was our South Island conservation officer and devoted considerable time to monitoring aquaculture applications and the potential for these ventures to limit coastal access. One of Rob's reasons for wishing to step down is to devote more time to the recently re-formed Otago Sea Kayak Association (OSKA). Rob Gardner was our safety officer and has contributed his considerable expertise and talent to the sea kayak proficiency project. Rob brought to our discussions insights into Australian sea kayaking qualifications and also acted as an advisor to various people and organisations on matters pertaining to sea kayak safety.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Rob G and Rob T for their contribution and hope they remain close to sea kayaking and to KASK.

As the committee was one person short, it was necessary to elect three new members at the AGM. Nominations were received for three people; Susan Cade, Alan Hall and Doug Vickery. Susan is a leading light and long time stalwart of the Wellington Sea Kayak Network. She is an experienced sea kayak leader and during the KASK forum ran on-water skill sessions. Alan Hall is from Tauranga and is president of the Bay Association of Sea Kayakers (BASK). Under his leadership this club has become incorporated and experienced rapid growth in its membership. Originally from Scotland, Alan was an active member of the Scottish Canoe Union. Doug Vickery lives in Rotorua and took a leading role in organising the hugely successful KASK Rotorua Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium.

Current members of the committee include Bob Talbot (Taranaki), Max Grant (Manawatu), Maurice Kennedy

(Wellington), John Kirk-Anderson (Christchurch) and Paul Caffyn (West Coast). The committee has yet to define which committee members will be responsible for what roles, but this will be announced in the next newsletter.

Vincent Maire
President
(Auckland)

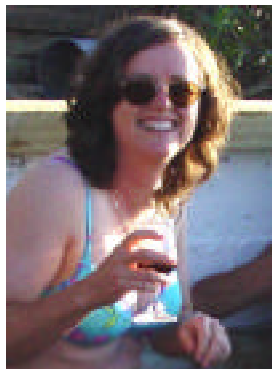
NEW COMMITTEE FACES

Susan Cade

I have been blessed with a love of adventures in the outdoors, as well as a passion for dance. This has taken me to many places, such as spelunking to new cave depths in Mexico, wreck diving in Wales, stormwater draining in Sydney, canyoning with lilo and split paddle in the Northern Territory, tramping in Alaska and set dancing in Ireland. My current return to paddling by sea kayak has been very rewarding. Getting to see different parts of New Zealand and meeting lots of great people.

I have been an active member in the Wellington Sea Kayak Network for a few years now and more recently taking a role as the network's training coordinator. This has been lots of fun, developing and sharing skills. I am also the sea kayak contact for the Hutt Valley Canoe Club.

So I bring to KASK my enthusiasm and interest in whatever capacity I can be of help. Please feel free to contact me if you want anything put forward.



Sue Cade at pool training!

Stupid Buggers File

From 'The Press'
9 January 2003.
LAKE ROTORUA

LAKE KAYAK SEARCH

A midnight kayak trip by two English tourists resulted in a search by rescue services on Lake Rotorua. The pair, a man 26, and a woman 23, were found yesterday after being missing since midnight on Tuesday.

The tourists had been drinking before deciding to kayak out to Mokoia Island, Senior Sergeant Dave Donaldson said. "It's not safe on a lake at night. They had gone on the lake after drinking, on a lake they didn't know, presumably because they were tourists, without lifejackets or light, which is essential at night. They could have been run over by a larger boat heading out fishing. There are a lot of things they should not have done."

After drinking with friends at their accommodation at a lakeside holiday park in Koutu, the pair decided to kayak out to Mokoia Island, in the middle of Lake Rotorua. The pair were not wearing lifejackets.

Concerned friends back at the holiday park called the police at 3am when the pair still had not returned.

A full scale search followed, involving the Rotorua District Council harbourmaster and coastguard and the Fletcher Challenge Forests Rescue helicopter. A resident spotted the pair just after 7am off Waiteti, at Ngongotaha, one kayak towing the other. The woman was suffering suspected mild hypothermia and was taken to Rotorua hospital.

WEBSITE

Subject: Iceland
Date: Thu, 13 Mar 2003
From: Alex Ferguson

A solo go at Iceland - John
Burleigh's site
<http://www.iceland2003.co.uk/>

NEW ZEALAND TRIP REPORTS

Opotoki to East Cape, North Is.

by: Mike Scanlan

Date: January 10-15, 2003

**Party: Mike Scanlan, John Humphris, Bob Wishart,
(Gisborne Sea Kayakers Club)**

Plan A was to start paddling at Opotoki and finish at Waipiro Bay, thus linking the Gisborne to Waipiro Bay day trips that John, Bob and I had done during 2002. We had been advised to start at Opotoki to avoid prevailing NW headwinds. In reality we had six days of constant north-east and south-east headwinds ranging from moderate to very strong, mostly the latter.

I felt a bit challenged before the trip and repeated reading of Paul Caffyn's experiences in that part of his North Island circumnavigation did nothing to reassure me.

Preparation for the trip was way more intense than my 2002 paddle from Whitianga to Auckland with Sandy Gibson. This time we had a VHF radio, EPIRB, laminated sections of the marine charts, spare paddles, two digital cameras, and more than one flare. We had researched the route with local advice and my TUMONZ computer map programme, (which even allows distance computing).

We cannot control everything however and just before our start, I went down with a hideous flu/cold and the weather went bad with a marine forecast for 35 knot north-east winds and very rough seas for the Bay of Plenty area.

Day 1

John and I left Gisborne on a pretty unpleasant Thursday morning but were very encouraged by much better than predicted weather on arrival at Opotoki. We decided to forego the first kilometre's paddle along the

beach and launched at our Seayak and Squall kayaks at 10.30 am at Opape, where the sand stops and the rocky foreshore starts. Once around the headland there was suddenly a moderate NE headwind and a lumpy one metre wind swell. The shore line was sharp volcanic rock with mostly manuka-covered hills rising steeply up from the shore. There was the occasional stony beach and the scenery was interesting. There were no other boats around. Lunch was on a long beach covered with driftwood. After lunch the headwind suddenly doubled in strength and the waves likewise doubled to two metres. The waves were steep and irregular and we had to back off on paddling up the faces to reduce the impact of the heavy kayaks crashing down the backs of the waves.

About this time John was spectacularly sick but stoically paddled on. I thought projectile vomiting only occurred in horses.

Mid afternoon we arrived at the outlet of the Motu River and found a tiny bay at the start of Tokata Point, complete with a couple of derelict baches. On inspection we decided that one of the baches was a better option than putting up the tent and moved in for the night. 24kms. for the day.

Day 2

The morning was calm and we started off with hopes of an easier day.

This was not going to happen and the headwind quickly reappeared. Again there was a hilly bush coastline with a rocky foreshore. Lunch was at a beach just before Te Kaha Point. Later, at Waikawa Point, the waves went from big to very big. They were also very steep and confused and crashed impressively against a rocky shoreline that stretched into the distance in an unbroken line with absolutely no landing options. John started to feel ill again and his paddling slowed.

At this point I felt somewhat uneasy as the conditions were marginal and there was no option but to keep going.

Although we were paddling side by side, I could not hear John's voice above the noise unless I turned towards him and I was not willing to do this as my whole concentration was on reading the waves.

Finally we spotted a landing spot in the distance and were very thankful to eventually turn into a small bay with a camping ground just past Whanarua Bay. As we beached, our third member drove up to join us. Bob arrived with his Kodiak kayak plus fresh steaks and sweet corn for dinner which we were very happy to eat instead of our dehy. The sheltered bay seemed a world away from the wind and waves outside it. 34kms. for the day.

Day 3

We started with no definite objective as the wind strength was having such a big impact on our progress. The wind was only moderate and we had lunch on the peninsula of Cape Runaway at a spot that only a sea kayak could get into.

Cape Runaway was straightforward with only a short area of turbulence between the cape and a small island. The wind had changed to a SE and was still pretty much a headwind coming at about 45° off the bow. The coastline was now very steep farmland. The foreshore was all rock with a one metre swell breaking on it and very few landing opportunities. We paddled on to a small rocky bay a few kms. from Lottin Point.

This was a magical campsite. The water was extremely clear and deep just a short distance offshore. Great for diving and fishing. We could not get VHF radio reception after rounding Cape Runaway, (even 71 Runaway) but found later there may be another frequency we were not aware of. 45kms. for the day.

Day 4

We started the day with a visit to the camping area of Lottin Point (privately owned by the Lottin Mariners Assoc.) and then continued around

the point. The coastline continued in an unbroken line of rock. The coastline from Cape Runaway to Matakaoa Point (35km) is definitely committing with few landing opportunities. Not somewhere for things to go wrong.

We called in at a very nice double bay just past Midway Point. The breaking surf tended to obscure the way in until you were close. The headwind increased again and progress slowed. Near Matakaoa Point it was mid afternoon and I was pretty sure that rounding the point and getting into Hicks Bay was going to be a difficult and drawn out struggle against the wind. A channel through the rocks to a rough landing (plastic kayaks have their advantages) gave an option to tired bodies and we made an early camp. Later in the afternoon John and I walked along to the Matakaoa Point 'lighthouse' and amused ourselves taking 'leaning into the wind' photos. Only 18kms. for the day.

Day 5

It's surprising how often you hopefully think that a calm morning will be followed by a calm day. The wind reappeared 30 minutes after leaving and got up to its strongest yet.

Rounding Matakaoa Point we paddled across Hicks Bay to the peninsula between it and Te Araroa. It was heads down and brace into the bigger gusts. Progress was often reduced to a crawl. Heading into the beach at the western end of the Te Araroa beach the wind was picking water off the surface and there was a one metre plus wind wave despite it being an off-shore wind and close to land. We survived the surf landing OK and walked to the camping ground where it was calm and people lazed in the sun reading books.

A couple of pies and drinks from the shop improved our outlook considerably. Energy renewed we launched into the surf. Bob capsized in his first attempt and had his sprayskirt pushed in on the next but got through and pumped his kayak out.

Mid afternoon saw us close to East Cape and we camped in the sand dunes.

The wind collapsed the tents several times making us re-site them in behind a bit of shelter. The coastline had now changed to long sandy beaches with rocky points and was much friendlier. 23 (hard) kms. for the day.

Day 6

After the usual calm start the wind rejoined us. A very strong SE which took the top off the water and turned the sea into a heaving mess. We made a bit of ground (sea?) around the cape and got a view of the coast heading south towards Gisborne. It looked out of the question. Without any discussion we carefully turned around and headed back to the last beach.

After a rest we walked down the road to the East Cape lighthouse to get a better view of what we were heading into. The wind was blowing stones off the road and was a real struggle to walk against. The view from the lighthouse was inspiring in a 'let's go home' sort of way and it was an easy decision to phone home and request transport, leaving the last bit for another day. Another factor was the loss of communication from East Cape on, with no cell phone coverage and no houses with phones, making organising a pickup a problem. 11kms. for the day

The trip was great! Easier conditions would have meant more distance covered but the memories of this one will certainly last. The sun shone despite the WIND and the only negative was our severely wind-affected lips despite using heaps of sun cream.

The area is pretty amazing, totally unspoilt, and sees almost no kayakers. Parts of the coastline are committing with the lack of landing spots, and strong onshore winds would make the Cape Runaway to Matakaoa Point section more hazardous.

I would certainly choose our trip over a January trip at Abel Tasman.

Mike Scanlan
mikejanscanlan@xtra.co.nz
(Pic of the paddlers at East Cape lighthouse on p.20)

USA does Doubtful Sound by Brenda Anderson

A paddling trip in Fiordland was high on my 'must do' list during my four-week visit to your beautiful country and Doubtful Sound seemed to be the best choice. I'd read about the rugged conditions and the often changeable weather so I decided to go through an outfitter instead of attempting to paddle on my own. However, first I had to convince them of my paddling abilities before they would let me take the Feathercraft K-1 I'd brought with me from the USA instead of the double kayaks they insist all their clients use.

The logistics of reaching the launching area were enough to require the help of an outfitter. It consisted of loading camping gear, personal gear and three days of provisions for eight paddlers plus my kayak (the rental kayaks were already there, thank goodness) into a van at the outfitters in Te Anau for the drive to Lake Manapouri. There we unloaded everything from the van, carried it all down the dock and loaded it onto a small fishing boat for the 30km trip across the lake to the power station. We then unloaded everything from the boat and loaded it into a van and trailer for the 24km trip over Wilmot Pass to Deep Cove in Doubtful Sound. There we unloaded all the gear and my kayak from the van for the last time, picked up the rental kayaks and finally began to pack our boats for the trip.

So far I'd had extraordinary good luck with the weather during my entire New Zealand trip, despite the fact that it was November. I'd been hoping that my luck would hold for this three-day trip. It did. The wind had been steadily decreasing over the past two days. When we finally launched, it was dead calm with just a slight drizzle. Soon the drizzle let up to a light mist that turned the massive mountainsides, isolated islands and towering sea cliffs into a magical wonderland. Before long we came upon a group of little blue penguins that escorted us out the sound. Since

we had such good weather, we paddled past our turn-off at Crooked Arm for a peek at the Tasman Sea through the 'Gap'. We figured if we kept paddling through the Gap, at this latitude, we would have ended up somewhere in Argentina. Instead we turned back for our camping destination in Crooked Arm.

The thoughtful outfitter provided us with a screened tent as a weapon against the sand fly invasion. It was large enough for all of us to squeeze in to cook and eat; a blessing, since the sand flies were fierce. Apparently it was the price we paid for calm weather.

The next morning dawned bright with sunshine, rare this time of year. We explored Crooked Arm in the still-calm mirror waters. Waterfalls lined the deeply faulted mountainsides. Some of them dropped hundreds of feet off towering cliffs, spraying us with mist and rainbows as we paddled by. Dense rainforests covered the steep mountains broken up by occasional long straight scars from tree avalanches. We paddled under huge tree fuchsias, mountain tree daisies and saw a flowering rata or two. The massive glacial landscapes were overwhelming. A fur seal appeared very close by our kayaks rolling and rolling, over and over; apparently too busy digesting his lunch to worry about us.

Back at camp we evaded most of the sand flies at dusk by staying in our screen tent for dinner and later enjoyed the stars in the clear night sky. A totally different set of constellations than I usually observe above the USA.

Awoke the next morning to another day of sunshine. It was incredible; two days in a row of great weather. After breaking camp we headed out into the still-calm seas again, taking advantage of the reflections of the mountains and kayaks in the mirror waters for a superb photo session.

As we paddled out of Crooked Arm into Doubtful Sound, the wind freshened at our backs. As the fetch increased, so did the seas. We rafted up into two groups and set up sails. It was quite a ride downwind. After I while

I split off and took some photos of the others sailing. I also wanted to take advantage of the surfing opportunity. My Feathercraft K-1 has enough flexibility to take the waves well so it surfs very nicely. It was an exciting downwind paddle all the way back to Deep Cove where we ended our trip.

It was an incredible experience for me; well worth the logistic hassles and sandfly annoyance. I'm sure the fantastic weather helped. Again, it added to my trip of a lifetime in your beautiful country.

Brenda Anderson

IN THE MAIL

'Sea Kayaker' February 2003

If you have not bought a 'Sea Kayaker' magazine before, make sure you pick up this issue. Tel Williams, whose account of a three person team paddle along the Zuytdorp Cliffs in Western Australia, which featured in KASK newsletter No. 97, has rewritten the story of their trip from Perth to Shark Bay in a 13 page article with marvellous colour photographs that fully do justice to what he termed his 'Everest of sea kayaking.' If you are setting your sights on improving the standard of your trip report writing, then I suggest using Tel's story of the cliff paddle as your benchmark or goal. The article is an excellent mix of descriptive writing with Tel's innermost thoughts and his interplay with the other two members of the overnight team.

Kalbarri character, Ken Wilson, who played the bagpipes when Andy Wood and I headed out over the Murchison River bar in 1982, also acted as host for Tel and his team mates in 2002. I had passed on to Tel, via cybermail, a contact for Ken and they had corresponded prior to the team arriving at Kalbarri.

Now talk of synchronicity, in the last few days of 2002, Ken Wilson and his two daughters just happened to be visiting the Australian Embassy at the 12 Mile, on the West Coast of the South Island. On the morning of the last mail delivery of 2002, the 'Sea

Kayaker' magazine arrived, and there was much skimming of pages and mirth to see whose name was mentioned the most in Tel's wonderful article. The photocopier ran hot with copies of the article for Ken and his proud daughters.

Also in the February 2003 issue, a well illustrated paddling trip along Newfoundland's southwest shore, with a tailpiece travel planner on when, how to get there, rentals and background reading. A bulkhead mounted foot-operated bilge pump is well described and illustrated in the 'Do it Yourself' section. And an interesting article on 'Inuit Rope Gymnastics'; two sagging ropes are supported between two trees or poles, and balancing on the ropes was/is used to practice rolling and bracing techniques. Eight new kayaking shoes are reviewed in the equipment section, plus PFD's (lifejackets) with quick-release belts for towing.

'Sea Kayaker' April 2003

The two major articles are a 300 mile kayak race on Lake Michigan, and paddling Florida's Apachicola Bay. Three technical articles include, Issues of Entrapment, Gearing up for the larger paddler, and how to make carry straps for heavily loaded kayaks.

BOOK REVIEW

Title: 'Southern Exposure'

Sub Title: A Solo Sea Kayaking Journey around New Zealand's South Island.

Author: Chris Duff

Published: March 2003

Publisher: The Globe Pequot Press, USA

ISBN: 0 7627 2595 8

Content: Softcover, 266pp, 16 colour pics, 6 maps

Size: Portrait format, 150 x 230mm

Price: RRP \$29.95

Availability: Discerning kayak shops in NZ,

or order through your local bookshop.

Reviewed by: Sandy Ferguson

There are two things that a book such as this can be, a guide/day by day description and/or a diary of emotions and interactions with people and events. The former this book is not. Chris leaves out great parts of his trip and concentrates on events and people that occurred on the way. He often deeply analyses his motives and reactions to events. For him his trip is an emotional event, or so it seems to the reader. However he does this with a readable style though I did wonder if this would 'date', having recently read a book on travelling through Brazil in the 1930's with a writing style that dated that book to that time.

Over all the book is attractively presented with a centre of coloured photos that illustrate the drama of the voyage. The downside, just about all the maps have major mistakes and Chris tries to quote speech with an ear that totally misses the New Zealand pronunciation. We say, "ya" not "ye" as an example. For those who live in various areas and would like to know what he has to say about them, be warned, he totally misses any mention of Gore Bay to Christchurch, Banks Peninsula, the West Coast from just north of Greymouth to Wanganui Inlet, Tasman Bay section from Abel Tasman to French Pass. In fact, we leave Gore Bay and are immediately on to the next chapter and about to leave the beach at Birdlings Flat. After Rakaia, the next place mentioned is way south of Dunedin. Of the people whose names I know, he gets half of them wrong which doesn't give a reader much faith in the correctness of the rest.

There have been comments that he decided to do the trip in a rudderless boat. There's not much difference in cycle touring round New Zealand on a mountain bike instead of a touring bike as he had previously done - people have toured the country on tractors, it is just another way of doing things, though not necessarily the most efficient.

Despite the criticisms, this book will let you know just what you will have to deal with should you think of doing the same trip.
Sandy Ferguson

TECHNICAL

Personal Flotation Devices Changes to Safety Rules

The Maritime Safety Authority recently issued two Word file attachments covering changes and amendments to the Navigation Safety Rules of the Maritime Transport Act 1994. As both files total 14 pages, I have included below what I feel are the pertinent rules applying to sea kayakers. (Full copies of the information are available from the MSA or can be emailed from the editor.)

In summary, it is compulsory for PFDs to be carried on sea kayaks, and for them to be worn at times of heightened risk.

Maritime Rules

PART 91

Navigation Safety Rules

Part 91 replaces the Water Recreation Regulations 1974. Part 91 continues the basic navigation safety rules contained in those regulations with some modifications and additions to bring the requirements up to date with modern boating conditions and safety expectations.

Part 91 introduces new requirements for the carriage of personal flotation devices (buoyancy aids designed to be worn on the body) on pleasure craft. Provision is made for exemptions to these requirements in restricted circumstances where compliance with the rule is impractical or inappropriate. The rules also make the wearing of personal flotation devices mandatory in some circumstances.

91.2 Definitions:

Buoyancy Aids and Personal Flotation Devices (PFD):

A PFD is a buoyancy aid designed to be worn on the body. This description, based on the definition in Standards New Zealand 5823/2001, is included here to explain the differences between various devices designed to minimize the chance of drowning. The different types of PFD covered by SNZ 5823 are as follows:

Type 401: Open-waters Lifejacket. - used on pleasure vessels going over-

seas. As well as the conventional constructed PFD, many inflatable jackets meet this standard.

Type 402: Inshore-waters Lifejacket. - as with type 401, the wearer will be turned to the nose-up position. It has less buoyancy than type 401 and but retains the large collar. It is probably the most common lifejacket used aboard pleasure vessels.

Type 403: Buoyancy Vest. No collar is fitted and it has lower buoyancy than a lifejacket. It is designed for use in aquatic sports, such as dinghy sailing.

Type 404: Buoyancy-aid Wet Suit - a wet suit with added buoyancy.

Type 405: Buoyancy Garment - similar to Type 403, but is not required to be fitted with reflective tape. Designed for special use situations.

91.3 Application

The Rule applies to all vessels inside the New Zealand twelve-mile limit, including all inland waters both natural and man-made. Where Navigation Safety bylaws established by Regional or District Councils are in place, this Rule does not apply. However, such bylaws must not conflict with this Maritime Rule. In effect, this means that there is one consistent set of requirements throughout New Zealand. Other Maritime Rules, including the Collision Prevention Rules, also apply in all waters throughout the country.

91.4 Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

This rule makes it compulsory for PFDs to be carried on board all recreational craft, and for them to be worn at times of heightened risk. It does so because there is overwhelming evidence to show that the use of PFDs could prevent as many as 10-15 drownings in New Zealand each year.

The rule provides for a range of PFDs to be worn to suit each type of boating activity - whether it be buoyancy vest for kayaking or canoeing or a gas inflatable PFD for everyday use aboard

a trailer boat. All are invariably far more comfortable than their kapok counterparts of 20-30 years ago, and are available in a range of prices to suit most pockets.

Matching PFDs to the Activity – by adopting NZS5823, which includes six different types of PFD, as the standard, boat owners are able to use a PFD which best suits their particular type of activity. For example, when sailing a small yacht which is likely to trap a person underneath in a capsized, a Type 403 buoyancy vest provides adequate flotation while allowing the wearer to escape. Only Types 401, 402 and 408 will keep an unconscious person's nose and mouth above water and these are the only types which can be identified as "lifejackets". Inflatable jackets are included in the NZ Standard and often are the most comfortable.

91.4 (1) - This Rule requires the person in charge of every boat, no matter how small, to take responsibility for ensuring a correctly sized, serviceable PFD is available to every person on board. PFDs must be readily accessible in a sudden emergency; for example, following a sudden capsize.

91.4 (2) (a) – there is no requirement in this rule for surfboarders to carry a PFD. However, if a device such as a surfski is being paddled and the intention is to use it as transport from one place to another, it can be considered a boat and a PFD must be carried.

91.4 (4) - in co-operation with the organizers of sports or ceremonial events, the MSA has developed guidelines and codes of practice to put in place an appropriate alternative safety system when carriage of PFDs is impractical. These guidelines include allowing an accompanying vessel to carry the PFDs or suitable buoyancy aids such as lifebelts, which are usually more easily put on by a person in the water than PFDs.

91.4 (5) - where special circumstances exist, it is possible for the organisers of an event to apply for an exemption from carrying PFDs from the authority controlling a particular area, provided

alternative safety systems are adequate.

91.4 (6) - this rule sets out the circumstances in which it is mandatory to wear a PFD. If the risk to safety is clearly increased for any reason, properly secured PFDs must be worn by all. It should be noted that this rule applies in spite of exemptions which have been authorised. It is the skipper's responsibility to ensure all on board comply. The rule is as follows:

'(6) Despite rule 91.4(4), no person in charge of a recreational craft may use that craft in circumstances where tides, river flows, visibility, rough seas, adverse weather, emergencies or other situations cause danger or a risk to the safety of persons on board, unless every person on board is wearing a properly secured personal flotation device of an appropriate size for that person.'

91.4 (7) - everyone being towed, including those water-skiing, on a 'biscuit', on a board, swimming, in a dinghy or in a vessel which has had a mishap, must wear a PFD.

Amendments to Rules Part 22: Collision Prevention

Vessels Under Oars - the Collision Prevention Rule states that when crossing, power vessels must give way to sailing vessels (22.18.1), but it does not require them to give way to vessels under oars. However, the Rule prescribes the same lights for rowing and sailing vessels from sunset to sunrise (22.25.(3).(b)), effectively meaning that power vessels are obliged to give way to both types of vessel at night as they are unable to tell the difference between the two. To provide consistency and ensure that there is one give way rule for vessels under oars and power vessels during both the day and at night, Rule 22 has been amended to require power vessels to give way to vessels under oars (rowing or paddling).

While power vessels must give way, other parts of the rule clearly state that when a power vessel is unable to comply due to a narrow channel, all small vessels and sailing craft must give way (22.9.(2)).

HUMOUR

With thanks to Vincent, Aaron and the net.

NEW AGE CHURCH

Three couples - an elderly couple, a middle-aged couple and a young newlywed couple wanted to join a new age church. The vicar addressed them. "We have special requirements for new parishioners in this church," he said. "You must abstain from having sex for two weeks. It is a self discipline test; but we demand complete honesty."

The couples looked at each other with some serious thought; but eventually agreed to the sacrifice.

And at the end of the two weeks they returned. The vicar turned to the elderly couple and asked, "Were you able to abstain from sex for the two weeks?"

"No problem at all, Vicar" the old man replied.

"Congratulations! Welcome to the church!" said the vicar.

He then turned to the middle-aged couple. "Well, were you able to abstain from sex for the two weeks?" he enquired.

"The first week was not too bad" the man replied. "The second week I had to sleep on the couch for a couple of nights but, yes, we made it." He added proudly.

"Congratulations! Welcome to the church!" said the vicar.

The vicar then turned to the newlywed couple.

"Well, were you able to abstain from sex for two weeks?" he asked, eyeing them a wee bit more carefully.

"No, vicar. I am afraid we were not." the young man replied sadly but forthrightly. "We were not able to go without sex for the two weeks,"

"What happened?" enquired the vicar with some compassion.

"Well, we took heaps of cold showers for the first four days. Then when that started to pale a bit, we kept out of each other's way. We managed to do that successfully for another four days by sleeping in separate bedrooms and eating at different times and by working to a strict timetable of avoiding each other."

"What went wrong?" asked the vicar. "On day nine, we inadvertently bumped into each other. I saw my wife reaching for a can of paint on the top shelf and she dropped it," the young man continued. "When she bent over to pick it up, I was overcome with uncontrollable lust. I just had to have her. I tore her clothes off and she mine and I took advantage of her right there and then."

"You understand, of course, this means you will not be welcome in our church," stated the vicar gravely.

"We know that," said the young man resignedly. "We're not welcome at Mitre 10 any more either."

RAILWAY TICKETS

Three New Zealander sea kayakers and three Aussie jet skiers were recently travelling by train from Auckland to a maritime legislation conference in Wellington. At the station, the three jet skiers each buy a ticket and watch as the three paddlers buy just one ticket between them. "How are the three of you going to travel on only one ticket?" asks one of the jet skiers.

"Watch and learn," answers one of the paddlers.

They all board the train. The jet skiers take their respective seats but all three paddlers cram into a toilet and close the door behind them.

Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the toilet door and says, "Ticket please." The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on. The jet skiers see this and agree it was quite a clever idea, so after the conference, they decide to copy the paddlers on the return trip and save some money (being clever with money and all that).

When they get to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip. To their astonishment, the paddlers don't buy a ticket at all! "How are you going to travel without a ticket?" asks one of the perplexed jet skier.

"Watch and learn," answers a paddler.

When they board the train the three jet

skiers cram into a toilet and soon after the three paddlers cram into another toilet across the aisle. The train departs.

Shortly afterwards, one of the paddlers leaves the toilet and walks over to the toilet where the jet skiers are hiding. He knocks on the door and says, "Ticket please?"

EXPENSIVE VETERINARY BILL

A woman brought a very limp parrot into a veterinary surgery. As she lay her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, he shook his head sadly and said, "I'm so sorry, Polly has passed away." The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure? You haven't tested him or anything - he might just be in a coma. Please check again!"

The vet rolled his eyes, shrugged, turned and left the room, returning a few moments later with a beautiful black Labrador. As the bird's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table, and sniffed the dead parrot thoroughly. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.

The vet patted the dog and took it out, then returned a minute later with a cat. The cat jumped up on the table and also sniffed delicately at the bird, before sitting back, shaking its head, meowing and running out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry but, as I thought, your parrot is 100%, certifiably dead." He turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill which he handed to the woman.

Still in shock, she took the bill and examined it. "\$150?" she cried. "\$150 just to tell me my bird is dead?"

The vet shrugged. "Well, Madam," he said, "if you'd taken my word for it, the bill would have only been \$20 - but what with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan."

PERSONAL COLUMN

SINGLE BLACK FEMALE... Seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good looking girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your ute, hunting, camping, and fishing trips, cosy winter nights lying by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. Rub me the right way and watch me respond. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me. Kiss me and I'm yours. Call xxx-xxxx and ask for Daisy. Over 150 men found themselves talking to the RSPCA about an eight-week-old black labrador puppy.

CHANNEL CROSSING

Hi Paul,

One of my near neighbours (who wished he owed a kayak) brought this item over to me yesterday. It came off the back of an Oddfellows Confectionery packet.

'Major Muffy Maher's arrival in Calais caused quite a stir indeed.

He is the first man ever to successfully paddle a crocodile across the English Channel.

"The golden rule of croc paddling," said the triumphant Major, "is never ever fall off".

Certainly an odd fellow, but he's OK. Cheers,

Shakey, alias John Flemming.

**WANTED TO
BUY**

Looksha Sport Sea Kayak

Contact:

yvonne.cook@canterbury.ac.nz

Tel: 03 3289596

Cheers, Yvonne

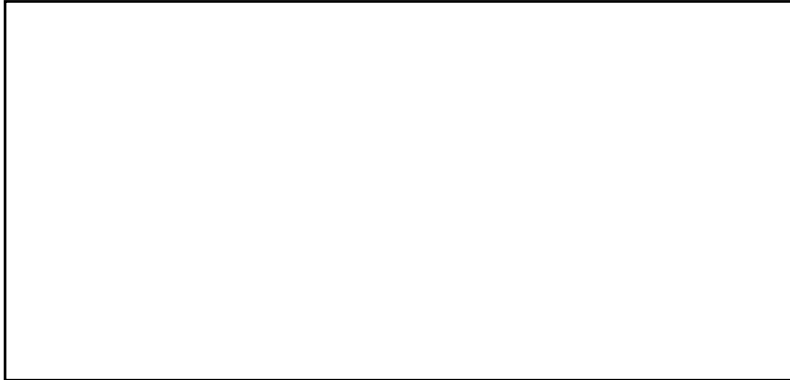
Sea kayak

suitable for intermediate female paddler, 5'4", 52Kg. Consider plastic or fibreglass, especially Looksha or Southern Aurora.

Tel: Wellington (04) 473 1020

Many thanks, Rachel

MAILED TO



If undelivered, please return to:
Maurice Kennedy, PO Box 11461, Manners St., Wellington. 6034



From left, John, Mike & Bob at the East Cape lighthouse.
See trip report on page 14.

