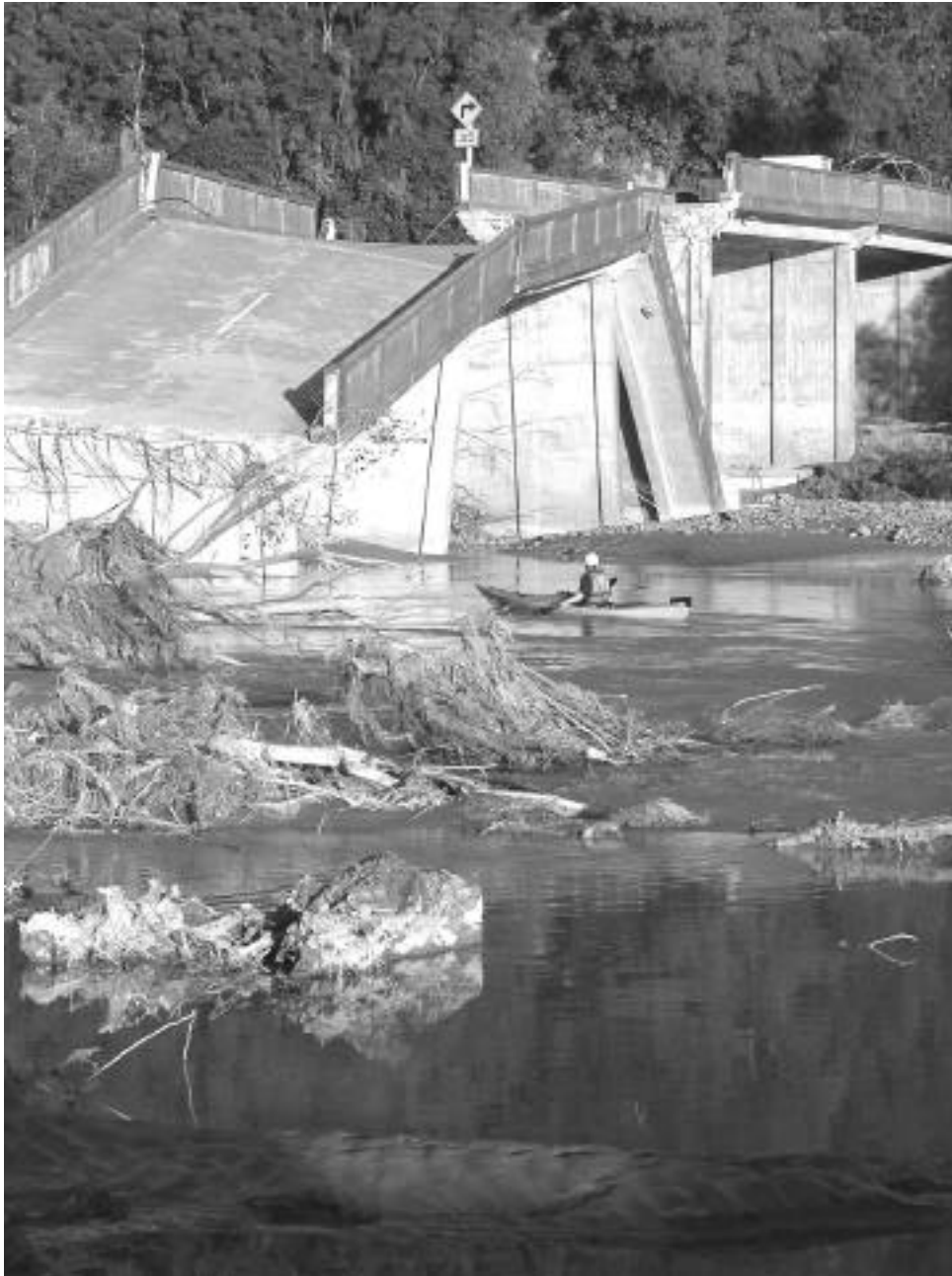


No. 109 February - March 2004

THE SEA CANOEIST NEWSLETTER



After the big February 2004 Floods - Melanie Grant by the remains of the Saddle Road bridge which is the main road through Ashhurst to Hawkes Bay/EastCoast. Photo: Max Grant (see report on p.4)

**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
(\$75 for 3 years; \$125 for 5 years)
\$30 family membership.
\$35 overseas

Cheques should be made out to:
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LRB3 - KASK HANDBOOK

For a copy of this mother of all sea kayaking handbooks, contact KASK Treasurer, Maurice Kennedy
PO Box 11461
Manners St., Wellington.
e-mail: eurotafts@xtra.co.nz

COST: \$24.00

New members: gratis

Make cheques out to KASK (NZ)
Inc. Trade enquiries to Maurice or Paul Caffyn in the South Island.

THE LRB3, or the Little Red Book 3rd. 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

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THANKS

To Max Grant for arranging the printing, Maurice Kennedy for mailing, and the contributors.

DEADLINE

16 May for newsletter No. 110

EDITORIAL

Symposiums & Forums

A very successful Coastbusters/KASK Forum was held at Orewa, north of Auckland, with 143 paddlers attending, from as far afield as Canada and Australia. Vincent Maire has penned a 10 year retrospective of the history of Coastbusters, and included are reports on various workshops run, also AGM reports from the KASK committee members. These are included to show KASK paddlers - membership is currently nudging 600 - just how much work has gone on behind the scenes by committee members during the past 12 months.

The Canterbury Sea Kayak Network held their annual training weekend at Okains Bay, which Sandy Ferguson has written up.

KASK AGM

Changes to the KASK committee included Max Grant retiring gracefully as treasurer after four sterling years of effort. He was later rewarded with presentation of the paddling trophy for outstanding services to sea kayaking in New Zealand (full report on p.10). Two new faces were elected to the committee, Iona Bailey from Tauranga and Tony Dumper from Auckland. With the growing membership numbers, the role of treasurer and secretary was amalgamated for the next 12 months, with Maurice Kennedy taking on this onerous task. Vincent Maire, Alan Hall, Susan Cade, John Kirk-Anderson and the editor will continue with their respective roles.

A last minute cunning motion by the out-going treasurer, for a bump in membership fees, was passed narrowly by vote at the AGM, however as the constitution requires 30 day prior notice of any motion for the AGM, fees will remain at \$25 until either a special AGM is held, postal ballot, or until the next AGM.

SAFETY

After my grim summer report in the last newsletter, there has been a further sea kayaking fatality in the Bay of Islands, and an extremely close call for a solo paddler off Houhora. On the road south from Auckland, I met with

both the Maritime Safety Authority and Water Safety Council in Wellington. Both of these meetings were very fruitful and the start of an excellent on-going liaison with both groups.

In February, I completed a sea kayaking accident database, mainly with information from my press clippings file and old newsletters. This 40 entry database, has been circulated for comment and analysis of accident causes, to Iona Bailey, Alan Hall, John Kirk-Anderson, Susan Cade and Tony Dumper. A report on their findings will be included in a future newsletter.

So many of the serious accidents involving either rescue or fatalities, involved both solo and group paddlers caught by weather changes, and many through being caught by strong off-shore winds. A critical factor in many accidents, was the failure to carry any appropriate signalling devices for calling in a rescue; day and night flares, signal mirror, lights at night, and VHF radios of mobile phones.

HUMOUR

Unfortunately there is no room for any jokes in this newsletter. My thanks to those who sent letters and emails of support after the criticism I received in the last newsletter. I have included only three, and the letter from Grahame Sisson has some sound advice on improving kayak/paddler visibility. To make up for the lack of jokes this time, I am toying with having n/i. 110 chocker with terrible jokes (Just kidding!)

LRB3

The KASK Handbook, 3rd. Edition is out of print with over 900 sold. The next reprint of 300 is already underway, and I have brought the network contact page addresses up to date, and corrected several minor errors which were pointed out to me. I will list these at some stage so paddlers can correct their existing copies. (see base of page 14). The price to KASK members has been reduced to \$24 to make a distinction with cheques between the annual subscription and orders for the LRB3.

The Flood

by Max Grant

A week had gone by since the storm had hit us and we still had not been able to see the Saddle Road Bridge close up as it was closed off and was a restricted area. The sun had finally come out from the clouds, so Melz and I decided to paddle down from the Pohangina from the Raumai Bridge after work to see what damage had been done in and around Ashhurst.

We were unable to drive to the river at the Raumai Domain, so a "walk" through soft mud had to be completed before we were able to launch our kayaks into the river. We decided to take our sea kayaks as they could carry some extra gear in case something unusual popped up. We did not know what to expect to see as we had heard there were still some farmers trapped on the other side of the river, unable to get off their farms because roads were still down.

The first thing that hit us was the smell; the stench of wet soil and gravel where the river had cut into farm land and taken trees and fences down the river. And the willows that had survived the fury of the water, had all been completely stripped of their leaves. It was an awesome sight of destruction, as we made our way down to the Saddle Road Bridge.

A power pole to the Romley's home had been bowled over and their power and telephone lines were lost in the river. The house stood intact on the hillside with no sign of life around. I had seen Wayne the day before in Ashhurst and he told me how he had towed his wife and family out earlier that day in their 4 x wheel drive with the farm tractor, along an old track which led back to the Raumai bridge. They were trapped in their home for five days.

A bit further on the river had taken a new course through the stop bank, across farm land and back into its old course again. This was okay to kayak until the river swung back into it's old course, where it had taken out the stop

bank, but the big old trees were still there stretched across the river. As we paddled towards the trees we realized that there was only a small passage for our kayaks to fit through between branches, which were in the river and overhanging the narrow passageway. We both put the power on and leaned forward with one end of our paddle stretched out along the front deck. Thank goodness we were wearing helmets, as they each took a few bumps from branches, before we successfully made our way through the blockage.

It was about then that we got our first sighting of the Saddle Road Bridge. What a mess. It looked as though there had been a huge build up of trees and branches against two of the bridge pylons, which had caused the river to cut through the approach to the bridge on the Ashhurst side. The approach and pylon had been washed out, causing the centre of the bridge to collapse. The gas pipeline to Hawkes Bay, which was attached to the bridge, now lay on the river bed, some what bent but it had been repaired and was

now working again. We spent some time paddling around the remains of the bridge having a good look at all the damage that had gone on.

After taking some photos, etc., we then we carried on to the Manawatu River and our car, parked at the road bridge. It was a good trip, different to what I had expected. It was amazing to see how the forces to be can cause so much damage when Mother Nature takes over!

Statistics

The worst storm ever to hit the area and damage was second worst in N.Z. next to the Napier earthquake. Cost is estimated to be over \$300 million.

18 stretches of State Hwy were closed, 90 secondary roads and 23 bridges were damaged. 300 houses were badly flooded, 84 schools were closed and the Feilding shopping centre was closed/flooded for several days.

Wind gusts up to 230kmh recorded in the Tararua Ranges. 11 metre swells in Cook Strait.

No lives were lost!



Max Grant, now a retired fisherman, plundering Lake Taupo under the kayak trout quota. However I am reliably informed by Max's wife Margaret, that he did not catch all these fish. Some were hers!

COASTBUSTERS SEA KAYAK SYMPOSIUM 14 YEARS AND 10 GREAT EVENTS

A Retrospective

by **KASK President Vincent Maire**

At what was undoubtedly the biggest and best Coastbusters Sea Kayak Symposium ever held, I could not help but look back and marvel at just what an important role this event has played in developing the sport in the upper North Island.

To begin with I am sure that along with Su & Peter Sommerhalder of the Auckland Canoe Centre, I am the only person who has attended all ten events. I think I am also correct in saying that upwards of 1000 people have attended Coastbusters since it was first held in May 1990.

Coastbusters was started by Dave Robertson. He held it in the Mon Desir hotel, a magnificent venue at the north end of Takapuna Beach long since lost to an incredibly crass block of apartments. I saw a flyer for the event in my local copy centre, went along and it was love at first sight. Being the younger brother of a gun kayaker I knew a thing or two about kayaks, namely, I didn't like racing kayaks and I didn't like white water kayaks. But here was a kayak that I did like. I purchased a Nordkapp (from Dave) and he and I started paddling together.

A year later Dave held Coastbusters number two. I have no records of this event however there was an important change in that the symposium was held at the Marine Education & Recreation Centre (MERC) at Long Bay, the most northern beach in Auckland's East Coast Bays.

By the time the third Coastbusters came around Dave had pulled out of the scene and so I took on the task of being the organiser. A key change was forming a partnership with MERC who agreed to manage any financial risk and also to handle the registrations. Back then John Maxted (now at the University of Otago) was the director of MERC and was very supportive of the event in lots of ways.

The event was held over the weekend of April 30 to May 2 1993 and started

with a slide presentation of various coastlines in NZ and around the world. Sessions included trip planning, risk management, first aid for sea kayakers, show and tell, rescue techniques, build your own sea kayak, crisis management, customising your kayak, paddles, plus a presentation from educators and operators and a session on KASK.

Presenters included Laurie Bugbee, Ross Barnett, John Hotham, Brian Lodge, Ian Ruthven, John Maxted, Gerry Maire, Eric Van Toor, John Woods, Brett Whitely, Roy Dumble, John Rice, Tim Smith and Gareth Eyres. I am ashamed to say that 11 years on I am struggling to put faces to some of these names.

We had no problems charging \$135 (including accommodation) and from memory over 70 paddlers attended. It was a great success but I was left feeling shattered and decided that what was needed was a committee to run future events.

In 1994 we moved the event to October and started a tradition that became known as 'Coastbusters weather'. It either blew or rained or did both! Once again it was held at MERC and Friday evening opened with a wonderful slide show on sea kayaking in the fifties and sixties by Pelham Housego and Gerry Maire. Colin Quilter was key note speaker in the morning and he was so good we asked him back a year later. He was followed by Felicity Fahy who spoke about the waves. We also had a sea kayaking for women panel discussion lead by Mary Reid, and a Kites and Sails session run by Paul Beckett and Owen Sprosen proved to be popular. I also see that Glyn Dickson, in the guise of NZ Sea Kayak Commodore, gave an update on the latest developments in the sport. A video on the famous Tsunami Rangers was a huge hit and Saturday night and on Sunday Ken Brierley came and gave us a presentation on the weather.

Number five Coastbusters was again held at MERC and took place over the weekend of October 13 to 15 1995. This was a symposium notable for its international outlook with presentations by Paul Caffyn, Gerry Maire, Trish Brothers, Kevin Jose and Matthew Crozier on overseas expeditions. We even had one workshop called 'Planning the Big OE'. The highlight was a presentation on Saturday evening by Orca expert Ingrid Visser and in my mind, Ingrid ranks as one of the best speakers to have ever attended Coastbusters. I think this was also the evening that Mary Reid dressed as a dominatrix and gave some of the boys a really good whipping.

In 1996 our key note speakers were Jonathan Iles on the three 'R's' of sea kayaking; risk, rough seas and rescues. Conrad Edwards talked on 'Experiences of and Reflections of Alaska' and Malcolm Gunn called his presentation 'Doing it in the south - kiwi paddlers in Chile. Liz Maire (my wife) came and demonstrated a range of stoves and Paul Buckley ran the ever-popular Gadgets & Gizmos. The price was \$149 for the weekend.

After Coastbusters number six the committee made an important decision based on delegate feedback. Numbers had dropped off and people were not coming because the event was 'just like last year'. So we decided to make it biannual (big sighs all round from the committee), changed the venue and moved to late summer.

The seven Coastbusters Sea Kayak Symposium was held at the YMCA Lodge at Shakespear Regional Park on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula. The trade was there in force in a very large marquee and we had our first overseas speaker, a kayaker from Canberra who did not live up to expectation. But this event is still remembered by many for the wonderful presentation on 'Ancient Maori Methods of Navigation and Weather Prediction' by Rawiri

Taonui of the University of Auckland. Another 'never-to-be-forgotten moment' was 'that photograph' of Paul Caffyn starkers in New Caledonia – and we had just eaten too! Blair Roskrige was back for the third time talking about paddles and paddling technique and Paul Buckley gave another wonderful slide presentation complete with music. Mark Hutson talked about kayak kookery while Gerry Maire and Jonathan Iles did a presentation on 'Planning an Expedition'. This was also the event where we hired a jukebox and we danced the night away.

Two years later long time committee members Kevin & Debbie Dunsford convinced a very sceptical committee to change venues to Puriri Park in Orewa. It was quite a distance from the sea but had other advantages such as very cheap accommodation, an excellent workshop and eating venue and a pool. Coastbusters number nine took place over the weekend on March 17 to 19 2000 and started with a slide presentation by Max Grant and the late David Herrington on their circumnavigation of the Chatham Islands. Ken Ring gave a fascinating presentation on his moon-weather theory and Dianne Michels led a very popular session on DIY boats. That evening Paul Caffyn and Conrad Edwards gave a slide presentation on

their Greenland trip. The next day everyone paddled to Motuora Island under the expert guidance of Clive Hookham.

Looking back over ten Coastbusters symposia I am left with some very memorable moments. Great presentations from Colin Quilter (twice) Kerry Howe (this year) Ingrid Visser and Rawiri Taonui. The best presentations on sea kayaking topics include Paul Caffyn on navigation, John Kirk-Anderson on Risk Management, Shawn Baker's '30 ways to roll a kayak' and anything featuring Rebecca Heap. Using a coat hanger as a TV aerial so we could watch international rugby at MERC is another memory and so too was watching Brian Lodge demonstrate a re-entry using a kayak on a table!

Bad moments include wandering along Long Bay in the dark with Mary Reid looking for a delegate who was depressed and had gone missing. Waking up one morning to find a kayak had been stolen, only to find it stashed in the creek that runs past MERC. After that we had to employ an all-night security guard. Perhaps the worst moment was the telephone call to say that our keynote speaker, Paul Caffyn, had collapsed on the job and had been flown by rescue helicopter to hospital. I did what any sensible person would do in the cir-

cumstance and called my older brother. I can't remember what he (or we) did but from that time Gerry became a permanent member of the event either as a speaker / presenter or more recently on the organising committee.

The 10th. Coastbusters was also Rebecca Heap's last symposium as a member of the organising committee. I can't remember when she arrived on the scene, but it was back in the MERC days and such was her enthusiasm she was soon giving her all to the task of planning the next event. She has run workshops on topics ranging from sails, to food, to gadgets & gizmos. Auckland loss is Wanganui's gain.

No review of Coastbusters would be complete without a roll call of all those people who freely gave of their time to make this event the great success it has become today. My apologies if I have forgotten anyone: Trevor Brown, Paul Buckley, Ray Clark, Matthew Crozier, Glyn Dickson, Tony Dumper, Debbie Dunsford, Kevin Dunsford, Donna Edge, Rob Gardner, Mike Hayes, Paul Hayward, Rebecca Heap, Clive Hookham, Doug Howard, Kerry Howe, Jonathan Iles, Steve Levett, Gerry Maire, Nicole Moorhouse, Mary Reid, Sabine Nierhof, Natasha Romhoff, Ann Schofield, Grant Stone, Margaret Thwaites, Ryan Whittle and Amanda Young.



Rebecca Heap & Kerry Howe at the 2004 Coastbusters

**KIWI ASSOCIATION OF
SEA KAYAKERS (NZ)
12th AGM, OREWA,
AUCKLAND
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the KASK AGM, which for the first time ever is being held at Coastbusters. The very first Coastbusters Sea Kayak Symposium was organised by a man called Dave Robertson and was held at the Mon Desir Hotel in Takapuna in May 1990. I went along and it was there that I saw my very first sea kayak. Over the past 14 years I have been on the organising committee of all subsequent symposiums and I am delighted that the year the KASK AGM comes to Auckland happens to also be the year that we have a record attendance at Coastbusters.

Looking back at 2003 I am astonished at what has been achieved by a small group of volunteers from across the country. On the topic of symposiums in 2003 I had the pleasure of attending events in Rotorua, Whites Beach near Blenheim and in Whangarei. There was also a mini-forum held at Aramoana near Dunedin. KASK either directly funded these events or had an involvement to some degree. All were hugely successful and I wish to thank all those hard working organisers who gave so much enjoyment to sea kayakers from around the country.

This is also the appropriate place to mention the formation in 2003 of the Southland Sea Kayak Network which has been organised and led by Stanley Mulvaney. I was also thrilled to see this network and the Canterbury Sea Kayak Network launching their own websites.

2003 was also the year the training sub-committee made significant progress towards establishing a proficiency award. Led by Susan Cade, the committee initially comprised Maurice Kennedy, Alan Hall and John Kirk-Anderson. More recently it was bolstered by Iona Baille and Tony Dumper. The significance of what this committee has, and will, achieve

is important enough to warrant its own report from Susan.

KASK is first and foremost an organisation devoted to disseminating information on all aspects of sea kayaking. Paul Caffyn has a critical role in this aspect of the organisation's affairs and he will be presenting his own report. However, 2003 saw the release of the third edition of the KASK Handbook and this has proven to be a major success with 900 copies having been sold or given to new members since May. This was a massive undertaking and not without its frustrations. However, to see the KASK Handbook become such a popular seller has made that candle burning all very worthwhile. I wish to publicly acknowledge Paul's efforts for the work he did in this regard.

Paul was also the subject of another worthy project in 2003. For the second year in a row your committee made an effort to secure for Paul a national honour. His sea kayaking accomplishments are nothing short of extraordinary and he deserves much wider acclaim and recognition. Paul was not aware of what had been done on his behalf until I asked him if perhaps a gong had been offered but he had turned it down. He said no and agreed that we could have one more attempt at achieving a national award for the contribution he has made to sea kayaking.

The website is also a vital part of the organisation's role as a provider of information. Twelve months ago we were getting less than one thousand hits a month but last month it was nearly 50,000 from 1700 distinct visitors. Do a search of Google for sea kayaking New Zealand and KASK rates number one. The site is in need of a makeover and our goal is to put even more information on there. The KASK website is also where most of our new members come from. If there is anything you would like to see on the KASK site please send an email to the Webmaster, which happens to be me.

Another role that KASK takes very seriously is conservation, especially protecting the rights of access for sea

kayakers. In 2003 we made submissions to the Southland Regional Council concerning access in Fiordland, protested a proposed ruling by the Marlborough District Council to stop sea kayakers paddling on the Sounds between dusk to dawn, made submissions on the Queen's Chain and the Foreshore issues, and made sure the interests of sea kayakers were represented in the Department of Conservation's recreation opportunities review.

In August your committee held its annual face-to-face meeting in Wellington. While the focus was very much of training and proficiency issues, there were also a number of other projects discussed, which due to limited resources, have yet to see the light of day.

Max Grant, our hard working treasurer, stands down at this AGM. He has guided us well over the past few years and in spite of his factory sustaining damage in the recent Manawatu floods, is able to be with us this evening. He is presenting his own report but I wish to take the opportunity to thank him for his devotion to the cause of KASK and to sea kayaking nationally. He has been a wonderful ambassador for us and we wish him well in his retirement.

This time last year KASK membership was 386 and this week it reached 578, an increase of almost 50 percent. This growth and the demands we expect to see placed on us by the proficiency award means we have to look at how we can best manage ourselves over the next two to three years. This year for example, we will centralise the roles of treasurer and secretary. Managing the membership comes into these functions as well. We are also looking at what other services and opportunities we can provide KASK members. We will keep you all informed on changes as they occur.

And finally I wish to take the opportunity to thank the committee for their hard work and move that my report for 2002/3 be accepted by the meeting.

Vincent Maire, President
6 March 2004

TREASURER'S REPORT

Briefly summarising the accounts
for 2002/2003

Funds:

Although we have made a trading loss of \$1162.61, after our assets of \$2450.00 are added on, we have increased our total funds and assets by \$323.39. (assets for the previous year were \$964.00)

Membership:

Membership for the year ending 31st July 2003 was at an all time high with approximately 480 members, bringing in \$12,277.33 in subscriptions. Because the previous financial year was 17 months long due to a change of date for the end of our financial year, many members renewed their subs before 31st July, which put a large amount

of the payments into the accounts for the previous year. So far this year we have a membership of 570.

Approximately half of our previous members renewed their subs, where as this year to-date two thirds of our members have renewed their subscriptions. Most of our new members have been gained through our KASK web site.

Handbook sales:

Handbook sales have increased with the introduction of the 3rd edition. Since the introduction of the 3rd edition last May, 850 copies have either been sold or given out to new memberships. As well as sales in New Zealand, many copies have been sold overseas. Total sales so far this financial year are at \$4,555.00. I feel sales have increased because of the general presentation with the new coloured

cover and some good write ups it had in several national publications. This handbook is considered by many as the best Sea Kayaking Handbook available in the world and thanks for this production must go to Paul Caffyn for all the time and effort he has put into it.

Annual Forums:

KASK forums held in Rotorua and Whites Bay, Blenheim, were very well organized and both resulted in making a profit. I would like to congratulate all those people responsible for running these events so successfully.

Courses:

KASK contributed \$1166.55 towards sea kayaking courses held last year in Dunedin and Auckland. \$400.00 was recovered through course entry fees.

Administration:

General administration has become a larger job now due to the increase in membership and increased sales of our handbook. I have had discussions with our Secretary and we both feel that an honorarium payment would be appropriate for the amount of time spent doing the finances for KASK. I consider it would now be an appropriate time for the incoming Committee to consider that both the work done by the Secretary and the Treasurer be done by one person or company, as a lot of the work is now overlapping into both areas.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who have assisted me during the past year.

Max Grant



Beautifully crafted
wooden kayaks
and Grønland style
paddles at the
2004 Coastbusters
do it yourself
kayak workshop

KIWI ASSOCIATION of SEA KAYAKERS (NZ) INCORPORATED**INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2003**

INCOME	2003	2002 (17 months)	2001
Subscriptions	12277.33	15953.69	6501.33
KASK handbook sales	3145.95	2919.65	3363.50
KASK badge sales	-	263.00	92.00
KASK hat sales	-	50.00	60.00
Donations	-	6394.54	-
Interest	144.21	371.00	319.95
Annual KASK forum	3047.06	486.87	1694.41
Grants/sponsorship	6615.12	-	2080.00
Courses	400.00	-	-

TOTAL INCOME	25629.67	26438.75	14111.19
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EXPENDITURE**ADMINISTRATION**

Cheque duty / bank fee	3.00	11.50	36.44
Stationary	1244.85	520.05	294.08
Postage	1319.05	2644.71	1329.73
Honorarium	1500.00	-	-
Phone	-	412.71	282.21
Sundry	6508.12	698.00	40.00
AGM Expenses/travel	1433.70	1129.14	936.00
Accountant fee	100.00	50.00	-
Handbook	5246.14	5622.75	4721.63
Annual KASK Forum	513.36	1170.33	905.00
Regional courses	1166.55	2216.55	686.00
Web Site	810.01	759.30	-
Advertising	112.50	540.00	-
Newsletter	6835.00	7279.88	4126.64
Software	-	-	-

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	26792.28	23004.92	13,357.73
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EXCESS INCOME/EXPENDITURE

-1162.61	3433.83	753.46
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FUNDS

Westpac Trust Cheque Account	2481.28	2,599.92	1,769.76
Westpac Trust Savings Account	13571.77	15,430.80	12,086.80
Whites Bay Forum Account	714.13	-	740.33
Rotorua Forum Account	100.91	-	-
Total Funds	\$16868.11	\$18,030.72	\$14596.89

Decrease in total funds - \$1162.61

Assets as at 31st July 2003:

210 Handbooks	2190.00
200 Pamphlets	210.00
100 KASK decals	50.00

TOTAL ASSETS: \$2450.00

Prepared by Max Grant

Graham Egarr Memorial Trophy Awards

There are two annual awards made by KASK, the first is for outstanding contributions to New Zealand sea kayaking and the second for outstanding contributions to the KASK newsletter. They are labelled the Graham Egarr memorial paddle awards. They were beautifully crafted by John Dobbie.

But firstly a bit of background on Graham Egarr. In the 1970' and 1980's, there was only one name that was synonymous with canoeing and kayaking in New Zealand. Graham and his wife Jan toured the country and he wrote detailed regional guides to all the rivers and lakes of New Zealand.

He was the Water Safety Council education and research director for 12 years; editor of the NZ Canoeing As-

sociation magazine from 1976 to 1985; and author of three books on whitewater paddling in NZ.

In 1988, Graham sent out the first 'Sea Canoeist Newsletter' and organized the first national gathering of sea kayakers at Mapua in 1989. KASK was actually germinated in Graham's bathroom. He was trying to ease the pain of a massive inoperable tumour around his spine in a large wrought iron bath. He wanted to form ASK, but I thought KASK had a better sound to it. He told me I would be the first president, but I would have to keep my mouth shut!

Sadly in 1991, Graham succumbed to the ravages of melanoma. These trophies will both keep his name alive, and maintain the awareness of the outstanding contribution he made to kayaking.

I have endeavoured to follow in the footsteps of Graham ever since, and still miss the mentoring advice of this marvellous bloke.

Outstanding contributions to NZ sea kayaking

This trophy has only been awarded on two previous occasions. It is only made for exceedingly well written stories or consistent high quality contributions to the newsletter.

In n/1 102, John Kirk-Anderson wrote a detailed technical article on a mass rescue in Lyttleton Harbour. This involved interviews with some of those rescued and research of forecasts in place.

In newsletter 105, 106 and 107, John contributed articles on his attendance at sea kayak symposiums in Ireland, Wales and Scotland, with graphic descriptions of tide race surfing, insights into the BCU certification process, all injected with lovely touches of humour. Although I have never quite forgiven John for nearly knocking me unconscious in the surf of Rapahoe, in my view as editor, John thoroughly deserves this Graham Egarr memorial paddle trophy award for outstanding contributions to the KASK newsletter.

From left, Susan Cade, Max Grant with the laminated wooden paddle trophy, and Margaret Grant.



Outstanding contribution to New Zealand kayaking

In Easter 2000, a bloke from Ashhurst was elected as KASK treasurer. This unassuming bloke has held the position, unopposed, ever since. With numbers increasing steadily to the 600 mark, it has been a time consuming role with little thanks for the time and effort involved. This bloke also undertakes the role of retail manager for the KASK Handbook and arranges the printing of the KASK newsletters. As a major kayak manufacturer, this bloke is quite unique in that he not only paddles the boats he designs and manufactures, but over the past 20 years he has put so much back into kayaking:

- encouraging newcomers into sea kayaking
- organizing local training meets and KASK forums

This bloke, with Dave Herrington achieved the first kayak circumnavigation of the Chathams Islands, and has paddled around Stewart Island. Although he has been seen paddling with an inflatable female penguin on his kayak's rear deck, Max Grant has made an outstanding contribution to sea kayaking in New Zealand for the past four years and is thoroughly deserving of this Graham Egarr memorial paddle trophy.

Footnote: these trophies were to be presented after John Dowd's evening talk at Coastbusters, but with the projector/jammed slide delays, the opportunity was missed. John was presented with his trophy at the Sunday afternoon KASK committee meeting, and Max with his trophy at his Ashhurst factory during the drive south.

Paul Caffyn

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

NEWSLETTERS

Six 20 page newsletters were sent out for this year. My thanks to all the contributors for their time and effort, and also to Max Grant for arranging the printing, and Maurice Kennedy for the distribution. As is usual for an editor, I plead for future articles on any aspect of sea kayaking, 'Bugger!' file stories, trip reports, technical articles and book reviews. We can all learn from trips where something unfortuitous occurred, particularly if a 'lessons learned' section notes what should occur in future if the same situation arose - please keep the 'Bugger!' file stories coming.

LRB3 (Little Red Book 3rd.Ed)

The third edition of the KASK Handbook, 'A Manual for Sea Kayaking in New Zealand' was printed in May 2003. My thanks to all those who rewrote their original chapters, to those who supplied new material, to Waikato Quick Print for printing and to Max Grant for distribution.

Within days of its release, I received tongue in cheek criticism of the colour cover from the KASK president, who wanted to see bikini clad kayakers on a sun drenched Hauraki Gulf island, and from the treasurer who maintained the wrong model of kayak was in the picture. Sales have gone well since May with a total of 900 printed to date. Feedback to the West Coast editorial office is scarce, however Max sent me the following email, from an Australian outdoor recreation instructor:

Thank you for the KASK Sea Kayaking Hand Book, I received it today, and have to say that it is truly a bible for Sea Kayakers - it is unfortunate that we do not have such a publication here in Australia. I am a Level II, Sea Kayak Instructor, and will utilise the Handbook for future reference, as it covers everything and more.'

Positive feedback such as this, makes all the hard graft worthwhile.

Max Grant has advised that a box of 20 has been ordered from Ireland, and several copies sent to the USA following a 'books received' section in 'Sea Kayaker' magazine. A fourth reprint in March 2004 will have several (minor) errors corrected and the network contact page updated.

KASK PRACTICAL SAFETY HANDBOOK

The concept of a safety handbook was raised at the Wellington mid year KASK committee meeting. This was prompted by a need for publication of a 'Practical Sea Kayaking' book that was written by the late Wellington instructor Grant Rochfort. Following the meeting, I approached Grant's family, and met his last partner with dialogue as to whether KASK could pick up the printing. I then met with the Wellington publisher who held the manuscript and Roger Steele passed over the manuscript and correspondence files to KASK.

After dialogue with several committee members, with respect to a KASK safety handbook, I suggest the following major sections:

- 1. Safety policy, recently complied by Alan Hall and Iona Bailey
- 2. Rescue Techniques section from Grant Rochfort's manuscript
- 3. Psychology of Sea Kayaking paper by P. Caffyn
- 4. Selected 'Bugger!' file stories with lessons learned
- 5. A statistical analysis of accidents and fatalities involving sea kayaking in NZ with conclusions as to improving safety on the water.
- 6. Practical use of VHF radios

This proposed practical safety handbook is not intended as a replacement for the KASK Handbook, but is aimed to supplement information in the LRB3 with more practical advice, for instance, on rescues. Input is sought as to other material that should be included in this safety book.

KASK SUBMISSIONS

On behalf of KASK, and with input from other KASK members, I completed three significant submissions:

- 1. September 2003; 'Foreshore and Seabed Ownership Submission' to the government. This supported the view of foreshore and seabed ownership being vested in the new title of public domain.

- 2. November 2003: 10 page statement of evidence to the Environment Court in Te Anau, with respect to an appeal by DoC and Royal Bird and Forest against the Southland Regional Council's coastal management plan. This was concerning aerial access to the Fiords.

- 3. November 2003; 'Walking Access in the NZ Outdoors Submission', to the government. This was supporting the right of public access to beaches, lake shores and river banks.

- 4. December 2003; 'Submission to the Marlborough District Council on the Draft Amendments to the Navigations Safety Bylaws 2002'. This was following notification of a proposed ban on kayaking in the Marlborough Sounds from one hour be-

fore sunset to one hour after sunrise. On 23 February 2004, Helen Woodward and Paul Caffyn spoke to the MDC hearings subcommittee at Blenheim - subsequent unofficial word is that the proposed paddling curfew bylaw will be dropped.

REPORTS

Following liaison with KASK instruction officer, John Kirk-Anderson, and the NZRCA (Recreational Canoe Association), with respect to the death of a kayaker in a collision with a power boat, KASK is to now take a more pro-active role with accidents and fatalities involving sea kayakers. In February 2004, following dialogue with Invercargill and Stewart Island police, I completed a report for the coroner on the presumed drowning of a German paddler off the north coast of Stewart Island. The report followed the format used by John following the death of a paddler off Banks Peninsula, 12 months earlier, of which the coroner spoke highly of. John's recommendations were included in his coroner's report.

SUGGESTED FUTURE KASK UNDERTAKINGS

1. Accident/Fatality database.

In Newsletter No. 106, the research paper by Dr. Ioana Bailey on 'Sea Kayaking in NZ - How Safe is it?' drew a comment from Sandy Ferguson as to statistics supplied to Ioana on recent sea kayaking fatalities. Based on the information supplied by the Maritime Safety Agency, in the period 1/1/99 - 1/6/03, there were only two recorded incidents involving kayaks at sea and no fatalities. Sandy noted the paddling drowning off Banks Peninsula in December 2002. Digging back through my press clipping files, during this same period, I listed seven fatalities involving kayaks on the sea, and one in an estuary; the last being the Banks Peninsula drowning.

Although my press clippings files are indexed, and the newsletter generally notes both sea kayaking incidents in the newspapers' section and 'Bugger!' file reports, there is obviously an urgent need for KASK to seriously look at compiling a listing of all acci-

Feeding time at the Coastbusters 2004 Sunday BBQ.

From left, Bea Dowd, editor Paul Caffyn, and keynote speaker from Canada, John Dowd.



dents and fatalities involving sea kayaking. I see this as a database listing, with information such as date, size of party, conditions, location, sources of info etc., and then a section on lessons to be learned. Finally a study of the database, to categorise and number rank causes. Sources for this would include:

- my press clipping files
- KASK newsletters
- liaison with MSA, WSNZ (Water Safety), and police with a view to checking their files
- strong liaison with networks and KASK members.

NZRCA have advised that they are currently undertaking a similar study with whitewater accidents.

Then, I envisage a KASK report with recommendations as to an education program to address the causes of accidents. The report plus database listing, could go as an appendix in the proposed KASK safety handbook. It would make grim reading, however as long as each accident has a lessons learned included, it may well lessen the number of future accidents. KASK needs to encourage a culture of analysing incidents and learning from them, rather than burying them because of potential embarrassment.

In February 2004, I completed a database of sea kayaking accidents 1993-2004. It has been circulated to KASK committee members for analysis and report compilation. Findings will be reported in the newsletter.

2. Coastal Descriptions

Stuart Fisher, editor of British 'Canoeist' magazine, includes in each issue, a description of either a section of coastline or a river/canal system. Each description features a map, numerous colour photographs, text encompassing, flora, fauna, history, weather, and coastal feature description. A concluding fact file, lists distance, transport, campsites, water quality, maps and charts, tidal constants and phone contacts for local weather forecasts and maritime rescue.

Although the KASK Handbook has a Destinations section, covering briefly

much of the coastline, and there are Vincent Maire and Sandy Ferguson's excellent guides to the Upper North Island, and upper half of the South Island, not to mention the books by the editor, I can see a potential need for detailed coastal descriptions. For example, in the past month I have received two specific enquiries from Australia for information on proposed paddling trips around Stewart Island, and two for paddling in Fiordland. Stewart Island, for instance, could be broken down into sections on: north coast, west coast, south coast, Port Pegasus, east coast and Patterson Inlet.

Hugh Canard wrote detailed paddling descriptions of the coast from Golden Bay to French Pass and D'Urville

Island. Unfortunately they were too long to include in the KASK handbook. They would not require too much additional work for completion, such as addition of fact files. I would envisage two overall description compilers, one in the North Island and one in the south, who would supply guidelines for those writing descriptions, keeping a list of what sections have been described, and keeping master files. Do KASK members see the need for such descriptions? If so, how would the information be distributed. Would it be for KASK members only, or could the descriptions be added to the KASK website? Feedback would be appreciated.

Paul Caffyn
KASK Publications Officer

Ruth Amrein, with a stern mounted brass ferrule to hold her 'chopper' flag.
At Sullivans Bay, following the Coastbusters 2004 scenario paddle.



Secretary's AGM Report for the 2003 year

Introduction

The national committee conducted its business by telephone with conference calls at six weekly intervals. During the year we had 7 meetings in this way and covered a range of issues.

Key matters from the secretary's perspective have been:

1. Membership

KASK membership continues to increase. At the time of the Nelson forum at Cable Bay in 2000, KASK had 186 financial members. As of today the membership stands at 580 members including two life members. A trend that is likely to continue and a membership over 700 is not unrealistic for KASK by the end of its planning and financial year at 31 July next.

Figures supplied by manufacturers indicate that there are over 6000 sea-kayaks in NZ. So the challenge for KASK for a greater proportion to be members and a membership well in excess of 1000 is not an unrealistic aim. The increase reflects the increasing interest in sea-kayaking and is a result of consistent effort by all to advertise and promote KASK membership, and do a better and more timely job with subscription reminders and follow-up

2. Membership Database

During the year the membership record which is on an access database programme further developed to provide more functionality. With the current levels of membership the database is now a crucial tool in the management of the whole membership area. It allows us to make a quick response to membership queries and the job of communicating to members on subscriptions and membership has become much easier to manage.

The membership has been divided into 15 regions based on regional council boundaries. Reports on the membership can be done any particular region or for the country. This is a useful service for network and club liaison people to confirm the KASK members in their area.



Secretary/treasurer for 2003/04, Maurice Kennedy, at the 2004 Coastbusters.

It is also possible for a range of reports on membership to be sent on request by email attachment. It is a service that can put paddlers who are KASK members in touch with each other anywhere in NZ.

3. KASK Brochure

The KASK brochure has been kept up to date and republished with the assistance of sponsorship

4. Constitution

No amendments were made to the constitution during the year, but there is a need to review it over the next year to bring it up to date, and it is something that the incoming national committee should address.

Maurice Kennedy, Secretary

LRB3 Corrections

1. Navigation - bottom of page 51, right hand column; change one nautical mile to 1,852m, or 1.852km, and yards to 2025.37.

2. The Weather - middle of page 77. The area codes for the recreational marine forecast are reversed for Lake Rotorua and Lake Taupo. Change to: 18 Lake Taupo & 13 Lake Rotorua. (This error has also been corrected by the Met. Office. Thanks to Peter Bichan for pointing this one out).

3. Up to date network and club contact addresses (March 2004) can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AT COASTBUSTERS

John Dowd

John Dowd is perhaps not as well known in New Zealand as he is in North America. He was requested by the Coastbuster Committee to give a talk on the lessons he has learned from sea kayaking. Although marred by wretched projector slide stoppages, John's recounting of his early kayaking in New Zealand up to the present day was brilliant with lovely touches of humour.

A Northland lad, born at Dargaville in 1945, John was drawn to building his first sea kayak when Paul Suter visited the Auckland Grammar School and mentioned he could supply kayak plans. In 1961, John built his first kayak and took off into the Hauraki Gulf, sans lifejacket but aware that this means of transport was a very cheap way to explore the remote parts of New Zealand and the world.

In 1964, at university in Auckland, John was roped in as president of the new Auckland University Canoe (kayak) Club, with membership growing quickly to 200. One Sunday at 4am, a group from the club, clad in balaclavas and dark clothing, raided the Devonport Naval Base, and above the waterline of the vessels, painted, 'Sunk by the AUCC'. No doubt severely embarrassed, and unaware that the paint was waterbased and could be easily washed off, the Navy repainted its vessels.

After working as a professional deer culler in Fiordland, in 1966 John hitchhiked central and South America where he kayaked and sailed the Caribbean, Trinidad to Florida. He related a story of entering a Caribbean port late one night, to be told by port officials to move on - he had no visa! A friendly yachtie suggested he could join him that night as a navigator. John loaded his kayak on the yacht, but as they headed out to sea, they were arrested for piracy on the high seas. The yacht had been stolen from the port!

In 1968, after hitch-hiking overland to India via Europe and North Africa,

John folboat kayaked Singapore to Java (Sponsored by British military). His paddling companion was chosen as he had a credit card! One of John's slides showed relics of Operation Jaywick, when Australian and British Commandos carried out an audacious foldboat raid on Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour.

After working as an instructor at Anakiwa Outward Bound School from 1970-1, John visited the National Geographic Office in New York and in 1973 set off as official photographer on a foldboat trip from Punta Arenas to Puerto Montt (Chile). Had a New Zealand lass as co-paddler in his double, with the second double paddlers as New Zealand climber Bill Atkinson and Queenslander Susie O'Donnell. Part way through the trip, John shot a leopard seal which chewed 11 holes in the skin of his kayak. He had to land to effect repairs to the

sinking boat, which lead to a separation of the two boats - Bill and Susie, running out of food, were eventually rescued by the Chilean Navy.

In 1977 John planned the Caribbean Kayak Expedition. With two foldboats teams in 1978, he paddled from Venezuela to Florida via greater and lesser Antilles. Based on his experiences, he began writing 'Sea Kayaking - A manual for Long Distance Touring' which was first published in 1981. This book has been in print ever since and soon a 5th. Edition is due for release.

In 1980, John and his wife Bea - who was co-paddler with John on the Caribbean crossing - established the Ecomarine Ocean Kayak Centre, at Granville Island, Vancouver. Then in 1984, he and Bea set up the first printing of 'Sea Kayaker' magazine. They carried on producing this marvellous

magazine, with a mix of historical and topical articles for sea kayaking, until 1990, when they sold out their business interests with John focussing on writing children's books.

John's most recent book (2002), is a photo essay in a book by his daughter Olympia, on her apprenticeship with the Moscow City Ballet.

Kerry Howe

The Friday evening powerpoint presentation by Kerry Howe of how New Zealand was first settled was a stunner. With material from his most recent book, 'The Quest for Origins: Who First Discoverd New Zealand and the Pacific Islands', injected with touches of humour as to rewards of chocolate fish who could identify coastal scenes from his extensive North Island paddling experience, Kerry's talk was one of my weekend highlights.

Paul Caffyn



Canadian kayak instructor, Shawn Baker, demonstrating a 'roll with arms crossed' in the swimming pool at Puriri Park campground. Watching spell bound in the background, Susan Cade, Nettie and AJ. Shawn's demonstration of rolls, bracing, sculling and paddling technique was a highlight of Coastbusters. From a series of capsized manouevres, performed at Greenland Kayaking championships, Shawn worked through 29 of these, including rolling with an 8kg brick. The demonstration was ably narrated by John Kirk-Anderson.



Upper right: Andrea Kennedy with a 'chopper' flag mounted on the stern of her Penguin.



Lower right: Natasha Romhoff with a high visibility flag, held in position under stretchies on the aft deck.

TECHNICAL

Helicopter-assisted rescues, by: John Kirk-Anderson

Most areas of New Zealand are serviced by rescue helicopters, and the unmistakable sound of one approaching would doubtless be a comfort to a paddler in distress, but it is important to know a little of their operating methods, their limitations, and safe working around them.

While helicopters make ideal observation platforms for an aerial search, in most situations they will then direct searchers to you. If winch rescues are required there will likely be other people around to assist and coordinate, such as Police officers.

The crew will not endanger themselves or the machine. They will make decisions based on safety, and give you clear directions. Follow them.

If confused by instructions, or blinded by dust or spray, stay where you are and keep low. The crewman or rescue swimmer will come to you, and tell you what they need.

Do not approach a helicopter until given clearance to do so. When given clearance by the crew, approach from the forward sector and stay low. Keep objects low and carry long objects, like paddles, horizontal.

Ensure all loose objects, including kayaks, paddles, shelters, and head-gear, are well secured. Loss of equipment could be the least of your concerns, as loose objects around a helicopter are potentially disastrous.

Helicopters are noisy, and the rotor wash can be strong, but they will be unlikely to capsize an experienced paddler. Control can be difficult, but no more so than in a strong wind. A two-kayak raft is very stable, and even novices would be unlikely to capsize.

A rescue swimmer will usually be lowered or dropped to assist in a water rescue. They may require a casualty to be put into the water, with an assist-

ant, to safely manage a winching operation. In adverse conditions this leaves the risk of a second person in the water as kayaks are blown away from the scene. This must be weighed up against the risks of winching from a raft.

Helicopters usually approach into wind, allowing the pilot maximum control of the machine, and off to one side to give the crewman a clear view of the situation. Grouping kayaks or people close together means less anxiety for the crew, who are always considering their escape line in the event of a problem.

A VHF radio can be invaluable when communicating with a helicopter, but this needs to be completed before the aircraft is too close as the noise and downdraft will make them unusable. Objects, including frantic people, can be very hard to see from the air. Carry a visual distress signal such as orange smoke.

In any event, if you know a helicopter is approaching to assist you, ensure you signal to attract attention. You may not be the only group in the area!

Most people feel the need to rush when around helicopters, but being hasty is when accidents can happen. Slow down, think before you act, and make your actions careful and exact.

In conclusion, becoming familiar with all emergency services can be a very valuable exercise, for all parties. Paddlers should seek to develop contact with local rescue agencies, which at the least will raise our standing in their eyes. They are often impressed at the skill and knowledge that sea paddlers possess, and surprised by the seaworthiness of our chosen craft.

As a pleasant aside, taking part in exercises with them is great fun!

John Kirk-Anderson



Photographs by JKA of the helicopter rescue demonstration carried out at Sullivans Bay during Coastbuster.



KASK Assessors and Training Report For KASK AGM by Susan Cade KASK Training and Assessing Coordinator

KASK has a strong commitment to training, safety and managing risk, which is clearly acknowledged in its aims. This is an area that KASK is determined to develop further for members.

Some of these aims are:

- Providing opportunities in paddling techniques and leadership skills
- Promoting safety standards to its members
- Collating and sharing information on sea kayak techniques and equipment.

A survey completed by KASK in June / July 2002 indicated that 30% - 40% of KASK membership had an interest in training opportunities, with 25% identifying that they had no formal training.

Previous and current training opportunities and resources include:

- The KASK Leadership course that has been run nationally, (currently being reviewed).

- Training opportunities at Forums and supporting network skill development.

- Networks providing formal and informal opportunities for skill and knowledge development.

- The KASK Newsletter

- The KASK handbook

- The use of a Bugger File and incident reporting, which is a vital learning curve for everyone.

The last six months has seen the initial implementation of The Sea Proficiency Award, which has been a project that KASK has been working on for some time. This award is part of a national negotiated standard of skills. Late last year a group of KASK members have been trained in the assessment process. Training was held in Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch with assessors drawn from as far afield as Whangarei to Invercargill.

The Auckland region has been taking a prominent role, with assessors taking a pilot candidate group through the assessment process.

A Training and Assessing Sub Committee has been formed with:

Allan Hall, Iona Bailley, Maurice Kennedy, John Kirk Anderson, Tony Dumper and coordinated by myself.

The subcommittee has been working actively on developing systems to deal with the issues to put the training and the assessment process in place. Due

to the complexity of this process, this involves negotiation and consultation with a range of agencies as well as with KASK members.

Some projects currently being developed are:

- The supportive framework for Assessors in their role, eg assessor guidelines, administrative systems.

- The revision of The Leadership Training Course Content.

- A Safety policy initial draft has been completed

- The development of material on the KASK website - more is being developed.

- A needs analysis of its members.

We are confident that though The Sea Kayak Proficiency Award isn't fully in place, we are getting there. It is a complex process, and people may have to be patient. It's a big undertaking; we are going to draw on KASK members in all sorts of ways to assist.

Future plans over the next year:

We have the capability of getting at least a hundred people completing or working towards the Sea Kayak Proficiency Award. We plan to run a series of national workshops, for instance:

- To develop: the National Assessment Guidelines and other support materials

- To accredit existing Assessors to implement the guidelines

- To establish the National Program
Susan Cade.



Mark Hutson, from the Bay of Islands, showing his stirrup rescue set-up at Sullivans Bay,

A carabiner is clipped into the his decklines, the rope with stirrup is thrown over the kayak of the person to be rescued. The foot stirrup then allows the rescued paddler to step up for easier access back into the cockpit.

The Annual Okains Bay Miniforum from Sandy Ferguson

A number of us got to Okains Bay on the Friday night and as usual I found tents and kayakers hidden in the gloom amongst the pine trees. We pulled out a cup of coffee and were joined by a number of the 'old hands'.

Saturday morning saw the steady arrival of more kayakers and we found a handy, empty caravan to put a notice board up against and a nearby table to work from for Risk Management sheets, sign-in sheets, etc. Over 40 signed in during the weekend.

The event each year is governed by the time of high tide in the lagoon so with our relaxed organisation it started right on our estimated time of 9.30 a.m. We started with a quick introduction of the instructors and participants, including our main instructors John(s) Kirk-Anderson and de Garnham, and then a quick run-down of what might be on the programme. This was followed by everyone heading for the lagoon for paddle stroke and rescue instruction.

A late lunch was followed by most heading for the beach and surfing. Those of us with sense used "the need to erect some shelter for the evening" as an excuse for a delay from paddling while a southerly front came through. Fortunately the front was mild and short and a beach contingent, those who didn't want to get wet, 'marked' the unfortunates who mishandled the waves. The wife of an unnamed North Island paddler accumulated a reasonable score and her excuse was that white water wasn't like salt water. Even our commodore managed to fall out - aerated water was his excuse.

The evening gathering was entertained by a 'shanghaied' Max Grant telling us about his circumnavigation of Stewart Island. The 'organiser(s)' were very appreciative of Max's willingness to speak at such short notice and the audience was well rewarded by an

interesting story.

There was heavy rain over night and Sunday was grey and cool. Fortunately the drizzle stopped as things got underway with John(s) de G. and JKA going over fitting out a kayak and the ancillary equipment attached including pumps, deck bags, seats etc. John de G. has made life jackets for both of them and the added buoyancy of a non-standard jacket appeared to be a requirement for support of a full set of 'kit' (flares, VHF, food, drink, knife, etc.). Though still grey and cold, there were a number of people interested in continuing instruction on the water in the lagoon and there were a number of boats available for trial, courtesy of Max and Q-kayaks.

As the day improved our happy paddlers headed home with the last ones sitting around in the sun for a last cup of coffee.

Sandy Ferguson

The 'Bugger!' File

Bugger on Tarawera Adrian Rhodes

Every paddler has a kayak bugger story that they have survived and learnt from. This is mine.

John & I are both fairly experienced sea kayakers with several years of paddling behind us. About two years ago we decided to go on a short mid-winter trip to Hot Water Beach on Lake Tarawera.

The weather forecast showed us a light southerly wind would be arriving, but nothing to worry about. We set off from The Landing mid-morning and made our way at a leisurely pace along the southern side of the lake toward Moura Point. The wind was blowing a southerly at about 15 knots, so not causing too much of a concern.

I was wearing a beanie, 3x polypro tops, paddle jacket, long johns, neoprene shorts & booties as well as my new pogies to keep the wind chill off my hands. I was as warm as toast and as far as I knew John was kitted out the

same, except for the pogies. The wind picked up as we got nearer to the point creating a bit of a chop.

We spotted a group of kayaks on the beach by the Memorial and stopped for a chat. They were a guided group hoping to get to Hot Water Beach for a swim but had decided to turn back. The guide had been around the corner to look at the Southern Arm & decided that the conditions were too much for his group. He reported to us that it was a 25-knot southerly, gusting to 35 knots and a half metre chop.

We decided to have a look for ourselves and see how bad it was. Rounding the point we were hit by strong head winds and a chop that was nearer 1 metre high, but as long as we kept paddling, we would move forward. The paddling was quite exhilarating, working hard into these cold winds, enjoying the waves breaking over the bow of the boat and getting soaked in the process. We had gone 1-2km & all was going well, until I turned to call something to John, only to find he was nowhere in sight.

I felt the adrenalin rush as I strained to turn around for any sight of him, yelling my head off. He had been close by me 2 minutes earlier and seemed to be enjoying the paddle. I moved towards the shore and took shelter behind a rock to take stock of the situation.

John and his kayak (bright yellow) were nowhere to be seen, so I was pretty sure he was still with it sheltering somewhere. I tried blowing my whistle but was unable to hear any replies because of the howling winds. I ventured out from behind the rock and paddled back thinking about how I would explain to John's wife that I had lost him.

I was very relieved when I found him 200m back sheltering behind a rock, looking very pale and shivering. He told me that he had lost all his strength and was unable to paddle, this was the first time I had seen hypothermia in action. I did not have a tow line so was unable to help him that way and there was no landing area close by.

We were about 3/4km from Charlie's landing further to the South, so I told John we would have a slow paddle to there, hugging the coastline all the way. It took 25 minutes to reach there as we had several rest stops along the way; lots of encouragement and luckily John found his second wind and managed to keep paddling. The weather was not being kind to us and did not give us any time to rest our guard.

Upon reaching the landing I got John out of his boat, into some dry clothes and a hot Milo down him from a thermos we had. We were lucky there were people staying at the camp and they invited us for a coffee and to warm up by the potbelly in their hut. John soon recovered & we ended up staying here for the night, before finishing off our trip the next day when the weather was much better.

We've since spent time looking back on our situation and realised there were a few points to consider.

-Though I was warm enough with my layers, John had misjudged the coldness and only had one polypro under his paddle jacket. Even though we had stopped a couple of times he felt he was warm enough and didn't need to put on more layers. Once we rounded Moura Point, the wind chill and wet clothing had a devastating effect.

-John's first signs of hypothermia seem to come on quickly and took us both by surprise, I certainly didn't witness any earlier warning signs before he stopped paddling.

-Even though we had been close, when John started to tire and drop back, he blew his whistle, but failed to get my attention because of the wind was blowing in the wrong direction.

-We did not even think about carrying a towline because we felt we were only the 2 of us, both reasonably experienced paddlers & had no weaker members of a large group to worry about.

-Maybe we should have called it and returned with the guided trip when we saw what the conditions were like, but we felt it was only a short trip to Hot Water Beach, even with a head wind.

When Whale Watching Goes Bad

Malcolm Gunn

Kaikoura is one of the few places in the world where the edge of the continental shelf is close to shore. At Goose Bay, just south of the Kaikoura peninsula, the deep Kaikoura canyon – a 1000m deep gash in the continental shelf comes to within a few hundred metres of the shore. A stroll along the beach here is just as likely to yield the remains of deep-sea fish as the more common shallower species. Among the denizens of the deep waters here are giant squid which can grow to 15 metres long. Equipped with terrible beaks and suckers the size of dinner plates, these animals give a good account of themselves when attacked by their most feared predator - the sperm whale.

Giant squid also live at improbable depths, making it difficult for air breathing predators to reach them and it is only millions of years of evolution that has equipped the sperm whales for the pursuit. Sperm whales can dive to over 2800 metres where their air-filled lungs collapse under immense pressure. The oxygen stored in their lungs and muscles can sustain them for dives of over two hours and when one of these whales surfaces after a dining on calamari tubes the size of a car, it is for a well-earned rest while it hyperventilates to restore the oxygen to its blood and muscles. It is while the whales rest, gasping for 20 or thirty breaths, each one flushing a full 90% of the total lung capacity, that tourists get the chance to see these giants of Kaikoura and if they're lucky, to smell their appallingly bad breath.

It takes a good fast vessel and considerable investment in technology - hydrophones, sonar, communications, GPS and a lot of experience on the part of the skipper to get a payload of whale watchers close enough to see a sperm whale. The whales have to be located and approached quietly before they lift their tails to the sky against the backdrop of the snow capped mountains and head down

again to the black depths. Not surprisingly, we rated our chances of seeing a whale from our 5 metre sea kayaks as vanishingly small, but we had to try.

Sunrise had set the water on fire and Goose Bay was glassy beyond the robust shore break that pounded out a rhythm, unbroken for centuries on the steep beach. Any sea kayaker knows that this is the worst of places to enter and exit the water. On a shallow shore, the swell's energy is dissipated gradually over a hundred metres or so of breakers. Here the swells emerge from nowhere, disguised by deep waters and they grow from nothing into a seething mass of white water, which then explodes up the steep beach.

Brent pushed us off from the steep beach with precision timing and once we were a few metres off the shore, all was calm with barely a hint of the ocean swells passing beneath us in the deep water. The morning was cold, calm and clear - perfect it seemed, for whale watching.

Now anyone who has ever been fishing knows that the whole exercise relies on the paradigm that the biggest fish are always those which are most inaccessible. Usually this means furthest from shore. Tidal pools have tiddlers, baitfish are just off the beach and it takes a surfcaster to reach anything worthy of the dining table. If you want anything worthy of a photo album, you get a boat and the bigger the boat, the further you can go offshore and the bigger the fish prizes in the lottery that we call fishing. Extending this simple logic to marine mammals, we headed for the horizon in search of Moby Dick.

After about 40 minutes we were a good 5km or so offshore and the water below us deep enough to accommodate the cone of Mt Ngauruhoe. We decided we must be in sperm whale territory. And then came the dilemma. What now? We were pretty sure we were in the right place - give or take a few kilometres, but it all seemed pretty futile sitting way out there munching on our muesli bars on a gently heaving

Pacific, waiting for an improbable event.

Scanning the horizon for signs of whales, we could see occasional fishing boats and after a long while, we decided to head over to one for a chat. As we drew alongside, its two-man crew was preoccupied with retrieving a net from 800 metres below. A winch was straining to haul the leaden gear up from way below, a process that takes over an hour. "Giddyay!" I yelled over the gunwale. The skipper and his mate turned and stared in disbelief at the head that had just popped up from nowhere. It took them a second or two to realise I was in a kayak, and they nearly died laughing.

Once they had regained their composure, they were able to confirm our hopes - that this was a good spot for whales, although they'd not seen any that morning. No sooner had the words left his lips, than his mate yelled "There's one!" pointing over the stern. Being low on the water, we couldn't see it, but we needed no encouragement to set off for a look. We headed out in the indicated direction and after a few minutes, became aware that we didn't know how far we were supposed to be going. Presumably the whale must have sounded before we got close enough to see it, so after cruising around for a while, hope faded.

Eventually we headed back to the fishing boat to see what was in the net. Not surprisingly, the fish were all deep-water species and mostly unfamiliar to us. Occasionally one would float free, rising lifelessly to the surface with a distended gas bladder. This activity had attracted a dozen or so large petrels, which had gathered at the stern of the vessel.

These marine vultures have table manners finely honed to secure each bird of as much of the meal on offer as possible, at the expense of fellow diners. It was chaos. Dean and I retrieved the drifting fish and the grateful fishermen gave us a couple to take home. I was delighted with the prospect of bringing home fresh fish and stowed a couple of very nice hoki into

my cockpit and secured my spray deck. We headed back to shore still hoping to see a whale, but it was not to be.

Approaching the shore, we were faced with the exacting task of timing our landing to avoid being monstered by the shore break. Dean went in first and waited just beyond the breaking swells and then charged in, running up the shingle beach just behind the leading edge of the rushing foam. He made it look so easy.

My turn. Waves come in sets, often seven or so larger swells will punctuate a pattern of smaller ones. Out here, they all looked insignificant until they reared up a few metres from the steep gravel beach, so it was difficult to differentiate between the small and big ones. I should have waited to get a feel for the waves, but I was impatient and besides Dean had no problems so I waited for a crest to pass beneath and paddled in hard. I was almost home - just about 6 metres to go when I felt my kayak lift sickeningly as a wall of water somehow grew beneath me, the backwash from the previous wave dragged truckloads of shingle down the beach with a sickening roar into the maw of the growing wave that I now teetered on.

This was going to be bad - and then suddenly it was. In an instant I was being tumbled brutally in a chaos of cold foam and gravel. My world had become a hostile mixture of solid, liquid and gas. In a flash, order was restored and I was somehow kneeling on the gravel, the sea having momentarily departed, as if to postpone my execution.

Gaining my bearings, I looked up the beach to see Brent running *away*. A glance behind confirmed my worst suspicion. Twenty five metres away the next wave was gathering and it was BIG. My kayak was there too, looking like a paddling pool toy as it bobbed in the growing wall of foam. The reality was more like a sinister yellow torpedo - broadside on, with a cockpit full of water, and about 300kg of buoyancy - about to head my way.

Knowing I couldn't get out of the way, I instinctively ducked and felt it bump my back as it passed over. As the wave receded, I was able to pounce on the wayward kayak and make a few metres up the beach. A couple more waves and I was safe. Dazed, confused and feeling totally humiliated, I collapsed on the beach as soon as I was out of range of the waves.

"You lucky bastards!" Brent exclaimed. Unsure of the basis on which he judged me to be "lucky", I invited him to elaborate. I'd just lost my fish, some gear, my last set of dry clothes were now sodden and my pride was more than a little dented. Even Brent would have been a little less enthusiastic had he known then that I'd also lost his camera case. But Brent was unmoved by my protestations. "The whales!" he exclaimed.

My blank expression must have said it all, but just to make sure there was no misunderstanding, I inquired "What bloody whales?" Brent was having trouble taking me seriously at this point and it took a minute of two to explain that I was not in any mood to be *pretending* that my state was all for nothing. It transpired that Brent had spent the last hour and a half watching whales from the beach through his binoculars. He'd counted seven and was convinced that we'd seen them all. At one point there were two - one on either side of us! One had come within 300m of shore and he couldn't believe we'd not seen any.

This did nothing to improve my morale as I picked gravel out of my ears, so I set about searching the shoreline for the various items that had been snatched from beneath my deck bungies. As I did so, it occurred to me that perhaps the low tech approach to whale watching is not really suited to finding the Kaikoura sperm whales and maybe, just maybe next time I'll go with the professionals.

Malcolm Gunn

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Paul

I am a middle aged part time paddler, who enjoys being out on the water but only when it is flat without a hint of wind, surf or large swell. I joined KASK to ensure I am kept up to date on kayak issues and to learn from others. The newsletter does all of those things and I look forward to receiving it.

I was surprised to read letters in the latest edition, No 108, from others objecting to your jokes and editorial stand on the foreshore issue.

The response to them is that is just tough!

If they don't like it then stop reading it. There are numerous publications on the market that might have some interest to me but if they have an editorial viewpoint, or content I don't like, I don't buy it. Like wise for them.

There is room for open debate on many issues such as the foreshore and if some cannot open their mind and listen to others, it is they who have the problem not you. I would have more regard for them if they framed a response to the view point instead of attacking the messenger.

Likewise with the jokes - if you cannot laugh at yourself or consider a satorical viewpoint - go get a life - as they say in modern parlance.

This PC mumbo jumbo has taken on a life in our country that is becoming dangerous.

So, keep up the good work - I enjoy your newsletter and admire your work, achievements and enthusiasm.

Kind regards
Adrian Brady
Plimmerton

P.S. The aussie speeding ticket story is a classic

Hi Paul,

First up, thanks for the wonderful job you do as editor of the Sea Canoeist Newsletter. I say that unreservedly, as someone who rarely uses their kayak, and then only on estuary waters, so I am not a hard core kayaker. I enjoy reading the newsletter, the day it arrives, and the humour section is often early in my read! The jokes are generally classy and original, and worth remembering!

It seems that we need to be very brave to put our sense of humour on the line. I read the article you are being goaded about and while it didn't strike me as being very funny, I accepted that some would, and fortunately it's a diverse world out there! If reading humour is too much for some people's sensitivities maybe they should just avoid reading it and stay in their uptight, guilty, shame-ridden little worlds. This is an adult newsletter, and so the audience should be able to read such humour without feeling threatened or maligned. It was not a submission on foreshore access - just a bloody joke! I feel comfortable that any formal submission, or position statement would contain the required levels of balance, tolerance, and open mindedness.

I can only suggest that you don't take the goading too seriously, don't change your views under pressure of perceived political correctness, treasure your personal sense of humour that has no doubt helped you to live closer to the edge than most of us, and most of all carry on doing an awesome job as editor facilitating an extremely varied, interesting, and technical forum for a diverse, and generally good-humoured group.

Cheers,

Nigel McConnochie.

**Subject: Hello kayak
P(olitically)C(orrect)?!**

Paul - it is now over 25 years since we first met. From day one I liked your sense of humour and as I told you recently on the phone - it is good to see it back at full strength again. I know better than most - anyone can be a target of your tongue-in-cheek hu-

mour! And I for one have enjoyed the experience of sometimes being your 'victim'.

Take the Culture joke in the last issue. Being of French descent (on my fathers side), I was not offended by the humour example - not exactly my cup of tea if you get what I mean. Being a direct descendant of Manning, Hone Keke's second in charge (on my mother's side), I now understand that my 50's history schooling with regard to the treaty was not misleading at all. Thank you for the chuckle on both counts.

Keep an open mind about the KASK member-supplied jokes that the Editor passes on in the KASK newsletter. 'Rangi' is a fable about a lost friendship - and what could ever be wrong with wishing for the return of such a friendship.

Remember always, that several 'Rangi' type friendships were lost when the participants of the 1990 Mapua Sea Kayak Symposium paddled into Tasman Bay to intercept the local Waka en-route to Motueka. The extreme fringes (charcoaled Pakehas and Mongrel Mob gangsters) of the Waka crew made it quite clear that we were far from welcome. I for one lost two 'Rangi' friendships that day.

I make no apology for the fact that I own a 'fizz-boat' that can do 45mph plus. Bevan Walker (who was the small 'kid' we tried (with great disaster) to put on top of our 1965 water-ski pyramid) will confirm that I was into powerboating long before my first river kayak trip in 1966. I just happen to love boating and messing about on water in all ways possible.

Subject Kayak Visibility:

When I am cruising down the Sounds in my Rinker 180 (fizz boz):

- My head is constantly scanning both ways - just like a side-show-alley clown.

- I never drink booze before or while driving - total concentration is needed because the situation ahead changes rapidly every 15 seconds.

- I give other crazy fizz-boaters and jet skiers a wide berth. Remember - there

are 'loopies' in all activities.

- I observe (as much as possible) the almost totally overlooked Port-to-Port (anticlockwise circuit) head-on anti-collision passing
- I am constantly amazed how difficult most kayakers are to spot on a 30cm Sound's chop.
- I know that the glint off a paddle is usually the first part of a kayak that I see in a 30cm chop - long before the kayak or the person.

When kayaking

- I stick closer to the shore than most powerboat drivers, of the loopy idiot variety, would want to venture.
- I try to keep in a tight group when with other paddlers
- I paddle kayaks that are mostly made to approved Caffyn colour (Vit C all over)
- I use a wing paddle that encourages the unused blade to be higher above the water.
- I wear a bright yellow PFD.

I would recommend that KASK members consider:

- The Chopper Guard flag as being a good idea - but I have yet to personally identify the presence of a kayaker because of one of these flags.
- Getting some of the 3M white reflective truckbody marking tape from your local branch of Transport Wholesale Ltd (TWL). This stuff really works on the back face of the paddle and is really eye catching to a fizz boater or searchers on the shore.
- Stay in a close group at all times
- Don't buy or rent a sea kayak that is a daft 'designer' colour of low visual impact on the water (blue or green).
- Never assume that the fizz boat approaching you at 60mph, has anyone keeping a lookout - it may be on autopilot.
- Be ready to sprint out of the way - fast.

Grahame Sisson
Nelson

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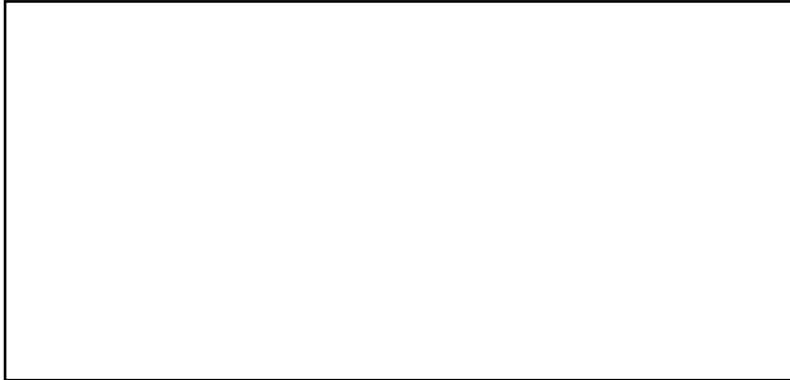
During the drive south from Orewa, second hand bookshops were plundered with many of the classic old tomes being purchased:

- the biography of Gino Watkins by J.M. Scott
- 'Watkin's Last Expedition' by Spencer Chapman
- 'Cockleshell Heroes' by Lucas Phillips
- Down the Nile by Andre Davy
- the two classic 1960 books on Operation Rimau

Phone, email or write to the editor for a copy of the updated books for sale catalogue.

There are still a few copies of Dreamtime and Cresting (the North Island story) available.

MAILED TO



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

KASK MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Current membership fees are:

- \$25 for ordinary membership
- \$30 for family or joint membership.
- new members receive a free copy of the handbook.
- members should endeavour to renew by the start of our new year which is 1 August, and runs to 31 July the following year.
- a subscription due notice and up to two reminders with red notices stickers etc., are sent out with the newsletters between June and October
- existing members who leave their renewal to months before the end of the year (that is during June and July) have their sub credited to the following year. They in effect get a membership of up to 14 months as an incentive.
- new members who join between 1 April and 31 July automatically get their membership credited to the following year. Again in effect receiving a membership of up to 16 months as an incentive.
- the KASK committee puts its emphasis confirming renewals from existing members from July to October; and promoting new KASK memberships from November to February.

Maurice Kennedy, KASK Secretary.

