

New Zealand
The Sea Canoeist Newsletter

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Graham Egarr
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MAPUA

The First National Sea Kayak Forum has been held and if comments made to me by the participants are anything to go on, the weekend was a great success. A short evaluation session at the completion of the weekend resolved that we would run it again next year, but this time a little later in the year - early April was the suggestion. All participants agreed that the venue was excellent; so there it is: - the Second National Sea Kayak Forum will be held over the weekend March 31/April 1 1990. This date will allow time to recover before your Easter trip April 13-16.

For those who came to this year's Forum, a copy of the notes will be sent out shortly - still in the process of typing these up.

Sea Kayaker Magazine: This excellent publication is now available from New Zealand agents so to save the bother of an overseas bank draft, order your copy, \$25.00 per year to Brian Lodge at P.O. Box 24-005 CHRISTCHURCH. This magazine appears four times per year.

Dry Bags: Enclosed with this newsletter is a brochure on Dry-bags from the New Zealand distributor, Ian Baine Agencies, P.O.Box 31028, Lower Hutt. N.Z. Telephone (04) 651-918). These bags really are excellent. Ian was able to show me recently a zip-up clear plastic bag called Access Bag. This could be easily clipped to your fore-deck to carry gear that would be needed often or urgently - maps and navigation notes, sun-block cream etc. and even quite bulky gear such as cameras. Access Bags are around \$39.00.

Camp-ovens for Nordkapp Paddlers: Seen at the Sea Kayak Forum was an excellent, small, cast-aluminium camp-oven made to fit through the deck hatches of a Nordkapp Kayak. Bevan Walker has made up a pattern and is having another batch cast soon so if you would like one of these you should contact Bevan as soon as possible. I don't recall the price but I think it is something like \$45. Best enquire from Bevan when you place your order. Bevan can be contacted at 6 Starveal Street, Brightwater, Nelson.

Resource Management Law Reform: Most people will be aware that Government is presently attempting to combine all the current Acts that manage natural resources into a single Act. In the case of those Acts that apply to the sea coast, there are something like 43 of them. Recent Government thinking on this process was published in a document known as Working Paper No.23 - Resource Management Law Reform: Coastal Legislation: Options for reform. This document can be obtained from the Ministry for the Environment in Wellington and/or its regional branch offices. The working party set up to report on these issues would like submissions on this document. I enclose a diagram from the Working Paper to explain the range of Acts that will be amended into the single Act.

Throw-bags: Throw-bags have been used for some years in river kayaking but their availability has been limited by the difficulty of getting good quality floating rope, braided and with sufficient strength and other qualities to be able to be used in a range of river rescue applications. These difficulties are now a thing of the past as well known kayaker and rafter, Keith Hughes has committed capital in having a special run of suitable rope made up for this purpose. He recently showed me the result and I was impressed. Sea canoeists probably have less need for a throw bag than other paddlers, however the great advantage of a throw-bag is that rope is stowed for immediate use yet confined in a manner that will prevent your becoming entangled. These bags are around 10" in length and 6" diameter with 18m of 8mm floating braided rope. The lay of the rope has been

specially formulated to give a particularly soft and flexible rope. At \$45 these bags are very reasonable. Order direct from Keith Hughes, 22 Brookdale Drive, Ngongotaha, Rotorua. Telephone (073) 75032.

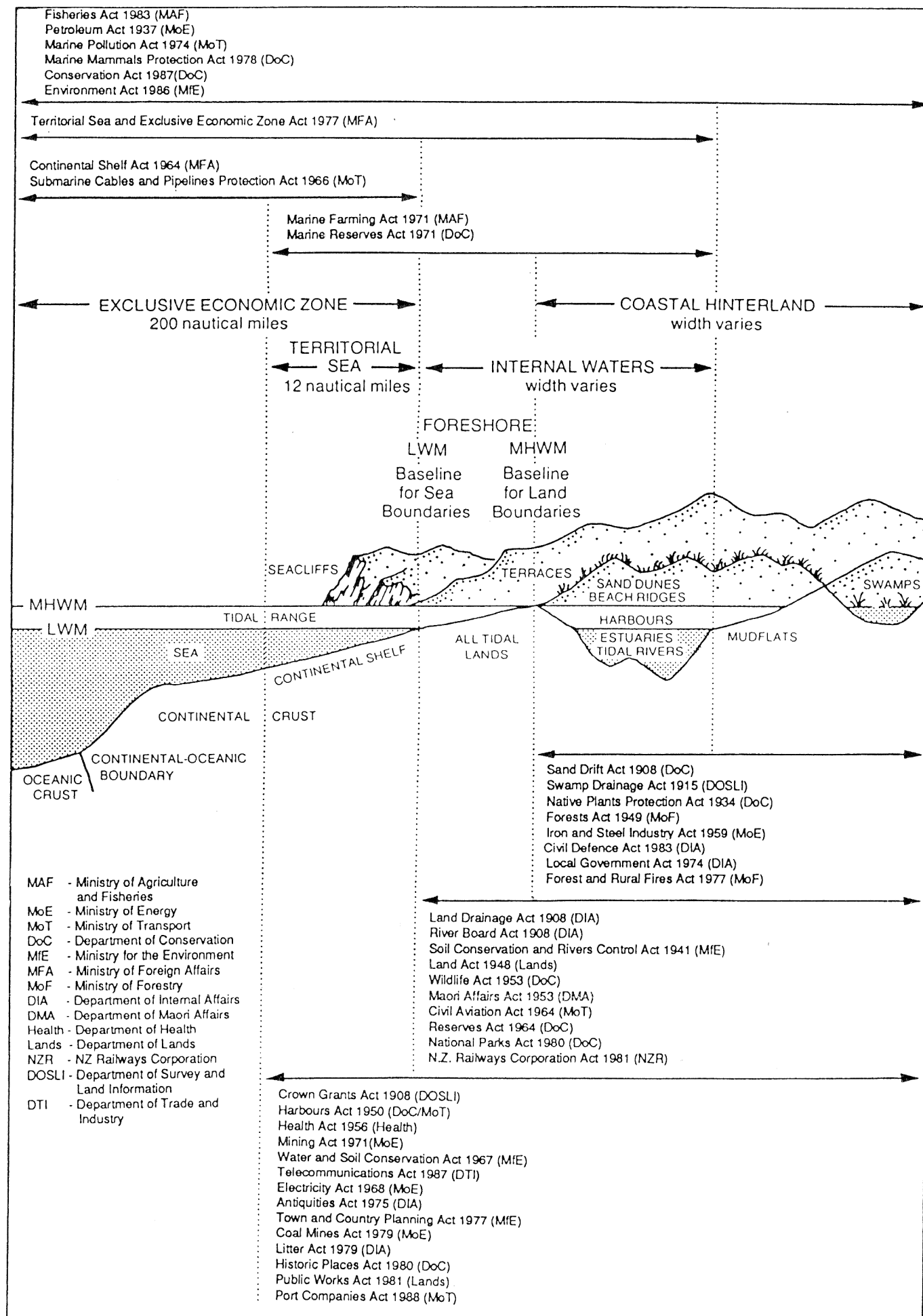
Wooden Paddles: I recently saw a range of canadian canoe paddles made by Jack Coker of Dunedin and amongst them were a couple of sea kayak paddles made to a similar pattern to the Quill paddles advertised in Sea Kayaker Magazine. While Jack is more interested in canoe paddles, I am sure that he would not mind if I said that he could be talked into making sea kayak paddles as well. The workmanship is excellent. If you are interested I suggest you draw up a pattern of the blade shape you like and along with details of feather and paddle length, contact Jack to place an order. Jack Coker, 19 Edward Street, Green Island, Otago.

While on the subject of paddles, at the Forum Brian Lodge had a wide variety of imported paddles from North America. Brian has contacts with almost all the paddle-makers in North America so if there are paddles that take your fancy in Sea Kayaker Magazine then contact Brian to see if he can supply. His current stock of paddles is extensive and most paddles can be supplied 'off the shelf'.

New Kayak: By the time you read this newsletter Paul Caffyn will have left for his next major undertaking. This time he is taking a new boat, designed by Grahame Sisson as the ultra-expedition Sea Kayak - The Arctic-Raider. No guess where Paul is off to this time. No details are yet available on this kayak except that it is longer and faster than the Nordkapp. Grahame has got the boat listed in his price list and I should imagine that with a wee bit more development work it will be ready for commercial production. I shall get a report on this kayak as soon as we have one to test.

Seen Recently: Dunedin paddler Les Coxhead and friend were recently in the Abel Tasman National Park on a week-long trip. Les's kayak was very interesting; a home-built and designed two person kayak with a hull shape somewhat similar to the old Rob Roy canoes but fully decked and with seats similar to that of a Nordkapp. An interesting addition was a small centerboard slot behind the seat of the forward paddler which allows Les to set a small sail when wind and sea conditions are favourable. A small shallow rudder completes the sailing arrangements. The kayak was built of wood; cedar strips finished smooth inside and glassed. The bottom of the kayak had graphite mixed in with the resin to give a more abrasion resistant finish.

Subscriptions: These have been a trifle slow in coming in so for those who have yet to pay this newsletter will be their last one. Don't forget to send in your \$6 now or you will not be hearing from us again. We have some excellent trip reports for the next newsletter.



The Jurisdiction of Acts of Parliament over Land and Sea Boundaries, Territories and Zones Around the Coastline of New Zealand. *Source: after Lello 1980.*

At 73, he's paddling on

By David Mitchell

In more than 30 years of canoeing, Mr Geoff Boyson from Henley in England, has experienced a good few storms, but nothing like that which lashed him and his canoe in Marlborough Sounds a fortnight ago.

Mr Boyson, 73, who has been canoeing in Tasman Bay for the past week, was solo-canoeing in a sea kayak rounding Cape Lambert, an exposed peninsula near Cape Jackson, when the storm that devastated O'Urville Island struck.

For three days winds lashed the area and rain bucketed down in a storm that caught everyone by surprise. The rain and wind came with an initial ferocity of someone turning a fire hose on, said Mr Boyson. Initially he had trouble hanging on to his paddle.

In driving rain and wind he made shore in a small bay on the north-western side of Gore

Bay and managed to get his tent up on a slither of a beach. The winds were so fierce he was afraid his canoe would be blown away. Using his paddle, he dug a trench where he secured the canoe from the fierce gusts.

All his gear and possessions were soaked in the downpour and he suffered a painful recurrence of arthritis that made it difficult for him to roll over in his sleeping bag.

Overnight his small tent was washed out. He packed up and paddled further into Gore Bay only to have his camp washed out again. Fortunately this time a local property owner found him and offered him a warm drink, shelter and a ride out of the bay by Land Rover.

"I have seen lots of heavy rain in my canoeing," Mr Boyson said yesterday. "But I never seen rain washing down hillsides like that before. There were cascades of mud and water coming down everywhere around the bay."



Mr Boyson at Mapua.

The experience "knocked the stuffing" out of Mr Boyson, but didn't stop him from getting back on the water again. He joined a seminar on sea kayaking held at Mapua a week ago, then paddled for four days up the Abel Tasman National Park coast, which he described as beautiful, though "not long enough."

"If you wanted to, you could get up it in a day," he said.

"I would rate the scenery of the Sounds and the Abel Tasman Park as good as anywhere in the world, and the people too, they are as good as anywhere in the world."

Mr Boyson is in New Zealand for two months of touring and canoeing, part of a long-held ambition to visit this country. It is also part of a routine of canoeing trips he makes each year, covering an average of 1000km by canoe. His journeys have taken him down many of the major river systems in Europe, through lakes and fjords in Scandinavia, and around the Mediterranean.

Currently he is paddling an odyssey that began nine years ago in Trieste in Italy and which has taken him thousands of kilometres down the Yugoslavian coast of the Adriatic Sea as far as Albania before journeying around Greece, Crete and the Aegean Islands to near Istanbul in Turkey.

He travels from England twice a year to a point where he last left his five-metre fibreglass canoe and continues a solo journey which has enabled him to see some of the most beautiful coastline in the world, and to meet ordinary folk along the coast in their workday situations.

The fact that Mr Boyson is paddling at all is a wonder.

Twenty years ago his eyesight began deteriorating so rapidly, that when the optician moved his fingers and asked if

Mr Boyson could see them, he had to confess that not only could he not see the fingers, he could not see the optician's hand, arm, or the whole right side of his body.

It was then that an x-ray revealed a potentially fatal brain tumour. Only urgent and successful surgery enabled him to resume an active life.

Mr Boyson has worked as a cabinet-maker all his life, building his business to become a small factory that earned enough for him to make his canoeing trips. However the noise of the woodworking machinery has dulled his hearing to the point where he relies on a hearing aid, giving him problems in social situations, but not when he is on the water. "It can have its advantages," he said. "In a storm, I can turn off the thunder."

He was been hooked on canoeing from when as a 15-year-old he found a damaged and abandoned canoe wrapped up in a tree on the river Lee near his home. He repaired the canoe and began venturing further and further afield in it, from rivers around his home to other parts of Britain, then Europe. He also took up canoe racing and in 1938 won the British canoe pairs title for the 1000 metre distance.

His canoeing was interrupted by the war, and there was a time when he had his brain operation when he thought he might never paddle again. Now arthritis is a problem, but he hopes he has "at least another two or three years of canoeing to do".

Last weekend Mr Boyson was back at Mapua where he joined a seminar on Canadian canoes.

As the weekend ended he headed south with two other canoeists, his sights set on more paddling, and more adventures.