

No. 121 February - March 2006

THE SEA CANOEIST NEWSLETTER

COASTBUSTERS 2006



Billy Bowman, age nine, smiling after his first successful handroll in a sea kayak. His coach in the water was Greenland style paddling expert, Turner Wilson

**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.

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LRB3 - KASK HANDBOOK

For a copy (or trade orders) of this mother of all sea kayaking handbooks, contact Paul Caffyn, RD 1, Runanga, 7854. West Coast.

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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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INDEX

EDITORIAL	p. 3
COASTBUSTERS 2006	
Overview	
by Paul Caffyn	p. 4
Pod Scenarios	
by Ruth Henderson	p. 8
Vignettes	
by Cathye Haddock	p.13
The DoC Session	
by Debbie Dunsford	p.17
PADDLER PROFILE	
Justine Curgenvan	
by Paul Caffyn	p.10
FIRST KAYAKING TRIPS	
by Kerry Howe	p. 9
KASK	
Profiles of new committee members	p.15
CALENDAR	p.16
THE 'BUGGER!' FILE	
Swan defending its nest	
from Alan Bye	p.17
BOOK REVIEWS	
'Hooper Bay Kayak Construction'	
review: Alan Bye	p.18
'Sea Folk and Ocean Paddlers'	
review: Sandy Ferguson	p.18
DVD REVIEW	
'This is the Sea 2'	
review: Kevin Killilea	p.19
HUMOUR	p.19

DEADLINE
For the April - May
newsletter
15 May 2006

THANKS
To all the contributors

EDITORIAL

Coastbusters 2006

As you will read from the reports, this symposium was a great success. My thanks to Cathye Haddock, Ruth Henderson and Debbie Dunsford for providing their views of the weekend with rather a short deadline. After spending two weeks travelling with guest speaker, Justine Curgenvan, I have penned a profile of this remarkable young lady. Congratulations to Paul Hayward and the Red Team for organising a superb weekend.

Newsletter

The lateness of the last newsletter was partly due to tardiness on the part of the editor and partly due to the Massey printery experiencing problems with the binding. My thanks to Susan Cade for mailing out newsletter 120. An editor's delight to is have a surfeit of material and that is the case for this newsletter.

Kerry Howe has penned a lovely story of his very first kayaking trip. And I already have two more for the next newsletter from Kevin Dunsford and Brian Begley. As I explained to Brian at Coastbusters, the newsletter is just not for experienced expedition paddlers, but is for all phases of paddling experience. We all have to start off from scratch, and if you have a grand story of either your first kayak or first paddling experience, please put finger to keys and pen a story.

KASK AGM

The gender balance of the committee changed dramatically following elections at the AGM, and I will no longer have to wear a frock to 'face to face' committee meetings (I was the only bloke in the previous committee). Of concern however is that the bulk of the new committee is from that island north of Cook Strait!

Helen Woodward, who organised the successful Anikiwa KASK forum, stood down from the committee as did Cathye Haddock, who played a vital behind the scenes role in the KASK application to Water Safety NZ for funding grants, and worked on the sea kayaking section for the book 'Outdoor Activities, Guidelines for Lead-

ers'. KASK is indebted to both these ladies for their contribution to sea kayaking in NZ.

Susan Cade was re-elected as president, and Iona Bailey and the editor both remain on the committee. Profiles on the new committee members are included in this newsletter; for Phil Oster, Julie Reynolds, Nadia Lehmann and Kerry Howe. With a full strength committee, KASK will endeavour to raise its profile over the next 12 months.

The Graham Eggar paddle trophy award for outstanding contribution to sea kayaking over the past 12 months was made to the trio of Graham Charles, Mark Jones and Marcus Waters for their first circumnavigation of South Georgia.

The Graham Eggar paddle trophy award for outstanding contribution to the KASK newsletter was made to Bob Wishart for his superb story, 'A Touch of Fiordland', of a paddle from the Hollyford River down to Doubtful Sound, which featured in newsletter number 117. In the view of the editor the graphic descriptive writing of this trip, highlighted with capsizes in surf, mixed with a touch of humour, was the best article of the past 12 months.

National Pleasure Boat Forum

The next meeting is in Wellington on 9 May. If you have any issues with respect to kayak safety to be raised, please get in touch with the editor.

MNZ Cook Strait Safety Package

At the check in booth for the ferry sailing back to the South Island, the lass noticed a kayak on my roofrack, and passed me a kayaking safety package, which included the KASK safe sea kayaking brochure. Well done to Sue Tucker of MNZ for her initiative in organising this safety initiative.

Sea Kayaking Pilgrimage

This should be a great weekend in the Marlborough Sounds. The date is 29 to 30 April, and the site of the Vikings dress up, from 6pm on the Saturday night, is the Ratimera Bay DoC campsite, in Ruakaka Bay.

COASTBUSTERS 2006 by Paul Caffyn

This sea kayaking symposium was an outstanding success. Long term planning by Paul Hayward and his red team achieved a smoothly run show, with some 165 paddlers attending. Paul enticed four Greenland style paddling experts from the USA and the gorgeous Justine Curgenven from the UK, the lass who recently paddled around Tasmania. Kiwi speakers included John Kirk-Anderson who tried recently to round Stewart Island, Sue Tucker from Maritime New Zealand and Joe Rogers from the Coastguard.

The Milford school venue worked well for the Friday and Saturday workshops, panel discussions and keynote speakers, as well as the evening nosh on the Saturday. Lake Pupuke proved ideal for the pod built kayak trialing and race, as well as a grand spot to observe three of the Greenland style paddling experts to show their stuff on the water.

On the Friday evening Tony Dumper introduced the overseas speakers, prior to a slide/video show of Greenland paddling and annual kayak games.

Freya Hoffmeister had been paddling for the past 10 years. A former gymnast, she was keen on skydiving, but got pregnant and raised her kid in the back of a kayak. She has been on the sea kayaking symposium circuit and loved doing various moves in and out of her kayaks. Freya brought with her two Greenland style kayaks, a folder that was constructed with help from German friend, and a lovely black carbon fibre Japanese made boat, that broke down easily into four sections for air travel. During the Saturday afternoon Greenland paddling session, Freya stood in her kayak cockpit, paddle balanced on her head, then placed the paddle across the cockpit, and amazingly did a headstand. Then she brought her legs down onto the paddle, and finished the move with a forward roll onto the kayak foredeck.

After Freya's demonstration, John Kirk-Anderson took to the water in her tight fitting kayak, wearing one of the Greenland style parka/sprayskirts, and was shown the ropes by Freya. Although John is the last person to be called timid, he was setting up for a roll when Freya firmly pushed his head over while pulling on the decklines. A rather quick capsized.

Greg Stamer has been paddling since his teenage years. He started in Canadian style canoes but took to sea kayaks and developed an interest in Greenland style paddling. In 2000 he attended the annual kayak games in Greenland.

Turner Wilson (cover photo) has been paddling for 10 years. He had an opportunity to try a Greenland style paddler and has never looked back. He noted he had been waiting for 45 years to visit New Zealand.

Cheri Taylor spoke of paddling in Greenland only six months after taking up sea kayaking. Her interest is in the traditional style paddling, bracing and rolling techniques.

Tony Dumper began an introduction to John Kirk-Anderson by speaking about a Kiwi paddler who was attending a BCU (British Canoe Union) course at the Nigel Dennis Anglesey centre. The paddler was upstairs in a bunkroom, catching up on some sleep while a party raged downstairs. A bevy of beautiful female paddlers unceremoniously dragged the paddler - who was in a sleeping bag - and

Cheri Taylor



Paul Hayward

bundled him downstairs. The paddler did state to the ladies that he was not wearing a stitch of clothing, but he was carried down to the party where the sleeping bag slipped (was pulled off?) to reveal the paddler in all his glory. Tony went on to note that the paddler was none other than John Kirk-Anderson, and that one of the kidnapers was in fact keynote speaker Justine Curgenven. John Kirk-Anderson reckoned that Justine did not recognise him the previous day with his clothes on. And then Justine piped up, "Ladies, it was worth it!"

Prior to the slide show on Greenland paddling, paddlers were dispatched to one of 25 pods, for a briefing on the Sunday scenario session, and discussion on the challenge to build a corrugated plastic kayak, with a race on the Saturday afternoon. This session was a good ice breaker and a chance to meet other paddlers and learn of their experience.

Saturday was a full on day of workshops, lectures and panel discussions. Justine talked about filming on the water, there were sessions on rolling for women, yoga, physiotherapy, and gadgets. John Kirk-Anderson gave a slide show on his attempt to round Stewart Island which I rather enjoyed for his humour and thoughts on why he had to give up on the attempt. John has promised a report and photos on this trip for the newsletter. One of his slides showed a download of his GPS tracklog during his breakout from Lit-



Kevin Dunsford demonstrating his pump's waterproof battery kit

the Hellfire Beach on the west coast of the island. The maximum speed he achieved was 32.1 kph. He went on to confess that this remarkable speed was achieved when a whopper breaker flipped his Nordkapp over in a rather sudden backwards loop!

Taking part in a safety panel workshop, along with Sue Tucker of Maritime NZ and John Kirk-Anderson, we heard from the northern region Coastguard boatmaster, Joe Rogers, of 30 kayak related rescues conducted by CG in the past 12 months including three major search and rescue operations in the past three months. He

Freya Hoffmeister instructing John Kirk-Anderson in Greenland rolling



noted several key matters for kayakers to consider, the first an understanding of weather, particularly the threat of strong offshore winds. He noted there were now continuous VHF weather forecasts available for the Hauraki Gulf, channel; 80 for the inner gulf, and 82 for the outer gulf.

Joe stated that in the gulf with so much boat traffic, kayak visibility was a key issue and that chopper flags were an absolute must. At night he noted that the rounded hulls of sea kayaks did not show up at all well on radar screens and an all round white light was essential for night paddlers. Joe noted that reflective tape on the kayak, clothing, paddle and lifejacket made night searches so much easier - an exercise showed that the visibility to a kayak at night with a helicopter spotlight, was three times greater when the reflective tape was used.

Following a recent major search in the gulf, after a sit-on-top kayak was found floating without paddler by a yacht - the search involved three police craft, a rescue helicopter and six CG vessels - Joe recommended having your name and contact telephone number either in the kayak cockpit or on a sit-on-top kayak. The missing paddler did contact the police the next day, but if his details had been on the boat, it would have saved a lot of time, money and effort.

John Kirk-Anderson noted that one of the exercises he conducts when in-



Vincent Maire, awarded with a Greenland paddle for his organisation of previous Coastbusters

structuring sea kayaking is to have his clients leave their boats on the water, swim to shore, and then he asks them to check exactly what they have on them for survival and communication in the event of losing their boat.

Sue Tucker spoke of the need to keep a cellphone in a waterproof bag or ziplock bag, as so many boaties have been found dead in the water, with a cellphone on their belt. I related the story of the Dunedin paddler who had an out of boat experience in Port Chalmers, during winter, and his life was saved with a cellphone in a plastic bag, attached by a line around his neck. He called 111 and then had to direct the rescue boats in the big chop to pick him up. Sue also noted if you ever have to call in a rescue, you need to know your precise position.

Comment was made also of the superb visibility of the bright pink safety sausages, that are carried by divers. Joe noted that a cyalume chemical light stick or torch can be inserted in a safety sausage, before inflation, to assist searchers at night.

Mid Saturday afternoon, the 25 pods got together again for assembly and testing of the corrugated plastic kayaks. Materials provided included pre-cut sheets, duct tape and a sharp thingy. A race out and around two kayaks provided much laughter, with only one or two capsizes.

The KASK AGM was held at 6pm, and after dinner and drinks, paddlers were ready for Justine's presentation.

Vincent Maire was called from the crowd and presented with a Greenland paddle for his sterling work over the years with organising previous Coastbusters.

With a combination of powerpoint slides and video clips, Justine Curgenvin took paddlers through her sea kayaking career and the equipment she used to film material for her 'This is the Sea DVDs'. Her enthusiasm for sea kayaking was obvious and her show had to be one of the highlights of Coastbusters.

Sunday morning, paddlers drove out to Sullivans Bay for a morning of pods tackling various scenarios. Ruth Henderson has penned a story on this. Returning to the beach, grilled snaggers and salad were waiting, and this was a great opportunity for socialising. Paddlers were reluctant to leave, as Turner, Freya, Greg and Cheri were in the water providing coaching on Greenland style rolling.

In retrospect, Coastbusters was over all too quickly. The line up of speakers was second to none, and the venue proved ideal for both lectures and on the water demonstrations. My congratulations to Paul Hayward and the red team for a great symposium.



Nearing the start of the corrugated plastic kayak race



A show and tell session at the Milford School with Lake Pupuke in the distance



Rhyanon Murray, Justine Curgenvan and Ruth Henderson at Sullivans Bay

Pods returning to the beach at Sullivans Bay after the Sunday scenario session



Coastbusters 2006

Pod Scenarios

or

The Blind Leading the Blind or not as the case may be.

Story and Photos

by Ruth E. Henderson

When I received the email that suggested that I had been 'identified' as being 'a suitable candidate' for Pod leaders' duties at the 2006 Coastbusters, I had conflicting emotions.

Something akin to the pride my father felt when answering the summons of 'Your country needs you' wartime posters and being found fit.... And then fear that I would be found out - found deficient and rejected for front line duties- not as he was, for 'flat feet' but for being unable to read without glasses. Normally this is not a problem - I print everything at a 14 font size or memorize where I am going between lunch or piddle stops....but nine, on-the-water or on-the-beach detailed scenarios? No chance.

On the water scenarios are all about solving problems:

Problem: - eyesight. Lots of written instructions.

Solution: - buy cheapo magnified x 3 specs and put in BA front pocket; borrow an extra compass; delegate.

Outcome: Every member of my pod participated, co-operated, assisted me and each other and we had a great day learning lots from not just the exercises but each other.

With 18 pods of 8 to cater for in a relatively small area, Pod Coordinating Organizer Neil Watson and assistants, Steve Levett, and Ross Brunton had to be pretty imaginative for this year's Coastbusters. Because they want to get a bit more mileage out of their work and re-use their scenarios some other time I will not divulge much detail about any one. They were all fun and useful.

There were SIMPLE ones, but interestingly they probably gave the greatest day-to-day benefit. For example - checking each other's kit - its storage and accessibility. Having pointed out others potential problems - I will, in fact, interrupt this report to go and put a tie on my pump before I fail to retrieve it in a surf landing. Hopefully other members of my pod will similarly have now tied down whatever they had floating free and vulnerable to the greedy sea - the most common important article being their paddle float.

There were the WHAT - IF scenarios - such as having to tow someone to safety who was unable to help them-

selves. These produced a plethora of ideas, made for great teamwork, and the successes will be added to the individual and collective memory bank - for summoning FAST, if we are ever involved in such, or similar rescues. On the day, our solution to towing a disabled kayaker thru the surf involved having one person hanging onto his boat till he was thru safely, then fitting him with a paddle with both blades encased in blown up paddle floats to act as an outrigger. Our man reported that this made him feel very safe. We also tried out having two tow, not just the disabled paddler but having one kayaker either side of him railed over, with an arm over the middle kayak, making a raft

Ruth's pod leaving the beach at Sullivans Bay



Kayak rescue scenario



formation. This also worked well, and was not much more work than towing one person.

Inevitably there were WET ones...and when we wanted rough - typically the sea was calm, so the textbook rescues worked perfectly with no golden rainbows for us. But one chap discovered the disadvantages of 'sandshoes' when trying re-entry and we all were very aware of the discomfort of too much knobbly stuff on our aft deck. For instance my hinged light/flag mounted on some old LP records, with a bungee tie on top of my Skua's back hatch makes for easy raising and lowering - but would make John Wayne self-rescues more comfy if positioned under the fitted bungies at the rudder end of the stern.

And yes, we had the MATHEMATICAL ones - taking the guess out of the 'by golly' and getting where you aim for. I know its 'wrong' but personally I am a kilometre and topographical map kayaker (and tramper) so I always find the nautical mile and knot thing difficult.



Assisted rescue after an out of boat experience

But, as a team we worked out our problem using both measuring systems and they both worked....we got to where we were meant to be going in the estimated time...

And got back to base for the nosh up of sausages and sauces with a salad on the side, ready for the afternoon's

programme.

A big thank you to all the guys and girls who put so many hours in over ten months of organizing, plotting and planning to produce such a 10 star event.

Ruth Henderson

My First Sea Kayak Day Trip

by Kerry Howe

It was a long, long time ago. I lived in Palmerston North and owned a white water 'general purpose' kayak. I joined the Ruahine White Water Club. I didn't really like rivers, so tried to paddle on the sea whenever I could. But the river kayak would never go straight. I bolted a great big aluminium skeg onto it. Then I couldn't turn it.

At that stage club member and kayak maker Max Grant offered to sell me a brand new Puffin sea kayak (with a few minor flaws in it). It weighed a tonne and I always strained myself when getting it onto the roof rack, but I loved it. Another club member, David Herrington, whom I didn't really know, kindly offered to take me out on a first trip with the new beast.

We drove to Plimmerton, north of Wellington. The plan, said David, was to paddle around the coast to Pukerua Bay and return. It should only take a few hours. The return distance is barely

12 kilometres. But it seemed pretty extreme to me, and I had come well prepared with enough food for several days, full cooking equipment, litres of water, many changes of clothing, emergency/survival gear - the works! And why not? There were all those wonderful waterproof hatches to fill with equipment, so I did.

We headed out around the point. David said it was a light chop. I thought the seas were mountainous. After about 20 minutes I was pretty tired, so I said it was time to head ashore for a break and a cup of tea. David dutifully followed me. I not only made tea, but heated up soup, and poured hot water on instant noodles.

I think we made about two more landings before getting to Pukerua Bay - you know, for a pee, for more food, and more cups of tea. I almost wore my stove out. I took compass bearings, and marked our progress on the

chart. It was all very serious and purposeful.

I was very tired by the time we reached Pukerua Bay and lamented the fact that it was not a one way trip. The journey back was pretty much the same - I instigated lots of rest/tea/food stops.

Finally back at Plimmerton, and full of a sense of accomplishment, I boasted about the achievement in my new plastic boat to an unsuspecting passerby who had foolishly asked how far we had come. David, I later realised, had been very long suffering that day. Unbeknown to me he was a top long distance sea kayaker and had crossed Cook Strait very many times. Poor devil. And he had never uttered a word other than gentle encouragement throughout the start/stop day.

Kerry Howe

PADDLER PROFILE

Justine Curgenven
by Paul Caffyn

Kiwi paddlers at the 2006 Coastbusters were fortunate to hear Justine speaking on the Saturday night of her sea kayaking experiences, with a mixture of slides and video clips from her two DVDs. After picking Justine up from Christchurch airport, we spent two weeks paddling, filming and doing a few slide shows on the long drive up to Auckland to attend Coastbusters.

As a result of sales of her two 'This is the Sea' DVDs world wide, and a host of speaking engagements at sea kayak gatherings in the USA and the UK, Justine must be the best known female sea kayaker in the world today. In exchange for filming the reclusive West Coast paddler Kayak Dundee, I subjected Justine to interrogation under powerful spotlights to shed some light on her background and how she first got started with both sea kayaking and filming.

The name Curgenven sounds Scandinavian, however one of Justine's early descendants changed his surname from Lane to Curgenven, which was a small hamlet in Cornwall.

Justine grew up on Jersey, one of the Channel Islands south of the UK. Living in the country she enjoyed exploring local paths and coves on the beaches, gaining an appreciation of the outdoors. At the age of 12, she was sent to a boarding school in Dorset where she remained until she was 18. Justine thrived at school and was a rather good athlete, playing in all the sports teams, such as hockey but she recalls that the most important thing she learned from the schooling was the ability to think independently.

After trying unsuccessfully to enter both Oxford and Cambridge universities, Justine headed out to the Antipodes where she taught at an Anglican girl's school at Tamworth in NSW. She enjoyed travelling in Australia



Justine at Waiona Bay, Tennyson Inlet.

but apart from a desire to play hockey for the English team, she was not sure where life would take her. Accepted by St. John's college, Cambridge, Justine studied science, including geology and philosophy, and played hockey for the English University's team. Life at university was full with studying and sport. She learned that no-one else was going to help her and that she had to really set her own goals and strive towards them without prodding from someone else.

Her only outdoors experience during the varsity years was through geology field trips which she thoroughly enjoyed. Emerging with a degree and a total of nine Cambridge blues, she again headed downunder, this time with a boyfriend and spent eight months tiki-touring in New Zealand. It was through tramping trips that the seeds were sown for enjoying the great outdoors.

Back in the UK, Justine's best friend Cheryl invited her to a Jersey Canoe Club meeting. Cheryl had just returned buzzing from an Operation Raleigh expedition, and her enthusiasm rubbed off on Justine. To join the Jersey Canoe Club's outings, Justine bought her first kayak, a 3m plastic Dagger Response for £100. During a sea kayak symposium held on Jersey, she quickly found the plastic boat was not a patch on real sea kayaks and borrowed a proper boat for the rest of the week, attending paddling skills and navigation workshops. Her first serious trip was a 12 mile crossing to the island of Sark, which she survived and found great pleasure with beach camping and chatting with other paddlers.

For the next two years, Justine worked for a television company and gradually paddling began to take over from her love of hockey. Attending a Scottish sea kayak symposium, she first

came to grips with paddling in strong tidal streams. Moving to work at Southampton, Justine met Fiona Whitehead, a paddler with expedition paddling under her sprayskirt, and she took Justine under her wing for the next 12 months. At an Anglesey symposium, Justine paddled the great tide races off North and South stacks, and was inspired by speakers such as Peter Bray, who was planning a paddle across the Atlantic Ocean, Nigel Dennis who paddled around the UK in 1980 with Paul Caffyn, and Trys Morris, a Welsh kayaking coach. These people were doers and not just talkers.

Fiona and Justine decided to attempt a trip around Wales, via the coastline, canal and river systems, Justine's first serious expedition. Averaging 40 miles a day, apart from the canals where portaging around locks slowed them down, Justine's experience was steadily growing, and although Fiona was the leader for the trip, Justine was beginning to form her own opinions with respect to decision making on the water. A highlight was a day paddling topless. Fiona, who Justine noted was rather generously endowed but wise, was experiencing serious chafe from her lifejacket and stripped off to the waist. Justine thought if it was good enough for Fiona, it was appropriate for herself to also paddle topless. Lifejackets were donned only when people were sighted.

Not long after the Wales trip, Justine moved to Nigel Dennis's Anglesey sea and surf training centre. She was working as an independent film producer, but still felt she was more of an explorer than a sea kayaker. Viewing a glossy brochure on Iceland, Justine pondered on the best way to see that island. Planning a horse trek through the country side with her mother was the plan, but then synchronicity stepped in. A sea kayaking company in Reykjavik had emailed Nigel Dennis with a request for paddlers who could do some coaching. And Justine decided she would undertake a solo paddle to the western fjords of Iceland. The June 2003 'Sea Kayaker' magazine featured a wonderful 14 page story and photographs of this

trip, when she paddled a three piece Nigel Dennis Explorer kayak. Though only a nine day trip, weather and sea conditions were torrid at times, and as the days slipped by, Justine was starting to take fewer risks and turning back before things got too critical.

Back in the UK, Justine sought the help of Tony Smith to be able to film surfing in the big tide races off Anglesey. He came up with a suction pad mounted monopod that could be moved to shoot from various angles. Combined with a waterproof microphone and small camera, Justine was able to set the camera recording, and surf the tide races to her heart's content. It was certainly a new slant to filming paddling with a handheld camera.

Fiona Whitehead was keen to paddle across the Bering Strait, between Alaska and Russia, and she and Justine



Rugged up for windy weather at Waiona Bay, Marlborough Sounds

were in touch with paddler and author Jon Turk who had completed a long trip from Hokkaido up the Kamchatka Peninsula to St. Lawrence Island in Bering Strait. Jon reckoned paddling

Justine with Steve Knowles at Mt. Maunganui, ready for film in the surf.



the Kamchatka Peninsula would be a great trip, provided you didn't mind bears and big surf.

Justine planned and led a three week expedition to the peninsula which featured in the February 2005 'Sea Kayaker' magazine. Together with Hamas, an Israeli paddler, and Alexsey who was a Russian tourist guide, Justine pulled off a very successful trip, which she filmed. Encounters with both surf and brown bears were highlights, as was in retrospect being carted off by Russian soldiers on a tank - kayaks, paddlers and kit - to the local military base. Phone calls and discussion between Alexsey and the military resolved the problem, and the team was dropped back by tank at the precise spot where they had been picked up.

Justine found the Kamchatka area was so special, not only with the beautiful scenery but also the fact it was so seldom visited by people. At a lighthouse, where she was able to drop in the mail, there has been no visitors for the past eight months. The keeper spread his mail out on a table, and took great pleasure in slowly opening each envelope.

Justine's film footage was used by National Geographic for a 50 minute documentary titled 'One Risk Too Many', as part of an adventure challenge series. (Her first 'This is the Sea' video/DVD also featured a 10 minute segment on the expedition.)

Back home again, Justine continued to work as an independent film maker, producing promotional videos for paddle and kayak manufacturers, these videos first showing her footage of tidal race surfing and an interview with a well known sea kayaker. Following glowing feedback on these videos, Justine felt she had the ability to put together what she calls her first inspirational sea kayak video, and made a major step forwards in deciding to produce and market her own videos. Invited to the USA to speak at various symposiums, she filmed some of the high profile paddlers such as Greenland paddling expert Greg Stamer, Nigel Foster and Chris Duff. And despite many folk saying her

concept would not work, it has. Justine did not dare to expect the world wide interest in her first video/DVD.

Late 2004, Justine set off with Trys Morris and Gemma Rawlings to attempt a first all female circumnavigation of Tasmania. A 30 minute documentary of this trip features on Justine's second DVD, TITS 2 (This is the Sea Two). Days of headwinds on the north-east coast set the timetable well back as well leaving despondency in the team. A stranding on vast tidal flats on the north-west tip was also a major downer with many miles of towing kayaks to and from the sea. An out of boat experience for Gemma on the west coast and a rescue in big seas was the worst moment. The swell was huge for the rest of the west coast, but they successfully completed a brilliant trip.

So in retrospect Justine was not inspired by reading adventure books, but by falling under the wing of paddlers such as Fiona Whitehead and

Nigel Dennis. She felt that if they could organise and pull off the big trips, then she could do it as well. When asked about company during trips, Justine noted she preferred to have company, particularly at night.

The future? No more big trips planned, but Justine has commenced work on TITS 3, which should feature a good part on New Zealand. The day after Coastbusters, Justine flew back to the UK to carry on filming a series on endangered wildlife for Welsh TV.

I thoroughly enjoyed two weeks travelling with Justine. On the West Coast, the surf was too big for wave skis, and as she wanted to go caving, we went up Fox River and into the vast chambers of Babylon. During three days of paddling in Tennyson Inlet, although it didn't rain, strong winds were an incessant paddling companion. Attempting to round one point into a rather fresh south-easterly we were buffeted by 50 knot plus winds; williwaws and spray flying off the

Justine filming while the weka is about to steal the bread rolls.



chop. There was no chance of paddling during the strong gusts, and at one point while I was desperately trying to stay upright, I caught a glimpse of Justine coolly filming the maelstrom.

Filming wekas and seals at close quarters was a bonus for Justine in the inlet. At a lunch stop, she was filming a family of wekas but the camera was downed rather rapidly as a weka stealthily snuck up behind her and grabbed a three day supply of bread rolls. A chase up a steep slope, through tight manuka scrub led to a successful recovery of the rolls. Pity I didn't have the camera at the time.

I had to admire Justine's dedication to filming. She will go to great lengths to get the shot she wants. At Mt. Maunganui, while I was filming from the security of land, Justine swam out with an underwater housing to film Steve Knowles surfing. A strong rip nearly led to her swift passage out into Shark Alley.

For paddlers who have heard Justine chortling, her website, www.cackletv.com is an appropriate name for the sound of her laugh. It certainly could be heard above the crowd noise at Coastbusters.

To sum up, a highly motivated paddler who is sharply focused on filming and producing inspirational sea kayak DVDs.

Kerikeri paddler, Lynnis Burson, at CB 2006



Coastbusters 2006 Vignettes from Cathye Haddock

The venue

The Coastbusters sea kayak symposium was held at a Takapuna School, which overlooks Lake Pupuke. The school had a big hall, ample classrooms and outdoor areas for workshops and of course the lake with grandstand viewing for the Greenland rolling demonstrations. There was also plenty of off-road parking for cars and boats on the school field.

Workshops

Coastbusters invited a group of Greenland experts and enthusiasts over for the gathering. Turner Wilson, Cheri Taylor and Greg Stamer from the USA and Freya Hoffmeister from Germany shared their passion and skills for Greenland qayaqs and qayaqing.

I attended a sequence of workshops on the Saturday, which led me through an excellent progression for giving Greenland rolling a go on the Sunday:

- o Yoga for rollers
- o Rolling for women
- o Greenland rolling demonstration
- o Practical Greenland rolling coaching session (one on one)

Yoga for rollers

Cheri led the yoga for rollers session in the school hall, supported by Turner. She was surprised to see over 50 people ready to participate in the session. We were young and old, male and female, novice and experienced yogi and sea kayakers. She told me she had offered this workshop at sea kayak symposia in the US and had four people turn up. She commented that kiwis had an open-mindedness that was refreshing. We spread out, shared mats around and went through a progression of stretches to prepare for the Greenland rolling technique, which were suitable for any rolling practice. You could hear a pin drop in the room as we followed each exercise in unison, with quiet 'yoga music' in the distant background.

Rolling for women

Cheri led this session, supported by Freya. The room was full of women and about four men. We learned about taking advantage of our feminine anatomy and disposition for rolling. For example, with big bums and hips and narrow shoulders, many women have a naturally low centre of gravity - compared to a man with narrow hips and broad shoulders. This is a big advantage for rolling.

Cheri and Freya told us that in their many years instructing people in Greenland rolling techniques, 99% of women could relax easily, utilising loose body positioning and technique to roll. Where as many men did not relax easily, were stiff and often relied more on brute strength to roll.

Cheri and Freya demonstrated the rolling sequence on dry land with people supporting and rotating the qayaq in mid air. They used slow, loose, relaxed movements in the boat, mimicking many of the yoga movements we had learned earlier.

We all had turns at sitting in the Greenland qayaqs. Instead of knee braces and foot pegs, the Greenland boats have a thick closed cell foam 'apron' that slides in under the cockpit. Once seated as far forward as you can get in the cockpit, you slide the 'apron' back over your lap. This gives you a snug fit and excellent contact with the boat. The back of the seat has a closed cell foam 'ramp' from seat to top of coaming behind your back. This gives you good back comfort and support when laying back on the deck during some rolling techniques.

I found the techniques affirmed the techniques I had been learning in pool sessions last winter, with a few helpful refinements.

We learned that most available sea kayaks were too big for most women and some men. This makes learning to roll much harder than it needs to be. Cheri and Freya showed us an 'apron' they had made for a conventional sea kayak. It was much thicker than theirs and gave paddlers a good fit into the larger boat to make rolling a lot easier.

Greenland rolling demonstration

Straight after the women's rolling session, we got to see demonstrations of the Greenland rolling techniques on Lake Pupuke, commentated by Greg, Cheri and Freya in Greenland boats and Turner in a conventional sea kayak (Albatross I think). It was encouraging to see the techniques worked in conventional boats as well as the much lower volume wooden and skin boats.

All three paddling along with their boats upside down, was an impressive sight. Freya, dressed in sleek black to match her black skin boat, finished with a graceful headstand in the cockpit of her boat on the middle of the Lake. Now that's balance!

Practical Greenland rolling session

I was fortunate to have a half hour one-on-one rolling lesson with Freya at Sullivan's beach on Sunday afternoon.

I had watched her previous two pupils go through the progression with her. The woman prior to me had never rolled before and under Freya's expert tutelage, rolled on her first and subsequent attempts. There was much excitement, cheering and clapping from the growing audience standing close by in the water.

When it came to my turn, Freya checked on my previous experience and took me quickly through the progression. We did the butterfly roll, forward finish roll and sculling roll. I relaxed into it and found the slow, loose movements and focus on body positioning very easy to master. After 15 minutes she told me I had the right hand roll 100% perfected.

I was about to get out and let the next person have a turn. But Freya had different ideas: onto the left hand roll! I had never rolled on that side before and had built up some fear of failure. However, without thinking too much, I trusted Freya's guiding instructions and just did it. A mirror image to what I had done before. I went through the whole progression on my left side. I never missed a roll and had a smile the size of my face each time I came up! Freya said I had the left side 85%

perfected and I was just buzzing.

During the weekend I met some Wellington Greenland paddlers. They meet and practise weekly and invited me to come along. I am making myself an 'apron' and can't wait to practise the techniques in my own boat.

Challenge

I would like to challenge NZ boat manufacturers to design or import some smaller sea kayaks that are more suited to small paddlers.

Justine Curgenven

I was inspired to meet Justine Curgenven, adventurer and documentary-maker, at Coastbusters this year.

I attended Justine's 'Photography' workshop hoping to gain some tips for taking photos with my digital camera. Justine soon put us right on the aim of the session, which was to show us her deck-mounted, fully waterproof camera 'kit' for documentary making on the water. She also gave us some great tips for taking movie footage, ensuring good variation on angles, distance from subject, still shots and putting it all together.

We got to see the results of Justine's film-making as she was the after dinner speaker on Saturday night. Justine gave an inspiring presentation on her earlier life, her professional TV training and career, and her love of adventure. She took the brave move a few years ago to combine her passion for adventure with her craft of movie-making. She has made documentaries on river kayaking, sea kayaking and mountaineering in many stunning locations for National Geographic Channel and BBC TV.

Among her many adventures, Justine has sea kayaked solo in the West Fjords of Iceland, done an expedition in Kamchatka (Russia) and in 2004, circumnavigated Tasmania with her two friends Trys and Gemma. Her presentation took us with her on the Tasmanian trip and gave us the thrilling sensation of surfing the 5 metre swells. You could feel the adrenalin and almost taste the salt! It was a moving rendition of the highs and

lows of this 40 day expedition, plagued with head winds and a test for the team's endurance and judgement.

The three women 'busted' stereotypes of expedition paddlers having to be men with beards. A cheeky shot with the three sporting impressive fake beards, followed by an equally cheeky shot of the girls in spunky bras said it all really.

Justine's DVD 'This is the Sea - Two' includes footage of the Tasmanian expedition, along with sea kayaking in Japan, Norway, Newfoundland and Wales. I bought a copy of this, along with 'This is the Sea', covering her Kamchatka and other exploits. Now all I need to do is buy a DVD player! The DVDs are available on Justine's website

www.cackletv.com

KASK NEWSLETTERS

Back copies for most of the KASK newsletters are available from the editor. I have a file with all the newsletters from the early days as PDF files, and can burn on to a disc.

Get in touch via email or phone (see page 2) for availability.

BOOKS

I have one copy left of the superb 'Eastern Artic Kayak' book by Eugene Arima and John Heath left. Plus an assortment of new and secondhand paddling books. Email for a copy of the cattledog.

'The Dreamtime Voyage' is now out of print, but plenty of copies of 'Obscured by Waves', both limpbound and the signed/numbered hardbacks still in stock. The North Island book is almost out of print, but a few copies left.

KASK

Profiles of new Committee Members

Julie Reynolds

I've been asked to write a brief bio to quickly introduce myself to those of you who don't already know me. This should be interesting; I'm not really sure how to begin. I guess you'll want to know my paddling credentials and whether I can be of any value to you as a KASK committee member.

I've definitely set out paddling with my paddle around the wrong way, yes I've also fallen out of my boat before leaving the beach, and getting onto the beach through surf has not always been done with style.

I've been lucky enough to be able to tick off the list an incredible number of paddling destinations around New Zealand. While I lived in Christchurch I was able to paddle in a lot of fabulous areas, Stewart Island, Milford Sounds, West Coast, East Coast, Abel Tasman, Marlborough Sounds, Fiordland and a few lakes as well. Since moving to Auckland I've found it even easier to hit the water. As all you fellow Auckland paddlers will know we can't move far from our doors without being tempted, sometimes cruelly, by bodies of water.

My partner Scott is a very accomplished kayaker and instructor and we belong to the Yakity Yak Club in Manukau. We have a great set of

Julie Reynolds, rugged up for winter paddling on the Waikato River



friends who are very active paddlers so we have had some great trips and adventures over the years. I suspect there are very few islands, beaches and lakes in the Taupo to North Auckland area that we haven't tackled. I still need to spend time in Northland and in the Wellington Region to be able to say I've covered New Zealand but it's on the list.

As for my role with KASK - It's simple. I'm young (or younger anyway). I'm blonde. I'd say Hot but the jury's out on that. What more could there be. Nah seriously, I have a background in business administration, mentoring and marketing. These are skills that hopefully can be put to use to enhance the sport behind the scenes. I believe in what KASK does with the likes of Maritime NZ, the Pleasure Boat Forum and Water Safety and hope that somehow going forward I can help with KASK's hope to marry all of this with the great stuff all the local clubs and operators do.

Phil Oster

I bought a lightweight Penguin in September of 2003 and within a week had tried a paddling jaunt in the Manukau Harbour. This went really well, considering that I had not been in a kayak since 1978 (I think). The weather was typical Manukau - choppy and probably a 10 -15 knot wind. The was a high frequency wind cell and after half an hour I realised I had no idea on what to do if I fell out, so discretion being the better part of valour, decided to retrace my strokes, sticking to where I could see the bottom. While out there that day I found that I really had a taste for choppy and rough conditions, but prudently washed my kayak and gear and put it away until I had completed a skills course. On Nov. 23, 2003 I attended a skills course with North Shore Canoe and Kayak and the Sunday paddle was cut short by 15 to 20 knot winds, however I was determined to continue and returned with the instructor (Tony Dumper) and another guy to get the ute and to recover the others, patiently waiting at the Narrow Neck bus stop for us to return.

That Christmas I tried a solo out from Kikowhakarere bay in Coromandel

and scared myself shitless in a 1.2 meter swell, with a poorly adjusted seat and tingling toes I had to turn back after an hour. Upon my return to Auckland I put myself through a rolling course and broke the 10 minute learning time (however you have to keep practising).

By April 2004 I had experienced 30 knots in the Manukau and had undertaken a weekend trip to Great Mercury with others and did a circumnavigation of that island. I was definitely hooked. I paddled every weekend I could, the gnarlier the weather the more excited I was!

My first leader role was almost impromptu and involved 28 paddlers to Rangitoto and back, then in May 2004 I won the Open Men's Plastic Sea Kayak division of the Cambridge to Hamilton race (I got second last year in the composite race). I also won a spot prize in 2004 of a Contour 480. With that and my Penguin, I traded up to my 'Ferrari' kayak - a beautiful kevlar Torres from QK. Having recently added a thermarest cushion, I have the speed of a Ferrari and the comfort of my Range Rover all in one. I love my boat!

By the end of 2004 I had paddled 445 nautical miles and spent 156 hours on the water. In May 2005 I damaged my shoulder stern ruddering for 1.5 hours (badly) in the Waitemata Harbour and had to have a 6-month break. The first paddle after that was with Emma (my girlfriend - also a keen paddler) on

Phil Oster at Sullivans Bay



Lake Titicaca in Peru (I'm not sure how many people have paddled at 10,000 feet) and following that, in Jan 2006 we took a 8-day paddling tour around some of the lakes, dams, lagoons and in the Caribbean Sea, while in Cuba.

Currently I am involved in organising a Auckland to Cape Reinga expedition involving a dozen people and training by doing 40 km paddles every other weekend.

Having now been elected onto the KASK committee I look forward to injecting some new and hi-powered energy into the organisation and raising it's profile to be a truly representative and professional body for every sea kayaker in NZ. I will be focusing on raising the membership to 1000 by the end of the year and assisting in the internal and external communication methods of KASK. I believe there is a lot of unrealised potential to continue to develop KASK as the preferred network for kayakers and a national organisation for representation to government agencies.

I am a landscape designer and constructionist, and have been running my own business in Auckland for 5 years, having moved there from Tauranga in 1991. It wasn't until I got into kayaking that I discovered the real Auckland and ever since I have pitied those poor buggers who can't get onto the water! To me the sea holds both a physical and spiritual truth; it takes no prisoners, life originated in it, and if you mess with it, you die and it doesn't care either way.

Nadia Lehmann

I have always had connections with the sea, taking part in ocean swims with the local swimming team and either windsurfing, diving or sailing in any spare time. Then in the mid 90's when I moved to the UK, I took up wave skiing and have become hooked on paddling (any previous paddling would only be to get my windsurfer back to land when I was exhausted or had unfavourable wind conditions).

Previous visits to New Zealand saw



Nadia Lehmann

me take part in many day trips along the coast of the North Shore. In December 2004 I moved here, bought my sea kayak and am now a regular solo and group paddler, at every chance I get - which is never often enough.

I am involved in the maritime industry having gained my NZ Commercial Skippers ticket, (in addition to having a UK commercial ticket) and am an active volunteer with the Coastguard. More recently, I put my name down to be a Safe Boating Advisor for MNZ.

In the immediate future, I want to bring more awareness of KASK to other kayakers, and continue to raise the safety profile, this being a major issue and in all our best interests.

Based in the Bay of Islands, I would be happy to hear from other paddlers, and will work with the committee in supporting and encouraging sea kayaking in NZ, which is what KASK is all about.

Kerry Howe

Kerry Howe has been sea kayaking for about 20 years. He has sea kayaked extensively around the top of the South Island, in many locations in the lower North Island, and in recent years has solo kayaked from East Cape to North Cape including to and around Great Barrier Island.

He has written many articles on sea kayaking trips, safety issues and equipment. His articles have appeared in the *Seacanoelist Newsletter*, the *KASK Handbook*, *NZ Kayak Magazine*, *Wilderness Magazine*. He has been the editor of the Auckland Canoe Club *Newsletter*.

He has also recently published *Coastal Sea Kayaking in New Zealand. A Practical Touring Manual*, (New Holland, 2005). This publication has been endorsed by Coastguard Boating Education.

For his day job, he is a Professor of History at Massey University, Albany Campus, Auckland. He has written 8 books on aspects of New Zealand and Pacific history.

Kerry Howe



CALENDAR

Vikings & Virgins Sea Kayak Pilgrimage: 29 - 30 April 2006

Ratimera Bay DoC campsite, Ruakaka Bay, Queen Charlotte Sound Assemble in Viking Regalia at 6pm on the Saturday night.

For further information, phone AJ on (03) 546 6702 or (027) 674 6879 or the editor via email or (03) 7311806

Rescue Clinic for Sea Kayakers: 8 April 2006

Lyttelton Harbour

Cost: \$120 per person

For more details or to book, contact: John Kirk Anderson jka@netaccess.co.nz or 021 634 448 Stephen Counsell skood@xtra.co.nz or 021 123 6080

COASTBUSTERS 2006

The Dept. of Conservation Session. by Debbie Dunsford

Two Department of Conservation staff and about 50 sea kayakers attended what was a lively forum about how sea kayakers and conservation activities, land and personnel mesh together. It was good to see that, over the past decade, sea kayakers have become recognised as a distinct recreational group with specific needs (like trampers) and that the individual conservancies and national office are all aware of us.

The DoC staff present were informative, frank and keen to find out from us what we want from the conservation estate. It was acknowledged that KASK has played an important part in raising awareness of our sport through its submissions on recreational policy especially at individual conservancy levels.

While the discussion was wide ranging, the main message we took away was probably that DoC recognises the growing numbers in the sport and the northern conservancies at least are actively planning development of some basic campsites to suit us. Having said that, while intentions are good, the ever-present problem of funding means that these plans often have what seem like excessively long timeframes.

One way to speed these developments up would be to actively lobby DoC so that sea kayakers have a higher profile and appear to be well organised. An important point was that the DoC national office seems more receptive to lobbying of this kind from national associations rather than individuals or local clubs. So it is important to continue submissions on policy under the umbrella of KASK wherever possible. The meeting ended with a number of people offering to help with local submissions in their district when the opportunity arose.

The 'Bugger!' File

from: Alan Bye Cob swan defending nest, Llyn Padarn

Llanberis is in the high hills in North Wales. It stands beside Llyn Peris (Lake Peris) which empties in to Llyn Padarn. At the western end of Padarn the river Seiont flows usually grade 2 to 3. There are many narrow rocky spouts.

The headwater of the Seiont is narrow, rocky bank left side and wide reed-grown marsh on the right. In the marsh a swan pen (hen) had settled to produce cygnets. The cob, male, spread his wings and lowered his neck, extended his beak and hissed. I urged the lads to paddle away swiftish. This swan meant business. On his first high speed approach, great webbed feet clattering on the water, aiming straight at me, I used the flat of the paddle and whacked it hard down with a crack like a pistol shot. He put on the brakes.

The next run was longer and he came much closer. On my left was a steep bank with hawthorn bushes and long grass with a barbed wire fence beyond. My group were paddling slowly backwards watching the attack. A third time the cob hurtled toward me. A blow from its wing can break an arm.

There was shallow gravel bottom on my left. I capsized away from the attack presenting the bottom of the grp kayak to the hissing head and spread webbed feet. My shoulders rested on the gravel, face above water.

With a great thump his feet hit the bottom of the hull. His outspread port wing hurtled over the gunwale inches above my head. He pitch-poled up the bank into the hawthorn bush.

There he struggled, wings and neck caught in the thorny branches, his great power trapped. I pushed off the bottom and sat up. My first intention was to go and release the poor fellow. Then sense set in and I realized that if he had another chance to destroy me, he would. We left thoughtfully.

That was Easter 1962. Anglers will defend 'their' water violently. In the late sixties there were several confrontations between protest paddlers and anglers to which the police were called. The sergeant of police, who reported that the kayakers (hospitalized) caused the problem, was secretary of the local angling club. The North Wales Police authority dismissed conflict of interest questions. Access was and probably still is a difficult problem in the UK. It looks to me as kayaking continues to gather enthusiasts, that Kiwi kayakers will have to deal with Access questions on NZ lakes, rivers and coast.



At Coastbusters, a black swan claimed territorial rights over one of the launching ramps on Lake Pupuke.

BOOK REVIEWS

Title: 'Hooper Bay Kayak Construction'

Author: David Zimmerly
Published: 2000
Publisher: Canadian Museum of Civilisation
 100 Laurier Street, PO Box 3100, Station B, Hull, Quebec, J8X 4H2
ISBN: ISBN 0-660-17511-8
Content: Softcover, profusely illustrated with b&w photographs
Size: A4, 107 pp.
Price: NZ\$51.95
Availability: Boat Books, Auckland
To order by e-mail: publications@civilization.ca
Reviewed: Alan Byde

Paul Caffyn handed this book to me today and asked for a crit. The illustration on the front cover is of the most sensible bow grasp I have seen. The stern handle is not a circular hole but a level extension of the aft deck beam. There are some things which satisfy the soul. As my carpenter uncle told me "If it looks right, it is right."

1964 I bought 'The Bark Canoes and Skin Boats of North America'. The design which caught my eye then which one day I thought I'd build is the Norton Sound kayak, p198. Hooper Bay is only a short distance from Norton Sound. The detail is complete, lashings, pegs, wedges, methods. Dick Bunyan the builder used driftwood which he split and shaped to beauty. A photo of lashings alone reveals the quality of the craftsman who made it.

The book is complete with great drawings and photos. One, p104, shows how to make a hand adze from scrap high carbon steel. At Karaka Point near Picton, there is a Maori figure holding a hand adze. I admire good tools and this is one I fancy.

In 1969 I helped Mikey Conneely to make my Irish curragh 'Saint Caoman' on Inishere in the Aran group, Gal-

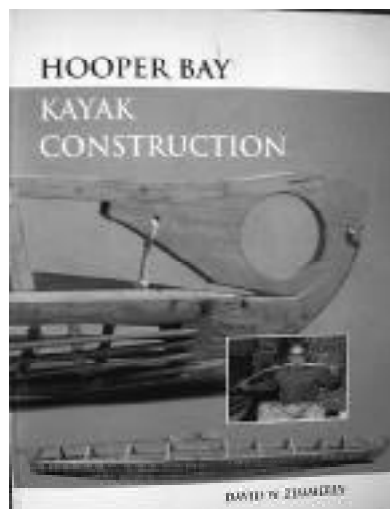
way Bay. He first built the gunwale frame right way up then turned it over and fitted ribs and stringers. The Hooper Bay kayak is built the same way. Oceans apart, stern Nature dictates the same construction.

Judging by the sturdy timbers used this is a heavy craft. It is a weight carrier, large for a solo paddler and must carry windage. The overall shape is superb, perfect design. If I were to attempt this kayak now I'd use marine ply overall with thin laminates for the cockpit rim, bow post, deck beams etc. It depends on what you want to do, make a true copy, lashings and all, or something you can carry to the water?

There is a similar kayak on show in the Hagley Park museum in Christchurch, but it has taken a reverse rocker which would make it unusable. The Hooper Bay craft has an almost straight run keel, little or no rocker. There is negative sheer on the gunwales which I find attractive. It is the opposite of the Igdlorssuit West Greenland kayak with high raking bow and positive sheer that was the inspiration for the Nordkapp.

This high quality 'paperback' book is presented as an academic museum paper. It is up there with the 'Greats!'

Alan Byde



Title: 'Seal-folk and Ocean Paddlers (Sliochd nan Ròn)'

Author: John M. MacAulay
Published: 1998
Publisher: The White Horse Press
ISBN: 1-874267-39-1
Content: Softcover
Size: 110pp
Reviewed: Sandy Ferguson

I've read articles before in Sea Kayaker Magazine, summer 1987, and in the Scots Magazine (see also S.C. n/1 120, page 16), about kayakers, possibly originating from Greenland, found and taken to shore or found on shore in Britain and Europe. This book gives fuller accounts and added information. It also has possible answers to the question of how it could be possible, considering the distance, that a kayak could be paddled from Greenland. Some were brought from Greenland by whalers, some may have been and released before reaching port and there is the suggestion that some might not have come from Greenland and might have originated from Norway.

Northern Norway is a prime candidate as the area that these people may have come from and there is then the question of whether these people built and paddled kayaks similar to those used in the Greenland region.

The book includes recollections of incidents dating back over the centuries, folk tales and descriptions of various kayaks seen or still available for inspection. In no way is MacAulay pedantic about a specific origin of tales or kayaks but puts forward various possibilities other than Greenland for the origin of the mermaids, mermen, selkies and kayakers. There is an extensive reference and bibliography section for those who want to follow up on subject.

Also a site that might be worth checking on is:
<http://www.amphibiouspaddler.org/history/hcka.html>

Hopefully it will be worked on in the future as at present it is fairly empty but has reference to the Historic Canoe and Kayak Association.

DVD REVIEW

Title: 'This is the Sea-Two'

Produced by: Justine Curgenvan
Available from: www.cackle.tv.com
 or Boat Books, or NZ Kayak shops
Reviewed by: Kevin Killilea
Price: NZ\$ 45

There's another new adventure sea kayaking video available from Justine Curgenvan of Cackle TV Productions.

Some of her work has been featured by the BBC and National Geographic, so one is assured its a high quality production. The first similarly named video dealt with parallel subjects in equally interesting locales. This video deals with a variety of kayak experiences and environments. Many of them are about the adrenaline type of paddling such as surfing in tide races. One examines Greenland style kayak and paddle exploits of Doug Van Doren, including underwater rolling footage. Another documents a six month, seven thousand kilometer circumnavigation of the four main islands of Japan by a party of two. There are several other travelogue type presentations from Newfoundland, Canada; Manitou Islands, Michigan, USA; and Norway's Lofoten Islands.

The technical quality of the filming is very good, as often the camera is fastened to a special personally designed mount on her kayak. It gives



one a very much seat-in-the-cockpit feel. The participants are all accomplished paddlers who show how it's done. Be advised this is not an instructional film. It's pure entertainment which showcases numerous desirable sea kayaking destinations. If you enjoy this sort of viewing, you'll find this one worthwhile.

The main feature of this video is the first all woman continuous orbit of Tassie, of which Justine was one three participants. It conveys the commitment and effort necessary to successfully complete such an expedition. And watch for the Pom in a kayak with a rudder!

Available from discerning sea kayak shops, Boat Books and the editor has the left over stock of TITS1 and TITS2 from Justine's visit. Email for information.

HUMOUR

This is an oldie but a goodie

A nice, calm and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, right up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said, "I would like to buy some cyanide." The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?" The lady replied, "I need it to poison my husband."

The pharmacist's eyes got big and he exclaimed, "Lord have mercy! I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband! That's against the law! I'll lose my license! They'll throw both of us in jail! All kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not! You CAN NOT have any cyanide!"

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife. The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, "Well now. That's different. You didn't tell me you had a prescription."

Marriage joke

A Married couple is driving along a highway doing a steady forty miles per hour. The wife is behind the wheel. Her husband suddenly looks across at

her and speaks in a clear voice "I know we've been married for twenty years, but I want a divorce."

The wife says nothing, keeps looking at the road ahead but slowly increases her speed to 45mph.

The husband speaks again. "I don't want you to try and talk me out of it," he says, "because I've been having an affair with your best friend, and she's a far better lover than you are."

Again the wife stays quiet, but grips the steering wheel more tightly and slowly increases the speed to 55. He pushes his luck. "I want the house," he says insistently.

Up to 60. "I want the car, too," he continues.

65 mph. "And," he says, "I'll have the bank accounts, all the credit cards and the boat!"

The car slowly starts veering towards a massive concrete bridge.

This makes him nervous, so he asks her: "Isn't there anything you want?" The wife at last replies in a quiet and controlled voice.

"No, I've got everything I need," she says.

"Oh, really," he inquires, "so what have you got?"

Just before they slam into the wall at 65 mph, the wife turns to him and smiles.

"The airbag."

Moral of the Story: Women are clever. Don't mess with them.

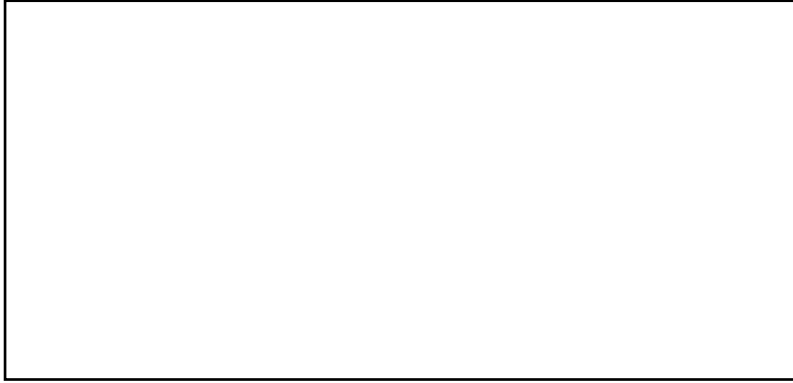
Last Wish

Tom and Jerry have been adrift at sea in a liferaft for days. All hope seems lost, when lo and behold, a bottle floats by. Tom retrieves it from the water and uncorks it. A genie appears. "Thanks for releasing me guys, I'd love to give you the traditional three wishes, but I'm down to my last one. What would you like?"

Parched with thirst, and without thinking, Tom says, "Turn the ocean into beer." In a flash, the ocean is beer and the genie is gone.

"Great," says Jerry, "now we'll have to pee in the boat!"

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KASK MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Current membership fees are:

- \$35 for ordinary membership
- \$40 for family or joint membership
- \$35 for overseas membership
- new members receive a free copy of the handbook
- members should endeavour to renew by 1 August
- the KASK financial year runs 1 August to 31 July the following year
- a subscription due notice and up to two reminders are sent out with the newsletters between June and October
- if a membership renewal is not received by 30 September, membership lapses
- new members who join between 1 June and 31 July automatically get their membership credited to the following year, receiving a 14 month membership
- the KASK committee puts its emphasis confirming renewals from existing members from July to October; and promoting new KASK memberships from November to February.