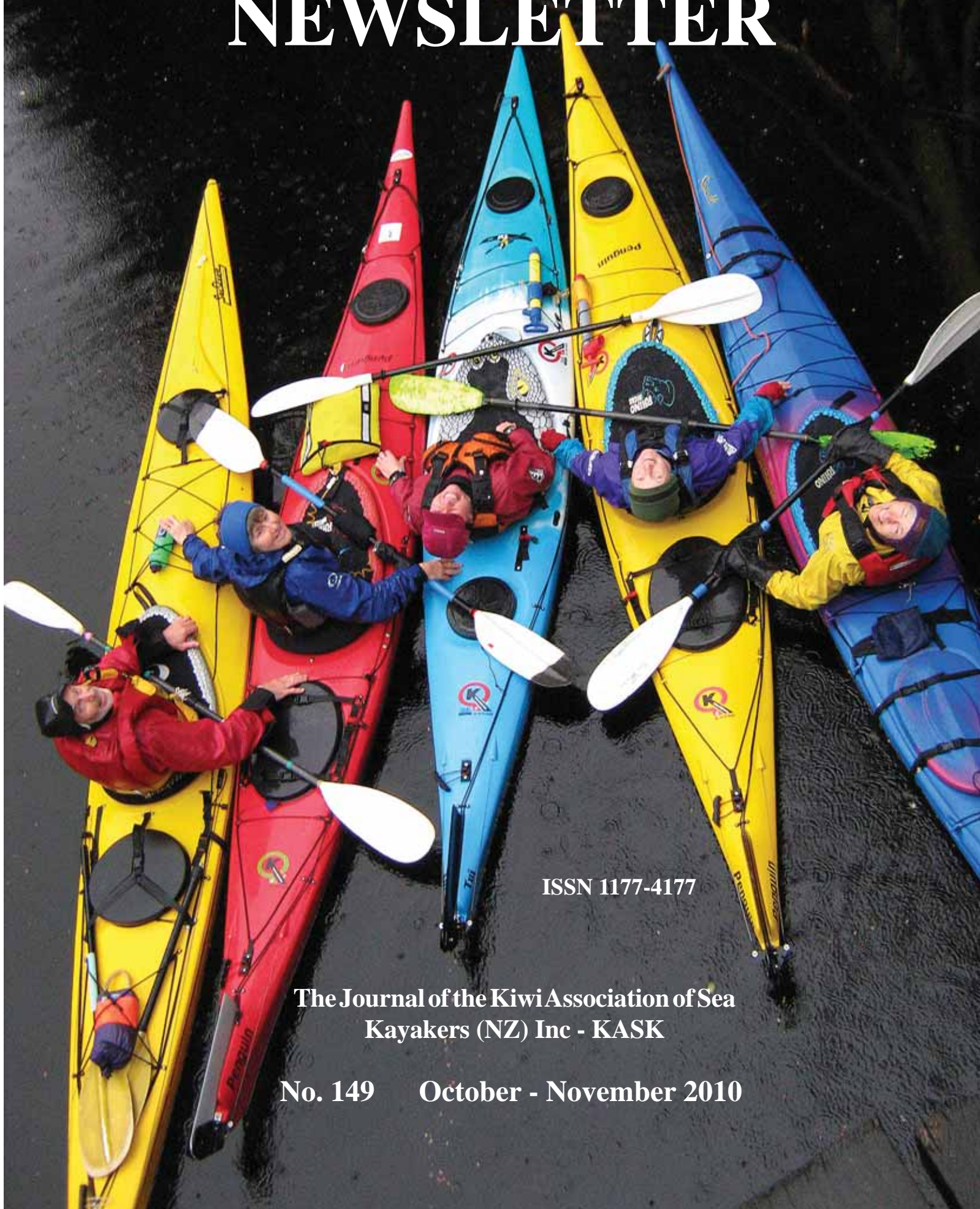


THE SEA CANOEIST NEWSLETTER



ISSN 1177-4177

The Journal of the Kiwi Association of Sea
Kayakers (NZ) Inc - KASK

No. 149 October - November 2010



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**Thanks to all the contributors
and photographers.**

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT
NEWSLETTER
20 January 2011**

EDITORIAL

Penguins on the Cover of No.148

One bloke - a committee member - had the cheek and temerity to ask how much I was paid as editor for including penguins on the front cover of the last newsletter (one of Max Grant's popular Q-Kayaks is called a *Penguin* and archival photos show Max in this kayak with a huge inflatable penguin perched on his aft deck). So I emailed Max to ask how much I could invoice him for using Jillian Wilson's cracker cover photo, which indeed must be encouraging the phenomenal world-wide sales of his *Penguin* kayaks. His responses below:

'Paul, Paul, Paul!!!
We're all drawing straws to nominate the person who shall tell you the terrible truth? You will hear from one of us very soon.
Max'

'Giddy Paul
Well, you've guest it! I got the short straw. It is with great sorrow that my friends, who are also your friends, have banded together and will support you through this particularly difficult time. The pictures of all



those penguins you included in the last newsletter, they're all inflatables - blow-ups! Yes, just like the whale eating a kayak photo at Sitka, the images of those inflatable penguins have been carefully photo-shopped into photos taken by Jillian during her recent trip to South Georgia. They do appear very life like though - so I'm picking that not many people will pick it. So no invoice please. I need the real thing,
cheers
Max'

**The Sitka (Alaska)
Whale/Paddler Photo**

I received many emails with a photo attached of a kayaker paddling through the wide-open mouth of a Humpback whale off Sitka in south-east Alaska. It did indeed look realistic but with my first viewing, I did wonder how the paddler and kayak could survive when the massive whale's jawbones closed. Mt Maunganui paddler Sidney Salek sent me two photocopied pages from *Sea Rescue* Winter 2010 with a report of some clever web sleuthing which located two separate images, both reversed, one of the paddler and a second of a Humpback whale lunge-feeding. The creator of the Photoshop montage stated it was to be a small piece of entertainment for a few of his friends on his email list.



PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

Cover: *The paddlers in this colourful photo are (from left to right): Chris Thomson, Maggie Oakley, Andrea Farminer, Sue McAllister and Jan Nicol. Location is below the road bridge over Ellery Stream, south-east of Jackson Bay. Photograph by: Alan Sutherland (Andrea Farminer wrote about this trip in newsletter No. 148)*

Top Left: *Michelle and a sea lion at a launching ramp at Back Beach, in Otago Harbour. Photo: Josh Sullivan*

Bottom Left: *What do you do when an elephant seal lays claim to your kayak? Jillian's report on her trip to South Georgia is also in the last newsletter. Photo: Jillian Wilson*

Newsletter No.150

Mid-January I will be laying out the 150th newsletter. As I started editing and producing with No. 36 back in December 1991, after melanoma claimed the life of Graham Eggar, I would like to make this one rather special. When I emailed the KASK committee for their thoughts, Evan Pugh has suggested a front cover photo of the current committee starkers, holding paddles strategically. I would like to do better than that, a lot better in fact, and would appreciate your thoughts – email: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz

Stuart Trueman’s Round Australia Trip

On 6 December, Stuart advised he had arrived at Tathra in southern NSW, which is the birthplace of the Nadgee Kayak so he was being well taken care of (Stuart was staying with David Winkworth). Stuart is aiming to reach Sydney before Christmas so he can take some time off with his family. His update below, talks about the massive surf along one of the longest continuous beaches in Australia.

Update: 29 October 2010

Between Victor Harbour and Kingston is the Coorong (South Australia). The Coorong is 190 km of open surf beach where the swell of the Southern Ocean heads for after leaving Antarctica. I made 80km on the first day, heading for a place called ‘Hells Gate’. I had been paddling about 3 - 4 km off shore and there was no sign of the forecast 2 - 3 meter swell so I optimistically headed in with stories of severe surf in the back of my mind.

I was about 2 km off when the seas started to build up. It was about 150 meters from where the waves started breaking. I’ll never understand how a flat sea could produce such surf. They were not too strong, they lazily spilt over, but they felt quite big but got smaller, the closer I got to the beach.

Next day the forecast swell had arrived and the surf had picked up. I’ll let your imagination set the scene and give you the results. I was spat

back and rolled once, after getting out past the half dozen sets of breakers I opted for paddling the rest of the way to Kingston and not risk landing again.

I launched at 6am was clear of the surf at 7am. At 8am I had 100km to go. Headwinds blew 10-15 knots from 3pm to 3am and after 22 hours I landed at Kingston.

I was a wreck. Don’t think that just because I was dumb enough to paddle around 200 km a couple of times (the three sets of cliffs) that 60km and over doesn’t hurt. It was hard but I’m sure I took the easy way out. I have impact marks on my face from either the paddle shaft hitting my face as I forced my way through the waves or from hitting the deck after falling off the back of the waves in the surf.

I’m glad that one is behind me. Two days later I still need help from little old ladies to cross the road.

Summer Kayak Check List

Sandy Winterton has suggested including a note in the newsletter to ensure you check your paddling kit and kayak before taking to the water this summer. Recently on a Wellington Network weekend, to the Wairarapa region, one paddler who had not paddled for years found the entire hatch cover rim of a VCP hatch had parted company with its lid. So a few suggestions:

- apply vinyl / rubber / plastic UV protection spray or liquid to rubber hatch covers, nylon sprayskirts - several coats if the liquid soaks up quickly. Apply also to the inside of rubber hatch covers, and the bit that goes over the hatch rim, as this helps taking off and on the hatch covers
- apply coats of boat wax to the deck and hull of your kayak. When doing this, remember when you launch off a steep berm of beach, that your hull will slide like greased lightning
- check, and if need be, lubricate moving parts of rudder assemblies and foot pedals

- apply a seal protector to all rubber (latex) gaskets of dry suits, neck and wrist seals before tucking away for next winter

- take-apart paddle joiners are clean

- ensure bailing devices are functional.

La Nina Summer Weather Pattern

The forecast La Nina summer weather pattern is great news for paddling the West Coast of the South Island and Fiordland, as the big, mean low-pressure systems will pass across the Tasman Sea further south than in a normal year, and a lot further south than when an El Nino pattern is current. The downside of a La Nina pattern is that it brings more subtropical north to north-easterly winds to the North Island and it allows tropical low pressure systems and decaying tropical cyclones to swing closer.

Tim Taylor has picked a cracker summer in his attempt to paddle solo around New Zealand. North-easterlies will certainly aid his progress down the east coast of the North Island, and the south and west coasts of the South Island will experience much better-than-average conditions, that is less wind, less rain and lower than normal huge swell conditions. His website: www.nzkayaker.com

Overseas Travel

John Hesselings has written up our attendance at the well-organized Victorian Sea Kayak Club Forum (page 8). On the Friday evening, I found it difficult not to laugh when a very serious MC noted a serious 25 mm heavy rain warning for the next 24 hours with a danger of slippery roads. A rainfall event of that magnitude would barely dampen the ground on the West Coast. But it sounds like the rain hasn’t stopped in South Australia and NSW since we returned home to a La Nina weather pattern on the West Coast with drought conditions prevailing.

During the following days I was able to re-visit many of the places where I landed back in late 1982, including the Coorong and Hell’s Gate where,

in massive surf, I had the closest shave of that whole year (see also the email update from Stuart Trueman).

Apart launching the new book in Victoria and South Australia, I was able to present my East Greenland PowerPoint slide shows to both paddlers and polar supporters. At Penola, the heart of the famous Coonawarra red wine district, I met Andrew and Peter Rymill, sons of the big Aussie John Rymill, who in my view is one of the greatest polar expedition leaders. Before my slide show at a local restaurant, to the Rymill family and friends, Peter talked about his father and told some lovely stories that never appeared in the sanitized expedition book accounts.

John's first major expedition was the 1930-31 British Arctic Air Route Expedition to East Greenland, and following the disappearance of Gino Watkins at the outset of the following 1932-33 Lake Fjord expedition, John took on the role of expedition leader, which gave him the experience to be able to lead the 1934-37 British Graham Land Expedition (Antarctic).

My last slide show was to a mixed group of polar supporters and paddlers at the Mawson Antarctic Research Centre - at the Adelaide Museum - but my main reason for the museum visit was to view John Rymill's skin kayak, which had been build for him at Angmagssalik in



John Rymill's bone or ivory-tipped East Greenland Paddle

1932. Although two of Gino's skin kayaks survive in England and another two BAARE kayaks are at SPRI (the Scott Polar Research Institute), John was the only Antipodean on those two expeditions to East Greenland and his kayak the only one from that era in the Southern Hemisphere.

Among the Rymill memorabilia in another display case was a plaited kangaroo hide whip John took to Greenland in 1932, survey equipment, a stunning bone or ivory tipped paddle (see photo insert), and a signed menu from a 25th anniversary dinner to mark 25 years since the *Quest* - with all the BAARE team - departed from St Katherine's Dock on 6 July 1930.

Recreation Boating Safety Meetings - NPBF

Members of the National Pleasure Boat Forum gathered in Wellington on 14 October for the second forum of 2010. John Hesselting in his president's report summarizes the key points noted in a presentation of a Colmar Brunton phone survey on recreational boating safety. Registration and licensing of small craft was again turned down with forum members agreeing that such a requirement would be of minimal safety benefit. Also rejected, by cabinet, was a forum recommendation for a change to the wording of the lifejacket rule. Currently the wording states carriage of lifejackets is mandatory on vessels under 6 m whereas the forum recommended a change to mandatory wearing of lifejackets unless the skipper deems the conditions are safe enough for their removal. The rationale for the recommended change was to increase wearing of lifejackets, not just carriage of them in recreational craft.

Several regional councils have already included provision for mandatory wearing of lifejackets, while the wording under the Maritime Transport Act (1994) still only applies to mandatory carriage. The wording of the Waikato Regional Safety By-law (2009) re lifejackets is, as was recommended by the forum, that is every person must wear a PFD unless the skipper has expressly giv-

en permission for PFDs not to be worn - obviously the skipper of a single kayak is the skipper. But - **be warned** - Environment South and the Queenstown Lake District councils have introduced \$200 on the spot fines for boaties not wearing lifejackets. Whatever the rule or regulation introduced by these two councils, there is no qualification for the boat skipper to allow removal of lifejacket if conditions are safe. Queenstown harbour-master Marty Black said most people fined had been paying up, thus there has been no contesting of this rule in a court of law.

Out of 10 incidents listed in the Fatalities Report, 1 January - 14 October 2010, two involved paddling:

- 5 April: a 45 year old male capsized in rapids on the Maroroa River in Southland
- 28 June: a 71 year old male sit-on-top fisherman went missing from Ohiwa Harbour in the Bay of Plenty.

The report also noted that four of the fatalities were in vessels under 6 metres, six fatalities may have been avoided if the victims had been clipped on or wearing a PFD, and six fatalities may have been avoided if waterproof communications were carried.

Safe Paddling Essential Guide (SPEG)

On 1 December a team of Jim Lott and Colin Sonneveld (Maritime NZ), Neil Murrar (Coastguard Boating Education) and myself (representing KASK), met in Auckland to discuss the concept for, and production of, a booklet which is to be termed 'Safe Paddling - An Essential Guide.

The rationale for the booklet is that canoe/kayak manufacturers or retailers will have only one booklet to supply with boats produced or sold, rather than having a series of different pamphlets for various styles of paddle-craft.

The target audience is novice paddlers who are buying their first paddle-craft, and the booklet will cover a full range of paddling activities, with conditions ranging from rivers to grade 1, lakes, estuaries, sheltered

coastal waters. It will apply to all types of paddling craft:

- sit on tops,
- fishing kayaks
- canoes
- white-water kayaks
- sea kayaks
- recreational (touring) kayaks
- inflatables (kayaks/canoes).

The booklet will include three separate sections, the first covering topics that are common to all paddlecraft such as essential equipment, checking weather forecasts, ensuring high visibility, carrying emergency communications, and trip planning. The second section will cover separately each style or paddle-craft, as in the list above. The final section will list resources, such as national associations, local club and networks, where to get instruction, and also instructional DVDs and literature.

Double Drowning on Lake Wakatipu

On Monday 6 December, two young Frenchmen went paddling on Lake Wakatipu in what appeared to be a very ancient kayak with a huge cockpit, carrying only one paddle. Both men were wearing PFDs, were only lightly dressed, but carried a cell phone.

At 11am a local tour boat operator saw the pair reach Hidden Island, and advised them that a strong southerly change was due in 45 minutes. He offered the pair a ride back to Queenstown but this was refused. The boat operator gave them his phone number just in case they got into trouble. His phone went at 9.53pm (11 hours later) with a call from the Frenchmen, who advised they were in the middle of the lake and taking water into the kayak (it is my understanding that the kayak had no sprayskirt).

After the phone call, a night rescue was quickly set in motion with four boats and a helicopter equipped with night vision equipment. About 1am, two bodies were recovered about 3 km west of Hidden Island. Although both men were wearing PFDs, they were lightly dressed for the 10° lake water not to mention wind chill from a strong southerly.

Were the two Frenchmen tempting fate on Lake Wakatipu? If they had remained close to the lake's shore, the two Frenchmen could have landed when the strong southerly wind arrived and whipped up conditions. In an old kayak, which I assume had very little integral buoyancy, with only one paddle, no sprayskirt to keep water out of the cockpit area, no self-rescue equipment such as a paddle float, dressed only in light clothing, and worst of all, ignoring the advice of the local tourist operator of the impending arrival of the southerly, in my view these two men were indeed tempting fate by heading out to the Hidden Island.

When asked by a newspaper to list some key safety factors to consider before paddling, I provided the following:

- listen/check the local or marine weather forecast before launching
- listen to the advice of local boaties
- dress for immersion. A PFD will not save your life in cold water if only dressed in light clothing
- carry at least two forms of on-the-water emergency communications, a cellphone in a waterproof bag, or a PLB or EPIRB, flares for day and night, VHF radio
- ensure the kayak (or paddle-craft) is appropriate for the paddling activity
- ensure a kayak (or canoe) has a minimum of two watertight bulkheads or integral foam block buoyancy at the bow and stern.

What is often lost sight of in these so called 'tragic accidents', is the fact that the lives of rescuers are not only disrupted but their lives can also be at risk particularly at night and in rough conditions.

What can you do if you see an accident waiting to happen? All you can do is pass on the best of your safety knowledge and advice, a recommendation to seek practical instruction and ensure that the adage of 'being safe – be seen' on the water is followed.

KASK Forum 2011

A registration form for the forum to be held at Anakiwa can either be removed from the centre of the newsletter or downloaded off the KASK website. Please get in quick and register - 24 early birds to date - but reports from across Lake Tasman indicate a large contingent of Victorian paddlers are going to attend.

KASK forums always have an emphasis on on-the-water practical instruction. If you can help with this instruction, please get in touch with Evan Pugh.

On Sunday afternoon we will all take to the water for the delightful 2 - 3 hour paddle from Anakiwa to where we camp overnight at Mistletoe Bay.

Paddle Leashes

Recently, in Auckland boat chandlers and kayak shops, I noted a complete lack of paddle leashes on the latest sit-on-top models, and in most cases not even a place to attach a paddle leash. On my wave-ski I use a paddle leash all the time, because sometimes after a good trashing, I fail to roll, unclip the waistbelt and just hang onto the paddle. When the breaker subsides, I reel in the wave-ski and climb back on. In strong winds, particularly offshore winds, I tether my paddle to the kayak.

If you can provide feedback to either myself or a newsletter opinion piece re whether sit-on-tops should be equipped with attachment points for paddle leashes, even strongly recommended as an essential accessory along with a PFD and paddle, I would be grateful. With novice paddlers capsizing on sit-on-tops with a breeze blowing their boat away, a paddle on its own is not going to offer much support in the water.

Thanks

My thanks to all you wonderful folk who have contributed photos, reviews, articles and terrible jokes to the KASK newsletter over the past 12 months.

I wish you safe paddling adventures on the water this summer.
Paul Caffyn

KASK

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 2010

by John Hesseling

Summer has arrived and it's nearly Christmas. Paddling conditions have been great over the last month or so. Paul Caffyn is liaising with Maritime New Zealand and Coastguard Boating Education to produce a *Safe Paddling – An Efficient Guide* booklet. It is envisaged that this publication will contain information applicable to all facets of paddling and include specific sections on different styles such as recreational sea kayaking, multi-sport kayaking, white water kayaking and sit on top kayaking.

Rumour also has it that Paul Caffyn has also been practising his acting skills and will be talking about kayak safety in an episode of Geoff Thomas Outdoor's programs that screens on Saturday afternoons. Paul also attended the last meeting of the National Pleasure Boat Forum.

Preparations for the 2011 forum at Anakiwa are progressing and registration forms are now available on the KASK website. Registration forms are also included with this newsletter. With respect to the last newsletter, one committee member enquired of Paul how much Max Grant paid to get photos of Penguins on the front cover. Apparently Max is now looking for photos of Shearwaters for the next cover.

Paul Caffyn and I attended the Victorian Sea Kayak Club forum and AGM held at Anglesea on 12 – 14 November 2010 (see report on page 8). We hope to see a few Aussie paddlers at Anakiwa next April.

John Gumbley is preparing funding applications and we hope to have a proposal for regional training early next year. John Gumbley has also advised that Department of Conservation has confirmed KASK is now formally recognised as 'a national recreation associate' along with Federated Mountain Clubs, New

Zealand Deerstalkers Association, NZ Alpine Club, Mountain Safety Council and LANDSAR. That's great for KASK members as we can now get a discount on hut passes etc. on showing a current membership card. The committee will now consider how to provide membership cards to be sent out to current financial members.

New Zealand Circumnavigation

Tim Taylor from Tauranga started his circumnavigation of New Zealand on 27 November 2010. I was working at Hawaii, east of Opotiki on 29 November, and spotted Tim paddling strongly into a slight headwind. Looking through my theodolite, I noted a fish under his front bungees so assumed that fish was on the menu that night. Tim is maintaining a great website that is keeping track of his progress:

www.nzkayaker.com

Colmar – Brunton Poll

At the last meeting of the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum, Maritime New Zealand presented the results of the 2010 Colmar – Brunton Poll. Some interesting findings include:

The level of kayak / canoe ownership has increased sharply since 2005. 40% of New Zealanders report owning a kayak/canoe (up from 27% in 2007 and 17% in 2006). Kayaks and canoes are now the second most commonly used boat behind, trailer/powerboats.

There were an estimated 158,949 kayaks / canoes in New Zealand in 2009 (up from 64,757 in 2006 and 119,211 in 2007). This represents 30% of total boats.

53% of kayak / canoe owners own one boat, 43% two boats, 3% three boats and 2% five or more.

37% of trailer / powerboat owners also own at least one kayak / canoe. Also 53% of kayak / canoe owners also own a trailer / powerboat.

Nearly 75% of boat owners go boating five times or more each year, nearly 50% do so 11 times or more each year.

44% of boat owners spend between 2 and 4 hours on the water during an average boat trip, 86% spend up to 8 hours, 14% typically spend more than 8 hours on the water during an average trip and 8% say they stay out for longer than a day.

86% of owners carry lifejackets on their boats – This is consistent with previous years.

85% of owners (up from 72% in 2007) report that they carry some form of communication equipment on board their boat. Cell phones at 53% (34% in 2007) are the most commonly carried form of communication.

In accordance with Maritime New Zealand recommendations 51% of boat owners carry at least two forms of communication, including a cell phone, a marine radio, flares or a locator beacon.

3% of kayak / canoe owners carry a bailer / pump. 52% of kayak / canoe owners carry flares, 18% carry a fire extinguisher (?), 18% carry a locator beacon and 1% carry spare fuel. Go figure those results.

If anyone wants a full copy of the poll, please email me.

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OVERSEAS REPORTS

VICTORIAN SEA KAYAK CLUB ANNUAL FORUM and 2010 AGM by John Hesseling

This event was held from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 November 2010 at the Eumeralla Scout Camp, just east of Anglesea and about 160 kilometres south-west of Melbourne. I arrived in Melbourne on the Thursday evening with temperatures in the high twenties. On Friday morning, I caught up with Paul Caffyn and Kay at Melbourne Airport where we picked up a rental car and made our way towards Anglesea. Paul had opted for no in-car GPS as he had a map of Australia but the road layout had changed slightly since 1993.

However good navigation and common sense soon saw us on the freeway to Geelong where we turned off to Queenscliff where we had lunch, visited the Queenscliff Maritime Museum to check out the sea kayak display, watched Paul undertake some house-keeping on the bronze plaque that commemorates his circumnavigation of Australia (there were some shells on it which Paul dutifully brushed off), before carrying on to Anglesea.



Photos: John Hesseling



As Paul had a bad chest cold, we arrived early at the motor camp so that Paul could have a sleep for a few hours. The temperature in Anglesea was about 30°C so a unit with air-conditioning was much appreciated.

The Forum got underway on Friday evening with registration from 1830 to 2020 hrs. Peter Costello the VSKC president welcomed everyone to the forum at 2020 hrs and this was followed by a presentation on expedition planning by Robin Boundy. This presentation used a recent Eastern Bass Strait Crossing as a template and was well received by all.

After an opening address by VSKC president Peter Costello on Saturday morning, and the presentation of the Cape Contourer's Award to Philip Woodhouse, all attendees went to various on-the-water sessions held at local beaches. The Cape Contourer's competition is a challenge set up by VSKC three years ago and requires all paddlers who take part to paddle around (contour), and commit to a 'roll' at the extremity of every one of Victoria's maritime capes. There are a total of 22 capes and many of them present a significant logistical and exposed challenge. Philip Woodhouse rose to the challenge and was presented with a suitably inscribed blue cape that he was to wear for the weekend.

On-the-water sessions included towing techniques, combat rolling, rescues, efficient paddling (presented by David Winkworth, a regular KASK forum presenter), surf skills, edging and leaning and a family paddle. I attended the session on towing techniques presented by Peter Treby. After an off the water discussion of 30 minutes, we made our way to a local beach where we practised various techniques on the water.

Peter kindly arranged for me to use a demo Mirage 580 sea kayak, Werner paddle and a PFD for the morning. After temperatures of nearly 30°C on Friday the weather changed to overcast and about 17°C on Saturday morning. By lunchtime on Saturday it was raining and the rain continued until Sunday morning.



John Hesseling under tow

Saturday afternoon was indoors and included sessions on CPR, GPS Concepts and Techniques and Carving a Greenland Paddle. I attended the session on GPS Concepts and Techniques presented by Peter Dingle and Mark Oates. Unfortunately the weather was not conducive to practice techniques outdoors but the session was full of good practical advice on use and types of GPS units.

The VSKC AGM was held on Saturday afternoon from 1530 hrs to 1700 hrs followed a question and answer session with Stuart Trueman who just happened to be in the vicinity, part way through his circumnavigation of Australia. This proved very enlightening with Stuart giving an insight into his techniques to cope with the mental stress of the trip.

Stuart was followed by a happy hour where Paul launched the 25th Anniversary edition of *The Dreamtime Voyage*. Paul managed to sell just about all of the books that we managed to smuggle into Australia. Next was a presentation by Paul entitled 'Paying Homage to Gino' – Kayaking the south-east coast of Greenland. After a catered dinner, there was a presentation entitled 'An Adventurous Life' by key-note guest speaker, Terry Bolland from Western Australia. Terry outlined highlights of his many kayaking trips, running, walking and cycling around chunks of Australia and North America. Some of his trips took up to 12 months to complete.

Sunday morning was taken up with sessions that included topics such as Maritime Emergency



Keynote speaker: Terry Bolland

Communications Procedures, Preparing Dehydrated Food for Kayaking, Customising Your Kayak, Zen and the Art of Rolling and Kayak Camping.

I attended the session on Maritime Emergency Communications Procedures presented by James Bate, a member of VSKC and also a sergeant in the Victorian Police Search and Rescue Squad. James presented



Top: the paddle making workshop
Below: the surf session



an overview on the emergency service arrangements, particularly in Victoria, and how they impact on emergency planning for kayakers. His presentation also focused on communications options and visibility considerations.

The Maritime Emergency Communications Procedures session was concluded with a demonstration on various types of flares and culminated in about 20 flares being let off simultaneously. The large number of smoke flares resulted in day being turned into night for a few moments.

The final session of the forum included announcing the results of the photo competition, drawing the raffle for the door prize of a Nadgee *Bombora* kayak valued at A\$3,100 followed by the president's closing address.

Some of my random observations from the forum included:

Mostly composite kayaks. Many *Nadgees* and *Mirages*

Not many Victorian kayakers appeared to use cockpit covers when transporting their kayaks. For the Saturday morning on-the-water sessions and after rain on Friday night, just about everyone had to empty water out of their cockpits before heading out. It obviously does not rain much and petrol must be cheap!

Good to see a few familiar faces from our 2010 KASK Forum including, Dave Winkworth, David Golightly, John Evertze and Tina Rowley.

John Hesseling
(the photos of Terry and the surf session are from Terry's website, the rest were taken by John Hesseling)

SAFETY

Response from RCCNZ re Iona Bailey's Article from John Seward

It is important that elements of Iona Bailey's story "Kayaker lost in the Ruahines and rescued at Mt Manganui" be corrected. Iona's article contains much useful information however, the following points are made:

- The alert from the distress beacon, received by Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) six minutes after the beacon was activated, contained the correct position (Mt Manganui);
- While the position was initially plotted incorrectly in the Ruahines, thanks to the kayaker's contacts in the beacons database, it was established within a few minutes that the correct position was near Mt Manganui.
- Very shortly after, it was determined that the Police were responding to an incident in that area.
- No helicopter from Hawkes Bay was sent to the Ruahines.

The events illustrate the robustness of New Zealand's search and rescue (SAR) system:

- The distress beacon system worked as advertised;
- The registration details for this beacon enabled RCCNZ to determine the correct location of the incident within a few minutes of receiving the alert, reinforcing the value of registering a beacon and keeping contact details up to date;
- The cooperation between the two SAR Coordinating Authorities, (RCCNZ and the New Zealand Police), confirmed that an appropriate response was being mounted – in this case by Police, negating the need for RCCNZ to continue with a response; and
- RCCNZ began initiating a rescue response following the emergency beacon being activated,

John Seward
Operations manager
Rescue Coordination Centre NZ

TRAINING

BASK Leaders' Training 16 – 17 October

by Evan Pugh

BASK - Bay Association of Sea Kayakers - based loosely at Tauranga and with a membership of about 60 folk who regularly paddle – that's south of the Bombay hills for those from Auckland.

As a club looking at our future, the committee decided to organize Leadership training over a weekend comprised of two, one-day courses, which allowed 15 participants to partake. Without leaders or trip organizers, you don't have a club. To up skill or remind paddlers of the best ways to do this, John was the man to call.

John Kirk-Anderson from Christchurch was our chosen trainer as we'd had several courses before for skills, surfing, rolling etc which John had led and individuals had paid for. This time the club paid and we had experienced leaders through to fairly new leaders in the two groups.

On the way to collect John from the Airport on Friday, we had to collect a spare kayak which was left in some friends' back yard. We gingerly retrieved said loaned kayak, avoiding their two dogs and collected John from the airport. We then met some others for a recce that day, ready for day one of training on Saturday.

Saturday's meeting time was 8.15am and everyone was there waiting eagerly. We found a nearby cafe for a briefing and gaining info before taking to the water for some personal skills training, rescues then a bunch of scenarios, involving a variety of different problems that may occur.

I did get caught out when my wife paddled past and said, "You've annoyed me all day and I'm sick of it," before paddling off fast towards the channel full of boats. For about 10 seconds I was thinking, what the hell have I done this time, before realiz-

ing it was a scenario. What do you do when one paddler decides to take off in a grump or for another reason was the question. I had my answer but that wasn't accepted.

The other scenarios varied immensely and we all learnt a lot about group dynamics, trip planning etc. When the day finished, we all gathered back at the club member's house where John was roomed and fed, had a big feed of pizza, then had another couple of hours of theory and strange pictures on the white board.

Looking back, the course went from 8.15am till 9pm at night, a long day for John but he does a great job. Once members have been to one of his courses, they are keen for more.

Then Sunday the same again for the second group - I hope the weather was as good as the first day. All the responses after the training were as usual from very happy participants with some areas to work on and new tips to remember.

Below: Instructor JKA (left) with the BASK leaders' training course



KASK Members Now Entitled to a Discount at DoC Huts from John Gumbley

The Department of Conservation (DoC) has kindly recognized KASK as a *National Recreation Associate*. Recognizing KASK's active interest in conservation and in appreciation of its members' use of DoC facilities, KASK is now one of only seven national organizations recognized as an Associate.

Accordingly, KASK members may now obtain a 30% discount on the purchase of their annual backcountry hut pass fee, that is \$85.80. To obtain the discount, contact KASK for a membership card. From 1 July 2011, all KASK members will automatically receive a membership card on renewal of their subscription.

The KASK committee receives the minutes of national meetings held by DoC for Non-Governmental Organizations.

If there is something you would like your committee to raise on any aspect of conservation, as it affects kayaking, please contact John Gumbley at Ph: 07 8248623 or Email: gumbleyj@wave.co.nz or refer to: www.doc.govt.nz Parks & Recreation – Backcountry Huts Info for details about the discount.



2011 NATIONAL KASK FORUM

REGISTRATION FORM

Cobham Outward Bound School, Anakiwa, Marlborough

Friday 1st - Monday 3rd April 2011

Based at an ideal location at Anikiwa with beautiful bush, and directly on the foreshore of Queen Charlotte Sound. The Outward Bound meals are scrumptious, and accommodation is in spacious bunkrooms, all on site.

A SOCIAL, FUN WEEKEND WITH PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PADDLE, SHARE IDEAS AND LEARN, ON AND OFF THE WATER

Evening speakers include:

- Max Grant, who will present a slide show with highlights of an anti-clockwise paddle around the South Island with his daughter Melanie. The West Coast provided plenty of thrills and spills with either massive surf or bumper dumper landings.

- Paul Hayward with Natasha Romoff will talk and show slides of their trip to south-east Alaska; a trip in a double folding kayak to the heart of big, brown bear country.

On the water instruction:

Australian paddler David Winkworth, will be back again to Anakiwa with new instruction sessions, along with John Kirk-Anderson, Josh Sullivan and Greenland rolling experts Sue and Steve Levett.

Other presentations by guest speakers and NZ experts whose topics include planning a trip to the coast of Turkey, and a visit to East Greenland. Nora Flight will provide advice on how parents can go paddling with growing kids.

- Great opportunities to take part in practical and theoretical sea kayak training covering paddling skills and rescue techniques
- See and share ideas on sea kayak design, equipment and gadgets
- Local area information and exploratory paddles
- The KASK AGM and paddle trophy award presentations
- A paddle out to Mistletoe Bay and an overnight camp-out on the Sunday night
- Photo Competition, bring your favorite photos along to the Forum



Anakiwa Outward Bound Bunkhouses



Mistletoe Bay - site of the overnight campout

2011 NATIONAL KASK FORUM - REGISTRATION FORM

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Mobile: _____

Emergency contact while at Forum

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

The 2007 Anakiwa forum



ACCOMMODATION

Spacious bunkrooms on site. No **on-site** CAMPING

If you are a chronic snorer, please advise: _____

MEALS

Your registration fee includes Friday night nibbles, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch. Bring your own food for the Sunday night camp-out dinner & for breakfast Monday morning.

Vegetarian food available for those who require this.

BYO wine / beer or drink of choice.

Smokefree: Anakiwa is a smoke free site.

TRANSPORT

Ferry pickups available by arrangement at additional cost - to be advised.

Please indicate :

- number in party
- expected Picton arrival time
- number of kayaks to transport

If you have kayak wheels, you can walk your boat from the Picton ferry terminal to the beach and paddle from there to Anakiwa. This will take approximately 2 hours.

KAYAK HIRE

Kayak Hire by arrangement.

If you need assistance with contact details for kayak hire in Picton, note here [_____]

See also page 195 of the KASK Handbook 4th edition.

For general forum enquiries, or offers to assist at the forum email Helen Woodward at: h.woodward@xtra.co.nz

MISTLETOE BAY CAMPOUT (Sunday night):

Bring your cooker, tucker for dinner and breakfast, tent, sleeping bag etc.

Fresh water on tap, toilets on site at the DoC campsite.

Skill Level

Please circle your skill level

- Novice Just started sea kayaking and / or no formal skills training.
- Intermediate Some support strokes, can do wet exit and assisted rescue.
- Advanced Intermediate Can complete an assisted and a self rescue in moderate conditions. Have completed day trips in a variety of conditions.
- Advanced Can roll a sea kayak in rough conditions. Have completed several challenging sea kayak trips.

Leadership Experience Circle your response

- Do you currently lead sea kayak trips in your local area? Yes / No
- If yes, are you happy to lead a pod of up to 6 paddlers at the forum? Yes / No

Topics/Events Circle your response

- I am available to lead a workshop/instruction session: Yes / No
If so, what topic(s)? _____
- I am willing / know of someone to be a speaker on Saturday night: Yes / No
- I am willing to share some great slides from a recent trip: Yes / No
(description) _____

Note: All participants will be expected to abide by the guidelines set out by the FORUM organisers

FORUM COST

- KASK member \$180 per person
- Non-KASK member \$190 per person
(Includes bunkrooms Friday and Saturday nights plus Sunday night camp-out fee:
Saturday breakfast, lunch & dinner, Sunday breakfast, lunch & morning/afternoon teas)
- No refunds after 12 March due to bookings and catering -

PAYMENT:

Email queries to Evan at: sheepskinsnstuff@xtra.co.nz

I enclose my registration fee of \$_____

Make cheques out to: **Sea Kayak Forum 2011**

For direct credit, include your NAME please. The account details are:

Bank: Westpac Account Name: Sea Kayak Forum 2011

Account No: 030418 0165427 00

Tick if you require vegetarian meals:

Return form with payment to:

**Evan Pugh,
RD2
Putaruru 3482**

What are you interested in participating in or getting from the forum?

Please tick the things that might interest you over this weekend. This doesn't guarantee that all of these topics will be covered and that there won't be others included. It will depend on interest and availability of presenters, etc. If registering for more than one person with different ability levels, use different coloured biro's for each person.

General Activities	I am interested in participating
Sea kayak top-town team event	
Local paddles	
Overnight paddle and campout	

Practical Skill	Beginner	Some skills and knowledge	Wanting to refine skills	Wanting to develop teaching tips around these skills	Happy to teach others at the forum
Boat set up for paddling -Footrest systems -padding to get a good sea kayak fit					
Forward paddling					
Manoeuvring strokes					
Support strokes					
Rescue skills: - self rescue - buddy rescue					
Towing clinic					
Rolling					

Land based Sessions

Topic	Interested in learning more	Interested in sharing knowledge	Interested in presenting
Emergency communication and safety equipment			
Wooden boat session			
Boat and equipment session			
First Aid emergency management			
Risk and safety management for a group			
Navigation			
Bugger incident sharing			
Local paddling and area information			
Weather and Tides			

There is an ideal opportunity to do a post-forum paddle from Monday to the following Sunday. If you are interested in knowing of other paddlers who are interested, please sign and give permission for your contact details to be circulated:

_____ (signature)

OVERSEAS TRIP REPORT

Tiki Touring in Tonga by Nancy Bowmar

Photos: Wille Bowmar

(See also colour photos on p.23)

Vava'u Adventure Week with the Friendly Kayak Co and what an adventure it was. The 12 of us – Bill and Louise Mason, Sue and Warwick Drake, Colleen and Bill Hayes, Nancy and Willie Bowmar, Greg Tucker, Raewyn Atkins, Maree Benjamin and Dave Probert flew to Tonga on Monday 27 September and on to Vava'u. The views from the plane were amazing – coral atolls and crystal clear blue and green water. Fifty minutes later we were flying over the islands of Vava'u thinking – now which ones are we going to be visiting?

Tuesday, we looked at the local markets and had lunch with Lynn and Peter who were on their yacht. At 1.30pm we met our kayak guides for an orientation at the Adventure Centre. Our itinerary had changed from the original and we were now kayaking to different islands.

Wednesday we went whale watching in the *MV Tropic Bird* with Whale Discoveries leaving from below our motel at 8.30am. What an experience, on the way out we saw Tropic birds – they have a long plume of a tail feather which almost makes them look like a jet-ski when on the water. Sighted a big pod of dolphins with some pilot



Near our campsite on Afo Island

whales. “There She Blows,” Colleen sighted a whale - we motored closer and got into the water as the young adult whale was singing his song.

The young males go away on their own and practise their song. All male whales sing the same song and use it to attract the females. Under the water you could clearly hear the sounds and feel the vibrations. The whale came closer to the boat indicating it was happy for us to be near him. Back in the water with snorkels and masks, we could see the whale standing vertical, pectoral fins out, singing. We watched it till it surfaced.

Motored to Hunga Island where our friends have the Ika Lahi fishing resort and snorkelled by the entrance to the lagoon. Looked for more whales and saw them in the distance but other whale watching boats were with them. We snorkelled across the reef between Vake'eitu and Nuapapu Islands seeing lots of pretty tropical fish. We then motored back to the harbour via Mariners and Swallows cave. In the evening we dined at the 'Giggling Whale and Thirsty Turtle' where the Pangamotu school were performing in national costume.

Thursday was diving and sailing day. The divers had two dives 37metres and 15 m, one down a coral wall. They saw beautiful fish including the elusive lion fish and a grey shark. We sailors were on the *Orion* a trimaran. We sailed to Mala Island lazing on the deck and enjoying the sun and the ocean breeze.

On our first stop we snorkeled at the Japanese Gardens. We sailed on round the bottom of Kapa Island snorkelling by Nuku Island. On the way back we stopped at Swallow's cave where the sun shone like laser lights to the bottom of the cave – spectacular. Sue and I snorkelled in and Raewyn and Willie took the kayaks.

Friday was the start of our four day kayak. We packed our Necky fibreglass kayaks – doubles and singles - and headed out the harbour. Our local guides were Ofa and Loni. Our first stop was Swallow's Cave then beating into the wind, we landed on Kapa Island for lunch and a snorkel. We saw a black and white sea snake in the sand and purchased weaving wares from a local lady. On to Euakafa Island where we stayed the night, arriving about 4pm.

We pitched tents and had another snorkel seeing lots of lovely coral and cute tropical fish. We all went for walks on the beach and Warwick tried fishing. There are little crabs here that move so fast we named them speed crabs. A great meal was eaten and for dessert Ofa looked in the kayaks and found brownies wrapped individually in glad wrap. The kayaks were carrying all the supplies and equipment we need for the four days. Warwick and I had a walk on the beach to see the big coconut crabs but could only see the newly dug holes.

Saturday – Bill found a coconut crab on the beach so we all had a look and took



Cooling off by the church on Afo Island

photos. After breakfast we walked to a tomb at the top of the island and the lookout point. Packed the kayaks then a short distance along the beach more snorkelling before kayaking to Euaiki Island where we had lunch and from the jetty watched the tuna catch the school fish. What an amazing sight so close to shore.

We kayaked past Taunga Island to Afo Island where we stayed the night at the local village and had a local umu feast served on banana stalks. The local villagers performed with singing and dancing and then the kava ceremony. Some Australians from yachts in the bay joined us. We purchased crafts made by the locals here.

The evening camp kitchen



Sunday: After breakfast of French toast with maple syrup and fruit salad, we packed the kayaks and paddled from the village of Afo out between the islands and across to Ofa Island where we collected water. Local families were singing on the foreshore – lovely harmony.

Sunday is a day of worshipping and family time for the Tongans. Back in our kayaks we paddled back up the edge of the island and across the crystal clear waters to the eastern island of Kenutu where we pitched camp for the night. Ofa went for a paddle to catch fish for tea but no luck. He had caught a long-tom earlier and Warwick caught a small long-tom which fitted into the mouth of Ofa's fish. Fish green

curry for tea which Dave enjoyed helping cook.

Monday we ate pancakes for breakfast under the tarpaulin as a heavy shower of rain fell. One of the few showers we have had the whole trip. We walked to the other side of the island where water cascades over coral cliffs. At the top of the island, the hurricane back in January, that had ruined lots of the coral, had also blown lots of trees over. We broke camp and packed our kayaks and skirted the surf break between the two islands to Umuna Island. Here we walked up a hill and swam in an inland cave with fresh water. Swift birds flew overhead and vines hung from the ceiling.

Back across to Ofu island where we lunched and were going to visit the local school, but the children had the afternoon off as it was exam time. Some of us had a last snorkel on an outer island, then it was the final paddle across to the causeway and back to the motel. Splashing started with paddles and then with boat pumps.

Over a small surf break and through a pipe under the causeway, then past a ship unloading fuel as we paddled into the Friendly Islands Kayak jetty. As it was high tide, only one kayak fitted on the beach at a time so each kayak was unpacked and put away as it arrived.

Tuesday was mountain biking day – first we rode to Mt Talau and walked the short distance to the flat summit. What great views. We could see the island we had kayaked from the day before. Pedalling back into town Sue got a puncture. While it was being fixed, we visited the local shop where we had eaten great ice creams the first day we arrived – but no ice creams as they had run out, so we spent up large in the tee-shirt shop across the road. Back on our bikes we rode to the Old Harbour which looked old and tired.

We had lunch at the building where the ferries to the outer islands leave and then cycled on – went through the Vava'u High School chatting to the local children then on to Loni's village Makave. Loni climbed a notched tree and with his machete knocked

the coconuts from the tree. We drank the milk and ate the coconut and the remains were left for the local pigs. We then went back to the Balcony Restaurant for drinks and watched *Chieftain*, a NZ yacht with Bill and Warwick on board, motor into the harbour and Dave and Maree paddle by in a kayak. Back on our bikes we pedaled to Toula – the area where we were staying. We turned down a side road leading to the beach and Veimumuni Cave, a freshwater cave right by the water's edge. Loni and I swam in it with the local children. Then it was back to the Adventure Centre to complete our bike ride.

The fisherman on the *Chieftain* had a good day. Warwick caught a mahi-mahi and son Clint had a striped marlin right up to the boat but unfortunately the line broke. Our last evening and farewell dinner with our guides at the Mango Resort was enjoyed by all.

Wednesday 6 Oct 2010, and we were all up bright and early ready for our transport to the airport at 7.15am. We had more great island views on the way back from Vava'u to Tongatapu and could now see the islands we had visited.

An extra bonus to get photographs of our birdseye view and Willie, our photographer, captured it on camera. Arriving at 10am, the taxi driver we had spoken to on our arrival at Tonga was there to greet us with a mate and transportation for 12 people. We did not leave for NZ till 8pm. We negotiated a price then drove to the blowholes – spectacular terraces filled with water with the surges, and Hufangalupe – The Pigeons Doorway which is a huge natural coral bridge under which the seawater churns in a cauldron like hole.

At Puke we saw the flying foxes, a type of bat hanging upside down asleep in the trees. Stopped at the Royal Tombs of the kings at Nuku'alofa then drove to the cafe where lunch was enjoyed by all. Then it was shopping, visiting the local markets and relaxing time. On the way back to the airport we saw the king's palace on the hill in the distance. Next stop New Zealand.

If you have enjoyed reading this report, google 'Friendly Islands Kayak' – Tonga and look at the Vava'u Adventure Week and soon you too could be following in our footsteps.

Nancy Bowmar

The Northland paddlers during Happy Hour



Website Picks

from Sandy Ferguson

Your Webpicker has just been across the ditch to the Western Island and on the way from Brisbane to the far east corner of Victoria we dropped in on the Coffs Harbour Plywood Pirates: <http://users.tpg.com.au/boneil/> and paddled with them on their Wednesday paddle.

Ray suggested this link to me:

<http://www.seamongrels.com/seamongrels/>

and paddling guides for NSW from:

<http://www.escapology.com.au/>

Heading south we also paddled at Morriset (southeast of Newcastle) using kayaks of, and launching off the lawn of, and staying in the sleepout of, a couple we have not yet met! A few years back we first spotted their kayaks on a car in Darwin and a few weeks later in Broome. Unfortunately they were in New Zealand while we were in Australia but kindly organised their friends to look after us. This time I paddled a Pittarak designed by Larry Gray, an Australian design.

Once we got to Paynesville I contacted a local paddler, originally via the Australian discussion group:

<http://www.seakayakforum.com/>

I ended up with a kayak for as long as I wanted it. It was a Nadgee, designed by Dave Winkworth (of crocodile fame) and fitted with a sail (don't tell Paul) as the owner makes kayak sails:

<http://www.flatearthkayaksails.com/>

For something different, Scott Rawstone produces Global Paddler. It is a bit commercial but there are a number of newsletters also on the site:

<http://www.globalpaddler.com.au/news.php>

The link below was suggested in answer to a question about loading a kayak on to a car by a woman, but actually applies to anyone:

<http://www.paddling.net/guidelines/showArticle.html?516>

Holiday time is coming up and for those heading to the Mainland you might want to check:

<http://www.sportsground.co.nz/canterburyseakayak>

and see what is happening. A few other kayak networks and clubs are using this free ISP. If you have your own site already it is a good idea to setup the free one and add a link on it to your "real" one. I have done this for KASK.

Sandy Ferguson

THE "BUGGER!" FILE

Close Shave with a Ferry Propellor Patterdale, Lake District, UK, 1964?

by Alan Byde

I was leading a group of police cadets in kayaking on Ullswater. We were camped at Patterdale Hall. One afternoon they landed their kayaks and returned to camp, I had time to play about in the glassfibre kayak close to the landing stage at Patterdale. The water was so clear.

There is a way to enjoy a free ride which is to hop on the stern wave of a moving vessel and surf it. That way there is very little effort in making progress. I hung about just off the end of the jetty where the Lake steamer was about to leave. If I timed it right I'd be ahead of the boat with many passengers and I could let it come past me then catch the stern wave.

The steamer, the "Tern" started to move and accelerated quite smartly. I sprinted along the port side and moved closer to the centre of the steamer. I then learned a simple fact which had not previously occurred to me.

When a screw propeller slings a body of water out behind it must get it from in front. The screw is aft un-

The image below is small but it is the exact same overhung stern where Alan and his canoe were spat out. He was right under the overhang and felt the propeller go throbbing by his right side, very powerful. Alan anticipated his right thigh being laid open like pork crackling.



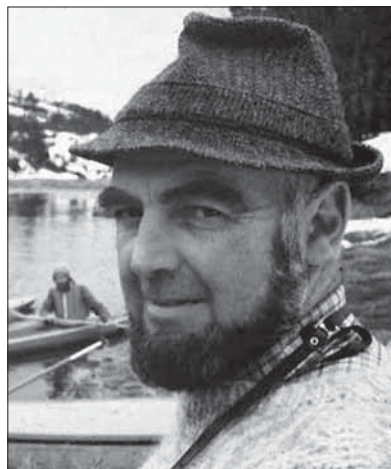
The Patterdale landing stage. The view of the jetty shows where Alan was hanging about waiting for "Tern" to leave.

der the 'fantail' or overhanging stern counter. The single screw turns with great power. The great bronze screw turns quite slowly but the vibration can be felt through the skin of the kayak.

Suddenly I was riding the next volume of water to be sucked under the hull by the screw. The curve of the overhang forced me to roll away to my left. To make a support cum draw stroke on the left, the paddle shaft must be close to vertical but the hull of the steamer prevented the right paddle blade from rising. I was about to capsize to my left.

A sense of doom was on me. Swiftly the kayak was drawn down but so was the surface of the water. I was still afloat and there was minimal clearance for a support stroke left. The blades of the huge propeller surged along the side of the kayak hull and I felt the pressure of each blade shudder the hull. It took maybe three seconds then I was out behind the receding steamer. Riding the wake. I had no desire to surf that stern wave nor any other thereafter.

Alan Byde as a young fella



Memo: If you want to surf the stern wave of a screw-propelled craft, don't approach it from in front, catch up from behind.

Near death? Perhaps, but far too near bloody injury sliced by bronze. The kayak was not marked by the screw tips. I am now a little wiser. Not-alotta folk know that.

Very Brief Author Bio

Alan is the author of five books on either building kayaks and/or paddling technique. His manual *Living Canoeing*, first published in 1969, is considered by some to be a seminal work with respect to kayaking.

BOOKS

My North Island Kayak Odyssey, *Cresting the Restless Waves* is now out of print, joining *Dark Side of the Wave*, the Stewart Island odyssey.

Back in print is *The Dreamtime Voyage* in a 25th Anniversary edition which includes a two page preface, describing a 25th anniversary of the finish of the 1982 trip, the unveiling of a plaque and a procession led by a bagpiper to the Queenscliff Maritime Museum where *Lalaguli* is now on permanent display. The new edition has been printed on a satin finish paper, and all the b&w photos look so much sharper.

Two editions are available, the first a casebound edition with a limited run only, which are signed and numbered with a tipped in bookplate. The second, a limpbound or laminated soft-cover edition.

Also available, the last two copies of Eric Soare's entertaining read titled *Confessions of a Wave Warrior*. A book list with both new and second-hand titles is available by emailing: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz

If you have any paddling literature queries, please get in touch via email as between those of us with modest to large book collections, we should be able to help you out.

Paul Caffyn

TRIBUTE

for John Brand from Harvey Golden

It is with great sadness that I report that John Brand has died. He was a very dedicated and phenomenally talented scholar of traditional kayaks, having published four books on the subject. He, along with John Heath, pioneered the replication of historic forms in order to understand them better; needless to say, Brand's work has been a tremendous inspiration to me.

I've corresponded with John since the mid 1990s and I finally met him in 1998 as I was just beginning the daunting task of surveying kayaks in museums. John and Stella graciously hosted me for a number of nights and I got to know and respect him even more. He was 64 at the time, and while I was 28 he quite easily out-paced me cycling on the beautiful country back-roads of Essex - cycling with John is my greatest memory of him; he exuded an immense yet quiet strength both on and off the bike.

John's work with kayaks lives on and is a wonderful and substantial memorial to a man of his passion and talent. His Little Kayak Books volumes I-III are brilliantly done and are a must-have for all students of kayak studies. (They are available at the QajaqUSA on-line store). Some four or five of my earlier replicas were made from his drawings-- his skill as a draftsman is far beyond my own.

I'm not sure how to end this other than saying that John's influence and inspiration will of course live on in the hearts, minds, and work of many of us.

Harvey Golden

From: http://www.qajaqusa.org/cgi-bin/GreenlandTechniqueForum_config.pl?read=509229

Harvey is also a kayak historian and he wrote and published the classic work *Kayaks of Greenland*

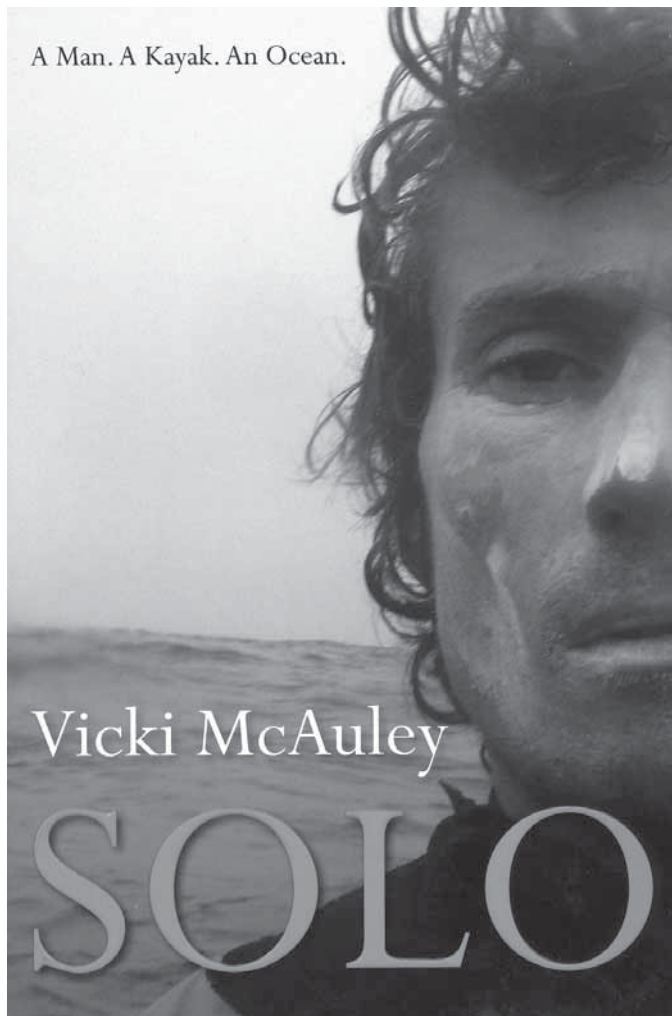
BOOK REVIEW

Title: *Solo A Man, A Kayak, An Ocean*

Author: Vicki McAuley
Published: 2010
Publisher: Pan Macmillan Aust.
Contents: 372 pp with central colour plate section
Format: paperback
Size: 232 x 155 mm
Price: \$39.99
ISBN: 978-1-405-04013-6
Review: Sandy Robson

On Feb 11, 2007, I paddled out from Barenjoey Head. I was heading north after a day off in Sydney. I paddled and I felt so sad. I cried so much I couldn't see where I was going. I stopped and slumped forward on the deck of my kayak and just floated and thought. What a terrible loss - Andrew McAuley had made it to within a day's paddle of the New Zealand coast. He

would have been able to see land. He was now missing, likely drowned. I cried a lot that day. It made me think about the risk. I thought about quitting, but then he would have wanted me to keep going. Andrew had emailed me. He had given me valuable advice and encouragement. Andrew wanted me to succeed. He thought it would be fantastic if a woman could 'knock off' the Australian circumnavigation. I looked up to his achievements. I wondered why he wasn't carrying his EPIRB on his body. If only! I wished to the sea, that just maybe there could be some miracle and he was washed up on a beach and would hike back to safety in a miraculous survival tale. But deep down, I knew Andrew McAuley was with the spirits of the sea now.



In this world there are those who MUST have adventures in wild places because it is the essence of their soul and without it they are empty - nothing. In this world there are also those who do not understand this at all.

The Andrew McAuley documentary film *Solo* aired in 2009 and explained some unanswered questions for me about what actually happened. There were lessons to be learned and if only too, however, I must admit to being surprised by some of the community reaction to the film. I didn't agree with the people who said, "He shouldn't have gone." It reminded me of the time I didn't talk to my sister for a month because she told me I was stupid for paddling in croc' country.

Andrew wasn't stupid. He knew what he was doing. Andrew had prepared meticulously and had the assistance of the best people. I agreed with Vicki's last statement in the movie whole-heartedly, in my opinion, "He made it. Anyone that says otherwise can get stuffed. He made it".

I wanted this book as soon as I saw it. I still had some unanswered questions. The book didn't answer any of my questions. He was out there alone in a kayak in one of the most remote places in the world. We won't ever really know what happened. I got something else out of this book. I started to appreciate what it is like for the ones who are waiting for us to return.

I got more questions out of the book too - he wasn't wearing a PFD for most of the paddle. I had never realised that before. Looking back, he isn't wearing a PFD in any of the video footage, except when he departs. I questioned if I would have been wearing one. Trying to squeeze down inside the cockpit, sleeping in a PFD - yup, it would have been annoying.

Vicki McAuley (Andrew's wife) has written the book in three parts.

Part One tells of the essence of Andrew McAuley - the adventurer, the experiences leading up to this final expedition and the adventure of being in a relationship with this man. It is

a love story. I could totally relate to Vicki's descriptions of the intensity of the days and weeks before Andrew set out on his first attempt at the Tasman. There are all of those things that end up having to be done in the last few days. This is a time when you would ideally like to be just enjoying precious remaining pre-trip time with your loved ones. Deep down, it is not what you want but you have to totally isolate yourself from everyone else and single-mindedly, focus on just making everything right for the trip. It's a selfish time at the wrong time. I also related to the way Andrew's parents and siblings were feeling and reacting to his plans. Perhaps this book will make me more understanding of my own family.

Part Two tells the story of Andrew's paddle across the Tasman. Before he left, Andrew had a book deal with Pan Macmillan. He was writing pre-trip but wouldn't show Vicki what he had written. So this book really tells the true story by bringing together Andrew's pre-trip writing, Vicki's experiences as wife and support person, emails and letters sent in, also excerpts from the blog and movie.

This part of the book really brought home to me how we deliberately censor ourselves and present what we want to present in on-line forums, like a blog. Our readers often think a blog is the reality, but there is always more to the story. This is why you *have* to read this book. Don't forget, the book is also always better than the movie!

Intermission

At this point of the book, you should have gone through about half a box of tissues. Save the rest of the box for Part Three. How is it that the dog always knows? You'll have to read the book to find out what I mean.

Part Three is the aftermath. The adventurer set out on the journey alone. Those close to him wait. Waiting for the, 'OK' sent from the SPOT messenger, or the text message to say, 'arrived safely'. The wait can be excruciating. This story is such a tragedy. He doesn't come home. How do you deal with that? A bloke at the airport thinks it's the end of the world

when his luggage doesn't arrive but Vicki is coming home without her husband, without the father of her child. I really admire Vicki for her strength. She has somehow found her way through incredible grief to a point where she can complete the journey by writing this book on Andrew's behalf, because that is what he would have wanted.

Part Three of the book is very personal. I think I will draw strength from re-reading it when someone close to me passes away. I feel lucky to still have both of my parents and my sister and they are glad to still have me.

So often, I meet a person for the first time and they find out I am a sea kayaker and they bring up Andrew McAuley and start voicing their opinions and I have to stop them before they say something that would offend his spirit. I then set them straight on what really happened. There are those in the world who dare to dream. Andrew McAuley was one of them. He inspired me.

Sandy Robson



Sandy Robson is currently working as a sea kayak guide and instructor in Western Australia. Sandy has attended both KASK Forums and Coastbusters and talked about her solo paddle up the east coast of Australia which was curtailed after a big saltie took an interest in Sandy's kayak in the far north.

HUMOUR

Well Goodness, Gracious Me!

A stark naked, drunken Australian woman, jumped into a vacant taxi in down-town New Delhi. She had been celebrating a gold medal for the Aussie hockey team at the Olympics. The Indian driver was immediately beside himself and just kept on staring at the woman. He made no attempt to start the cab.

“What’s wrong with you mate, haven’t you ever seen a stark, naked white woman before?”

“I’ll not be staring at you lady, I am telling you that would not be proper where I am coming from.”

“Well if you’re not bloody staring at me mate, what are you doing then?”

“Well, I am telling you - I am thinking to myself where is this lady keeping the money to be paying me with.”

Balls-up

Two women were playing golf. One teed off and watched in horror as her ball headed directly toward a foursome of men playing the next hole. The ball hit one of the men. He immediately clasped his hands together at his groin, fell to the ground and proceeded to roll around in agony. The woman rushed down to the man, and immediately began to apologize. “Please allow me to help. I’m a Physical Therapist and I know I could relieve your pain if you’d allow me,” she told him.

“Oh, no, I’ll be all right. I’ll be fine in a few minutes,” the man replied. He was in obvious agony, lying in the fetal position, still clasping his hands to his groin. At her persistence, however, he finally allowed her to help. She gently took his hands away and laid them to the side, loosened his pants and put her hands inside. She administered tender and artful massage for several long moments and asked, “How does that feel?”

He replied, “It feels great, but I still think my thumb’s broken!”

Itchy bits

A female dwarf goes to a doctor complaining of an embarrassing itch in the Groin area. The doctor looks

her up and down, picks her up and stands her on his desk. He lifts up her skirt and puts his head under. A little perplexed, she hears snip, snip, snip, snip. The doctor emerges from under her skirt. “How’s that?”

“Well, it’s a lot better actually, but... it’s still there.”

Undaunted, he dives back under her skirt. Snip, snip, snip, snip.

Out he comes. “How’s that?” he asks again, more confident this time.

“That’s wonderful! What did you do?”

“I trimmed the top of your Ugg boots.”

Only in the USA

Before the inauguration, George W. was invited to a ‘get acquainted’ tour of the White House. After drinking several glasses of iced tea, he asked President Clinton if he could use his personal bathroom. He was astonished to see that the President had a solid gold urinal! That afternoon, George W. told his wife, Laura, about the urinal. “Just think,” he said, “when I am President, I’ll have my own personal gold urinal!”

Later, when Laura had lunch with Hillary at her tour of the White House, she told Hillary how impressed George had been with his discovery of the fact that, in the President’s private bathroom, the President had a gold urinal.

That evening, Bill and Hillary were getting ready for bed. Hillary turned to Bill and said, “Well, I found out who peed in your saxophone.”

Kid’s Breakfast Questions

A grade three teacher is giving a lesson on nutrition, and she decides to ask her students what they had for breakfast. To add a spelling component, she asks the students to also spell their answers. Susan puts up her hand and says she had an egg, “E-G-G.”

“Very good,” says the teacher.

Peter says he had toast, “T-O-A-S-T.”

“Excellent.”

Johnny has his hand up and the teacher reluctantly calls on him.

“I had bugger all,” he says, “B-U-G-G-E-R A-L-L.”

The teacher is mortified and scolds Johnny for his rude answer. Later, when the lesson turns to geography,

she asks the students some rudimentary questions. Susan correctly identifies the capital city of New Zealand. Peter is able to tell her which ocean is off New Zealand’s east coast.

When it’s Johnny’s turn, the teacher remembers his rude answer from the nutrition lesson, and decides to give him a very difficult question.

Johnny, she asks, “Where is the Pakistani border?”

Johnny ponders the question and finally says, “The Pakistani boarder is in bed with my mother.”

That’s why I got bugger all for breakfast.”

Tractor Striptease

Paddy is passing by Mick’s hay shed one day when through a gap in the door he sees Mick doing a slow and sensual striptease in front of his old red Massey Ferguson tractor. Buttocks clenched, he performs a slow pirouette and gently slides off first the right gumboot, followed by the left.

He then hunches his shoulders forward and in a classic striptease move, lets his braces fall down from his shoulders to dangle by his hips over his corduroy trousers.

Grabbing both sides of his checked shirt, he rips it apart to reveal his tea-stained vest underneath and with a final flourish he hurls his flat cap onto a pile of hay.

“What the feck are you doing Mick?” says Paddy.

“Jeez Paddy, ye frightened the livin bejusus out of me,” says an obviously embarrassed Mick, “but me and the missus been having some trouble lately in the bedroom department, and the therapist suggested I do something sexy to a tractor.”

Thunderstorms

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm, a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn out the light when he asked with a tremor in this voice, “Mommy would you sleep with me tonight?” The mother smiles and gave him a reassuring hug.

“I can’t dear,” she said. “I have to sleep in Daddy’s room.”

A long silence was broken at last by his litte shaky voice, “The big sissy.”

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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4th. Ed. KASK HANDBOOK

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The 4th. edition of the KASK Handbook, 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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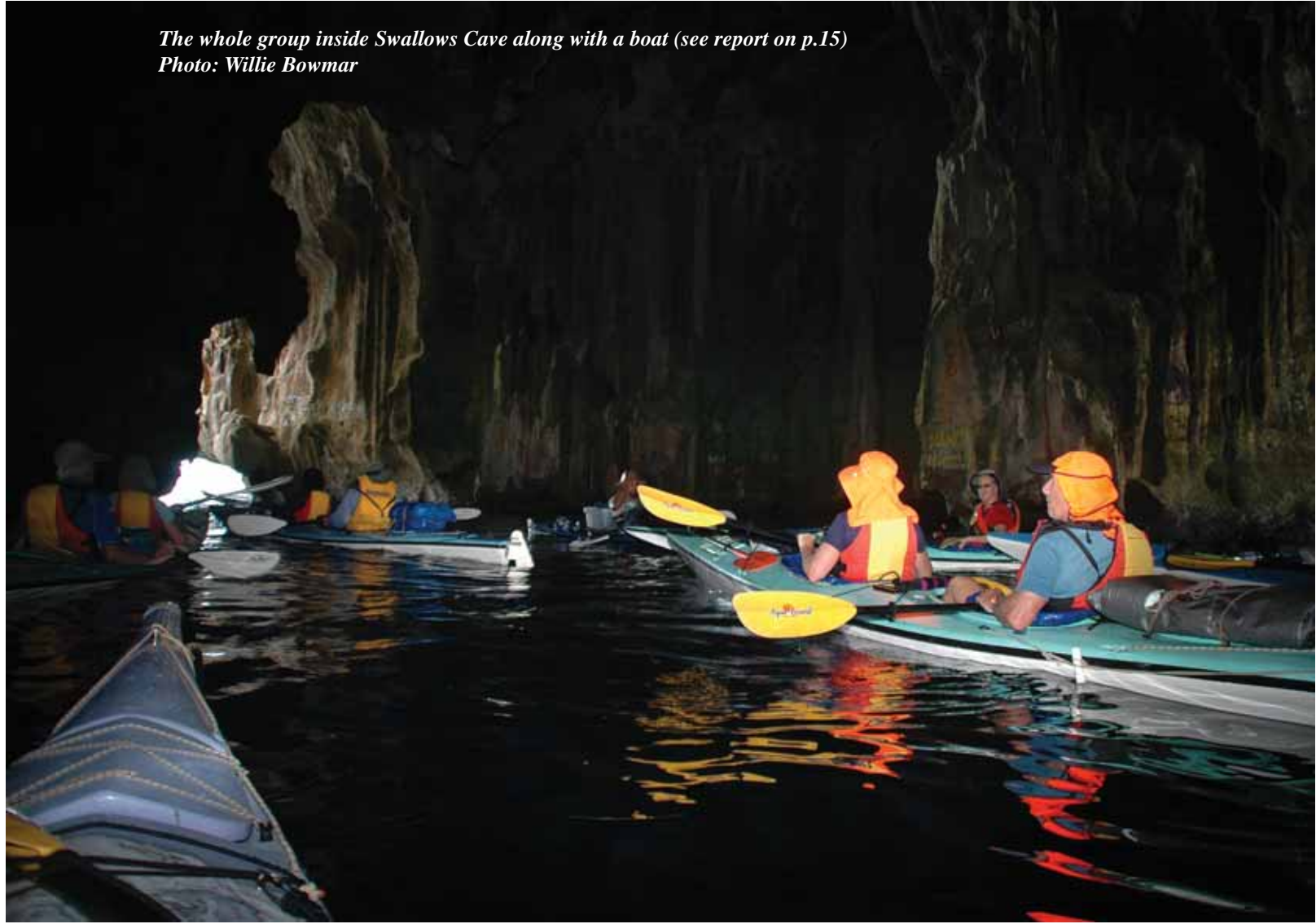
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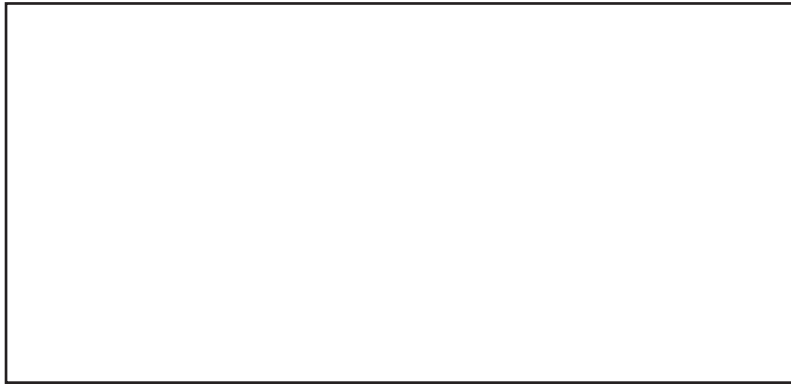
Warwick with a Long Tom. Photo: Willie Bowmar



*The whole group inside Swallows Cave along with a boat (see report on p.15)
Photo: Willie Bowmar*



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Preparing for another wonderful day in Paradise - Tonga. Photo: Willie Bowmar

KASK MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Current membership fees are:

- \$35 for ordinary membership
- for new members \$35 or \$50 to include a copy of the KASK Handbook
- \$40 for family or joint membership (\$55 to include a Handbook copy)
- \$35 for overseas membership (PDF newsletter only);
- \$50 for new o/s members plus cost of overseas postage for a copy of the KASK 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.

