

# NEW ZEALAND SEA CANOEIST

ISSN 2253-3826

No. 163

February - March  
2013

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







## INDEX

### EDITORIAL p. 3

#### KASK

Annual Paddling Awards	p. 4
2013-14 Committee	p. 4
Photo Competition Results	p.12

#### KASK FORUM 2013

Overview	
by Shawn Walsh	p. 5
Flare Demonstration	
by John Gumbley	p. 6
First Forum Feedback	
by Tim Muhundan	p. 6
Rolling Presentation	
by Mike Scanlan	p. 6
Sean Smith Sat. Evening Speaker	
by Peter Sommerhalder	p. 8
The Cardboard Conundrum	
by Dave Winkworth	p.8
Tim Taylor Around NZ	
by Peter Sommerhalder	p.10
Monday Morning Training	
by Diane Winter	p.11

#### NEW ZEALAND TRIP REPORTS

A Short History of a Novice Paddler	
by Colin Knight	p.12

#### OVERSEAS TRIP REPORTS

West Island Bits March 2013	
by Dave Winkworth	p.13

#### DVD REVIEW

<i>This is the Sea 5</i>	
by Dave Winkworth	p.15

#### BOOK REVIEWS

<i>Paddling North</i>	
review: Paul Hayward	p.17
<i>Fiordland and Beyond</i>	
review: Paul Caffyn	p.18
<i>West Coast Walking</i>	
review: Paul Caffyn	p.19
<i>Paddling to Jerusalem</i>	
review: Alan Bye	p.20

#### HUMOUR p.21

**Deadline for next newsletter:  
25 May 2013**

## EDITORIAL

### The Raglan KASK Forum

A hearty well done to the organizers for a lovely weekend - Evan Pugh for registrations and finance, John Hesselberg for the program, and John Gumbley for local logistics and AV gear. The Raglan Kopua Holiday Park was an inspired choice as venue, with a broad area of the park set aside just for paddlers' tents and vehicles while the harbour was easily accessible over a sandy ridge. Low tide inside the harbour exposed huge sandy mud flats, but an 'all tide' launching ramp catered for afternoon paddling sessions. Breakers on the Raglan bar were easily accessible for paddlers keen to play in surf.

A selection of my photos with vignettes from those attending (page 5) show what a great weekend it was. There were two occasions when paddlers' jaws dropped, leaving them like possums on the hind legs blinded by car headlights. The first was early Saturday morning for all 80 paddlers attending. John Kirk-Anderson (who must have been an army RSM in a former life) marshalled everyone into a single line, solely based on paddler height. JKA said later everyone was wondering, 'What on earth is going to happen next?'

The second was at the start of a 20 km Raglan Harbour cruise that Evan Pugh was leading. When his group was all assembled at the water's edge with their kayaks and kit, Evan said, "I hope you have all brought your helmets 'cos we are heading out to sea over the bar, and then we'll have a surf landing or two and a portage back into the harbour." Definitely not an easy cruise on the harbour,

so you can picture jaws dropped and wide eyes. Evan then scratched his head and said, "No, sorry that's the Thursday paddle."

KASK president Ian McKenzie ran a smooth AGM on Saturday with the necessary reports presented and a new committee elected (listed on page 4). A change to the financial reporting year for KASK was voted in, brought forward from 31 July to 31 March. At the end of general business, JKA and Max Grant were asked to leave the room. No, it was not for unruly behaviour, but for discussion on awarding both paddlers life membership; JKA for his over 20 years involvement with instruction and training, and Max for his long service as treasurer for KASK and for his 20+ plus involvement with sea kayak training and promotion.

After Saturday evening dinner, the photo competition awards were presented (page 12) and the three annual trophy recipients were named, Tara Mulvany and David Winkworth for the Graham Egarr paddle trophy awards, and Tara and Sim Grigg for the 'Bugger!' of the year (see p.4)

## BOOKS

Great to see two KASK paddlers with new books just published, Kerry-Jayne Wilson with her *West Coast Walking Guide* and Max with his story of the South Island paddle that he and daughter Melz achieved (see reviews pp.18-19).

Lastly, thanks to all the contributors and I have heaps of material for the end of May 2013 newsletter.

Paul Caffyn  
email: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz

## PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

**Cover:** Ruth Henderson's photo of Allison Orme (at the bow) and Rob Brown (stern) was titled 'One Picture tells a 1,000 words'. It was attractively laid out with a border, on two sides, of old slide mounts. It was awarded 1st prize in the humour section of the KASK Forum photo competition; photo taken at Scandretts Bay, Mahurangi Peninsula.

**Opposite page:** The two exceedingly late entrants in the Freya Pose Photo Competition:

**Left:** paddler Helen Walker, photographed by Teo May Wei, in the Buller River. The close matching of the conglomerate behind Helen to that in the 12 Mile Freya photo, earned high praise from the first round judging panel.

**Right:** 'A difficult photo assignment - how to capture the essence of Freya's propensity for nudity and her 167 nudity references in her Around Australia blog - yet be suitably modest while retaining the essential paddling theme in limited attire? A Teutonic high chin and a finger raised - tells the world to bugger off!'

This photo is believed to have been taken by Sue Winkworth, on a remote NSW beach. To date Mr Winkworth has been unwilling to 'reveal' how that 5th paddle blade was attached to his nether regions!





Left: Tara Mulvany and Sim Grigg, were awarded the prestigious 'Bugger!' of the year award for their five day separation after endeavouring to launch through surf off the Heaphy River mouth (north of Karamaea). (See their report in newsletter number 159)

Below: Tara was awarded the Graham Egarr Paddle Trophy award for the most significant contribution to NZ sea kayaking in the past 12 months, for her winter paddle around the South Island.

Photo: Belinda Mulvany

Dave Winkworth was awarded the Graham Egarr Paddle Trophy for the most significant contributions to the NZ Canoeist over the past 12 months, with his regular 'West Island Bits' column



### Prestigious Freya Pose Photo Competition

Judging of this competition was held on the Saturday evening after the audience had been warmed up with Sean Smith's (aka the Fat Paddler) entertaining presentation. JKA was press ganged to keep control of the lively audience as well as adjudicating applause and wolf whistle levels to pick the winning photo from a PowerPoint show. Without extremely sensitive sound monitoring equipment to separate the two photos that attracted the most acclaim, JKA brought Mike Bell (p.2 of newsletter No.162) and Dave Winkworth (p.2) forward as equal winners of the Freya Pose competition.

### FORUM FOTOS



Natasha attempting to bribe cardboard kayak scrutineer, race judge and referee, JKA

### KASK Committee 2012 - 2013

Ian McKenzie	– President	email: mckian@xtra.co.nz
Doug Aitken	– Committee	email: douglasaitken@hotmail.com
Sandy Ferguson	– Webmaster	email: kayakamf@gmail.com
Paul Caffyn	– Publications	email: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz
Shawn Walsh	– Committee	email: Shawn.Walsh@codeblue.co.nz
Conrad Edwards	– Committee	email: conrad@conradedwards.net
Tim Muhundan	– Committee	email: tim@paddler.co.nz
KASK Administrator (Kay Pidgeon)		email: admin@kask.co.nz



Lynn Burson keeping a careful eye on her team's stash of three rolls of pack-aging tape. Steve Cooper to her right



## The KASK FORUM 8 - 10 March 2013

### OVERVIEW by Shawn Walsh

On a hot and dusty Waikato summers afternoon in March this year, the little coastal town of Raglan was abuzz with the sound of new and old friends meeting for the first time. The Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (KASK) were having their annual forum and as it was on my doorstep I had decided that I would finally make the effort to attend. The forum is an annual get together of kayakers from far and wide, including some who had journeyed across the Tasman to take part and is a great opportunity to swap tales, learn new skills and just paddle a new area.

The weather was predictably hot and sticky as the drought continued but the lack of winds and beautiful blue skies made for a perfect weekend for paddling and socialising. The program was a mixture of speaker sessions and on the water sessions, with groups of paddlers splintering off to paddle by themselves or with others at various times.

Friday night began with the obligatory welcome and housekeeping items before the local Harbour Master talked about all things nautical

safety and entertained us with his dry wit and laconic style before we all headed out to the beach for a flare demonstration in the fading evening light. Unfortunately the strong winds and tinder dry countryside meant that the parachute flares were not able to be let off, but the smoke and pinpoint flares were great. They left the beach illuminated with a red flare as the sun set and the smoke filled the air.

After the flares had been released, a tally was taken of which ones had not gone off (they were all expired) and worryingly, there was no pattern to flare failure, with those only a year out of date failing as well as those much, much older (see p.6)

Saturday started with a hearty breakfast and bright sunshine, the 80 or so participants were split into seven 'pods' and then each tasked with building a cardboard kayak with minimal equipment and limited time. With much skulduggery and furtive spying, the teams set to and produced seven completely different takes on the cardboard canoe, with designs varying from river barge to white water canoe.

Once they were built, the final test was the kayak race, so chosen paddlers donned PFD and paddles and with a Nascar style start, the race was on. Amazingly all seven craft floated and some were surprisingly swift and the first race was won in quick time, only to have the lead boat sabotaged by an act of piracy as it crossed the finish line. Protest flags were instantly raised and two

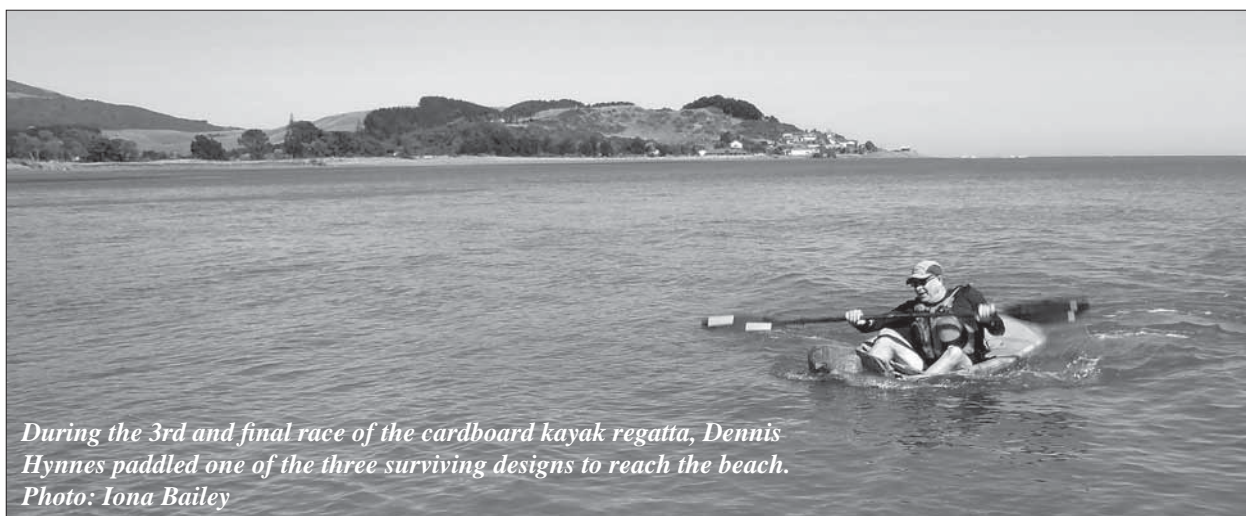


*Aussie paddler, Sean Smith*

more races were then held with boats slowly disintegrating with each race.

That afternoon, a number of paddlers headed out for various paddles, while others listened to some excellent talks on 'rolling' by Mike Scanlan and 'Kayaking in the Whitsunday Islands' by Paul Hayward and Natasha Romoff. Unfortunately I chose to get onto the water and missed both of the afternoon speakers but I did spend an awesome afternoon playing in the surf with a small group of paddlers before heading back into the harbour and catching up with the rescue practice with Evan Pugh.

Sean Smith\* aka The Fat Paddler ([www.fatpaddler.com](http://www.fatpaddler.com)) was the night's keynote speaker and he regaled us with his inspirational story of how he began paddling and some



*During the 3rd and final race of the cardboard kayak regatta, Dennis Hynnes paddled one of the three surviving designs to reach the beach.  
Photo: Iona Bailey*



of his exploits with kayaks, canoes and surf skis, showing his great sense of humour and tenacity. He also managed to put together a great presentation at the end of the day with exploits from the forum.

Sunday dawned with more blue skies and no wind and the focus of the day was on the water. There were coaching opportunities in the morning for rolling and boat handling skills as well as some fine paddling around the Raglan harbour at high tide. The coaching sessions with John Kirk-Anderson and Dave Winkworth were enjoyed by all those who participated and everyone felt they came away a better paddler than they arrived after the session.

After lunch on the Sunday, Bevan Grant showed us the basics of using nautical charts and Tim Taylor talked about his solo circumnavigation of New Zealand, the people he met and the things he discovered along the way.

Finally the afternoon drew to a close and it was time to say goodbye to new friends and old, as people loaded up kayaks and prepared to head home after a great weekend's paddling and socialising. Although it was my first KASK forum, I was made to feel welcome and part of the family, much like any other meeting of paddlers I have ever been to. I'll definitely be going back soon.

### FRIDAY EVENING

Environment Waikato Harbourmaster Kim McKenzie gave a short session on harbour safety before, just on dusk, everyone moved out to the harbour edge to watch a flare demo.

### FLARE DEMONSTRATION

by John Gumbley

A total 37 handflares were fired - 24 worked with expiry dates ranging from 1994 to 2010.

Of the 13 that failed, their expiry dates ranged from 1981 to 2010, including 3 @ 2010, 2 @ 2009 and 1 @ 2006. There is no clear trend of flare type failing - they included Comet (1999-2010), Schermully Pinpoint

(1981-84), Pains-Wessex Red Mk6 (1994-98), Pains Wessex Pinpoint (2006) and Aurora (2010).

I have several parachute flares and may arrange with Coastguard their testing once the fire risk is over and we have less wind. It is not all that difficult getting approval but it did involve getting a form signed off by MaritimeNZ and contacting Civil Aviation, Police, Fire Brigade, Coastguard, Regional Council (Harbourmaster), DOC, local newspaper and radio station.

### FIRST FORUM FEEDBACK

by Tim Muhundan

It is the first time I attended a KASK event, having taken up paddling early last year. I did not know many people in KASK but I was pleasantly surprised how friendly and welcoming everyone was. The event itself was well organized with a perfect mix of paddling with some experts and speaker sessions with plenty of fun activities and food thrown in. There were over 80 attendees from all over the country, passionate about kayaking in one place!

I really liked the inspiring speech from Sean Smith (AKA Fat paddler) - he had an amazing story to tell about his recovery from debilitating injuries and how paddling helped his recovery. I think many paddlers who take up paddling late in their life can relate to his journey.

I also met some legends from the paddling scene, including Paul Caffyn - it was a pleasure meeting the man that inspired so many people into sea kayaking through his books about some amazing voyages around Australia, New Zealand and various 'islands' from around the world.

The best part of KASK forum is rubbing shoulders with 'experts' such as John Kirk-Anderson and Dave Winkworth - skills sessions with them on the water were informal and interleaved with some entertaining rock gardening around the gorgeous limestone pancake rocks of Raglan harbor. I also paddled with the kayak rolling legend, Mike Scanlan (who

has completed over 16,000 rolls without a failed roll). He showed me his fail-safe roll techniques - I learnt a few tricks from him and he demonstrated how to recover from multiple failed rolls in rapid succession on a sea kayak.

For me, the highlights were the fun stuff - from having a drink and a laugh with a bunch of like-minded paddlers you have never met before - to some of the well organized fun activities such as the kayak building and racing competition. We were all divided up into teams and were given a couple of bits of cardboard and some tape. The different teams came up with varying strategies and design - but it was really funny to watch the teams racing in sinking boats against each other - of course our team won albeit in a boat that looked more like a coffin than a kayak, appropriately named the KASKET!

I made some fantastic paddling friends from around the country from the forum who I will keep in touch with. I got a lot out of it - I will be definitely attending next year.

### ROLLING PRESENTATION

by Mike Scanlan

Conrad Edwards commented that this Saturday afternoon rolling presentation by Mike Scanlan was the best he has ever seen. High praise from a competent roller. Conrad was a bit hazy on the key points, so I asked Mike to email a summary of his eight key points for rolling.

#### 1. Determination:

To progress from a 'swimming pool roll' to a solid rough water roll in your sea kayak requires motivation and persistence

#### 2. Knee braces:

Without effective knee braces and a fitting cockpit the paddler CANNOT effectively apply the rotational forces required to roll the kayak

#### 3. Coach:

A coach standing beside you can see what you are doing and correct faults, guide the paddle in a wide sweep and tip you back up if the roll



fails. A coach is a HUGE asset in the learning process

**4. The setup and how to get to it:**

The roll itself is only the LAST event in a sequence of capsize/getting to the rolling side of the kayak/setting up/rotating the kayak. Realise that the capsize side is NOT the rolling side. A good setup is essential for the roll to succeed - high tight crunch position

**5. Knee lift:**

A 'hip flick' is a weak and short acting force compared to a diagonal KNEE LIFT against the thigh brace. A "knee lift" gives a far stronger rotational force that can be applied for the whole time that the paddle is sweeping across the surface

**6. Wide shallow paddle sweep:**

The paddle sweep supplies the opposing force to the knee lift. It should be a wide shallow stroke across the surface, and continued past the hips to give the final impetus to bring the body back over the kayak.

There is NO downward pull on the sweeping paddle

**7. Practice as you would capsize:**

- once you have a roll, do not make your practice rolls easier than a real life capsize situation. Practice in bad weather with all your 'bits' attached to the kayak



*Above: Mike Scanlan under power on Raglan Harbour.*

*Photo: Tim Muhundan*

**8. Train your brain:**

Practice, practice, practice from left and right sides.

Avoid a panic wet exit by desensitising your brain to the trauma of a capsize by endless practicing - look on rolling practice as a fun form of exercise.

*Below: Mike setting up for another roll. Photo: by Tim Muhundan*





**SEAN SMITH**  
**Saturday Night Speaker**  
**by Peter Sommerhalder**

Little did we know that the “ordinary” Australian we befriended – Sean Smith – would turn out to be the riveting guest speaker on Saturday night at the KASK Forum in Raglan. His subject: The Fat Paddler. Sean had two serious accidents in his life, causing multiple injuries. His doctors warned him he could lose his life. That is when Sean “discovered” paddling and set himself ambitious goals. One was to participate in a surfski marathon race in Mauritius. He had to learn paddling a surf ski and get fit – fast. In seven months training and gym work Sean lost 25 kg. He entered the marathon with a mate and finished it. But he did not stop there.

Sean’s motivation influenced his friends. They became active paddlers and inspired others. Over the years the Fat Paddler idea grew into a global organisation, motivating people and fundraising over a hundred thousand dollars for charities. Sean achieved this besides holding down a full time job in marketing. And his wife made sure he helped with the dishes, housework, and bringing up their two girls. To understand what drives this high achiever, still in his early 40s, read his book or look up his website FatPaddler.com.

The link below has Sean’s words on his visit to NZ and the forum, photos and movie footage of the cardboard kayak race:

<http://fatpaddler.com/2013/03/seakayaking-in-new-zealand-with-kask/>

During his Saturday evening presentation of video clips and photos, Sean had a table set up with his book *The Fat Padder*, T shirts and beer coolers, which he told the audience he would provide for the best retort or interjection. After Sean has talked of his horrific injuries suffered, he stated, “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.” Shawn Walsh chose a beer cooler as his prize for his quick response which brought the house down. “What about polio?”

**Kayaking ‘Konversations’**  
**by Dave Evans**

Having attended the KASK Forum at Raglan, I came away with a head full of ideas and captured snippets from conversations. You would think that having being involved in the sport for over 10 years that I would have heard, seen and discussed all there is to talk about kayaks. Wrong! There is always another angle or new idea that pops up at these forums providing fuel for more discussion, disagreement, agreement and more often than not, positive contribution.

In no particular order here are some of the topics I discussed with various fellow kayakers at the forum:

- Crank shaft wing paddle
- Deck mounted split Greenland paddle
- Removable rudder mechanism
- Pros and Cons of a venturi drainage system
- Loading a kayak onto a motor home
- Sweep roll versus screw roll
- Design aspects of foldable kayaks
- How to promote a sea kayak club and attract new members
- Leadership training
- Using social media to promote sea kayaking

The amazing thing about attending a KASK Forum is that you open up opportunities to listen to new ideas, meet new people and come away

with renewed enthusiasm for the sport. Despite the fact that I was not able to paddle due to a back injury I was able to participate in presentations and chat with a whole bunch of people.

Memorable ‘konversations’ are what I have taken away from the KASK Forum. Thanks to all involved!

**The CARDBOARD CONUNDRUM**  
**Some thoughts on Skullduggery and the Making of Cardboard Kayaks.**

**By David Winkworth**

Friday night at the Raglan KASK Forum – I glanced at the program. Hmm, JKA is running all the Saturday morning activities - for everyone. This will be interesting, I thought! It turned out to be a hoot!

The Saturday morning assembled multitude was divided – solely on the basis of paddler height - into seven teams. JKA later commented it was then like looking at rabbits in the glare of headlights – paddlers looking wide-eyed and wondering, ‘What is going to happen to us now?’

Each team was then given four 8 by 4 (1.2 x 2.4m) sheets of cardboard, two rolls of brown packaging tape and a box cutter. We were given an hour to make a kayak which, would

*On their knees, Ian McKenzie (L) and Paul Hayward (R) lost in thought for a race winning design*







*Mike Scanlan (L) and Gerry Maire (R) begin cutting out panels for their team's cardboard kayak*

survive (and hopefully win) short paddling races with one of our team members aboard. And piracy was encouraged!

I'd have to say that application to task from the starting whistle was incredible! It was subdued murmuring, secret designs and heads down around the camping area as team's paddling craft quickly grew from flat sheets of cardboard. Some teams found themselves a roll of tape short here and there while other groups contemplated the luxury of an extra roll!

I now regret not leading our group on a pillage raid of Sue Levett's team. They were seriously good in the race series and if we had kidnapped Sue, and trussed her up with tape in the laundry, we could have gained a significant advantage. Teams flounder without leaders! Oh well, there's always next time!

*Paparazzi were told to 'keep away' during the intense design concept phases*



The hour up, all teams displayed their craft and offered short presentations on design - and what an array of craft there were! There were long and short craft of conventional 'canoe' shape, boxy looking boats and even one that wouldn't look out of place in the back of a hearse!

Presentations were an opportunity for bullshit. Vicki, our team presenter, waxed eloquent about the pedigree of our craft and its recent successful Antarctic continental circumnavigation.

Then, onto the beach for the decider in warm sunny conditions! It was a Le Mans start, then out and around a real kayak and back to the beach. The single race eventually gave way to three - there was a high rate of attrition as sea water soaked into paper fibres and paddlers sat very, very low in the water. Going down with the ship was the rule!



*Ruth Henderson recaptures a pirated sheet of cardboard*

So, given the success of this exercise, one might expect that we'll get another one at a future Forum. In the interests of fairness and close competition, I thought I'd pen some thoughts on what worked and what didn't.

**SHAPE:** Surprisingly, this didn't seem to be too much of a speed factor - I suppose because speeds were pretty low. Obviously some bow pinching or upturning helped but not to the extent you might think. Waterline length, a kayak designer's holy grail, was also not that important in the finals. That really only comes into play as speeds rise and cardboard boats just ain't that fast.

**VOLUME:** This was an important factor in that it allowed some teams the luxury of good freeboard when competing boats clashed in the race. Generally this was seen on the boxy shapes. But, as a rule, get all the freeboard you can.

**STABILITY:** Again, the boxy shaped craft did well here. Good initial stability with a wide sweeping paddle stroke that didn't upset the boat seemed to be the go.

**STIFFNESS:** This was critical. Making use of the corrugated cardboard to add stiffness was essential and all teams seemed to acknowledge this. There were various methods used for stiffening the craft - some rolled and taped the cardboard into tubes, other teams added extra flat layers amidships or where they thought there





*The Le Mans start for the first cardboard kayak race.*

might be a fold. All teams drafted their lightest members into the paddling duties – that was the way to go to maintain craft integrity and free-board. Some teams opted for open top designs while others decked their boats in to add stiffness. Decked-in boats did really need to have their paddlers lifted in. This was allowed in the rules – obviously an unfair favour granted to those teams that did this - and the subject of an upcoming protest. The New York Yacht Club has nothing on us!

**WATERPROOFING:** Again critical. Brown cardboard soaks up water like a sponge and packing tape won't stick to wet cardboard! Our team reserved enough tape to completely plank the outside of the hull with tape. It was good move we thought. Unfortunately we had an early capsize and our craft waterlogged from the inside! Rubbing the applied tape hard with fingernails against the waxy cardboard seemed to assist adhesion.

**DECORATIONS AND NAMING:** Great flair was shown here by all teams. This is vitally important in keeping up team morale and discouraging the opposition. Was it the team with the coffin-shaped boat that had flowers covering the deck?

Thanks JKA. It was a really fun morning!

#### **TIM TAYLOR AROUND NZ**

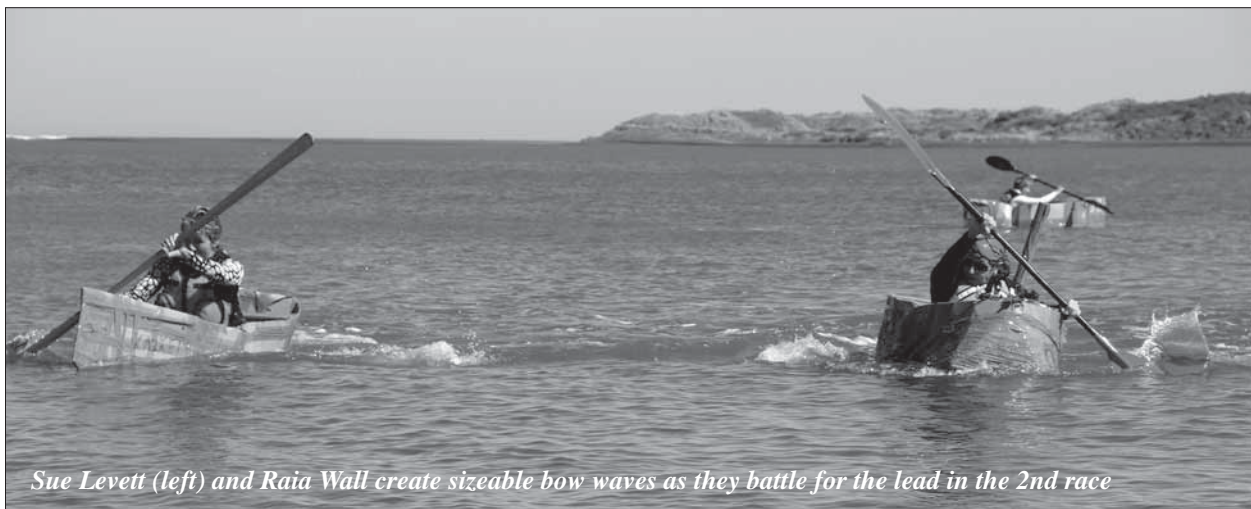
**by Peter Sommerhalder**

The weekend was rounded off by Tim Taylor from Tauranga. He showed us highlights from his kayak circumnavigation of New Zealand. This trip shaped him from being a young shy guy into a self-confident adult person. He praised the fact that people offered him shelter, transport, or whatever they could do to help him along the way. It came as a bit of a surprise to me that the most difficult section to paddle was the stretch along the Kaipara Harbour entrance from south to north in swells of up

to 5m high. And the furthest distance off shore was the leg from Tawharanui (near Kawau Island) to Port Jackson at the tip of Coromandel Peninsula.

(Tim has advised he has a book on kayak fishing due for publishing shortly and a book on his NZ circuit later in the year).

*Tim Taylor*



*Sue Levett (left) and Raia Wall create sizeable bow waves as they battle for the lead in the 2nd race*





*Melz Grant holds the sail of Kiwi's Revenge, over which a race protest was lodged*



*Soggy remains on the beach after the best of three races*

## MONDAY TRAINING SESSION WITH JKA

by Diane Winter

Leading up to the KASK Forum, an email was sent out inviting attendees to do an extra day of training with John Kirk-Anderson after the forum. Why would I not take up such a great opportunity? Within seconds I responded to the email accepting the invitation.

On the day there were four of us ready to learn and it seemed we all had a similar goal, to be more efficient paddlers.

First JKA had us sitting on the sand in the paddling position, looking at what gives the power in a paddle stroke. On the water we got back to basics starting with the forward paddle stroke.

We took the opportunity to swap paddles which was interesting. I have a long narrow blade and for a while had been thinking of changing to a wider one to see if that would help me paddle faster.

Well, I've saved myself some money, I discovered the wider ones just felt wrong for me, maybe it's just what I'm used to now but I do like my paddle. Saying, that those that tried mine didn't like it. It does show that you do need to try as many different types as you can before you settle on one, what works for one paddler

doesn't necessarily work for another. From there we moved onto forward and reverse sweep strokes, stern rudder, bow rudder, draw and sculling. By deliberately doing some of these strokes wrong, we learnt more about what works and what doesn't in the boat.

Some of the things JKA talked to us about I did know about but have not necessarily put into practice correctly in the past. The bow rudder and sculling especially I've been impressed watching other paddlers doing and have attempted myself unsuccessfully. Although I still have a way to go to get them mastered they now 'make sense' and I have a lot

better idea just what my boat will let me get away with. Unfortunately I haven't had a chance to paddle since the forum but will be out over Easter and I'm looking forward to putting it all into practice and becoming a far more efficient paddler.

Thanks to JKA for giving up your time to help us all. Also thanks to the organisers of the Forum and other speakers. This was my third forum and each time I've come away feeling inspired and have learnt something important about this sport we all love.

See you there next year.

*Instructor JKA advises paddlers that are now ready to transition from cardboard kayaks to proper fibreglass sea kayaks*





## Annual KASK Forum Photo Competition

Twenty to 30 photos were entered in each of the five categories in this year's competition. The two major issues were the sun's heat on the black plastic display sheeting, which melted the blue tac adhesive holding on the photos, and the difficulty of choosing the three top photos per category by sole judge, Paul Caffyn. Certificates and memory sticks were presented to the first prize-winners by Sean Smith.

### Open

- 1st Raewyn Knight – evening reflections
- 2nd Ian McKenzie – Okains Bay kayaks
- 3rd Ruth Henderson – serving a brew in the rain

### Action

- 1st Ian McKenzie – pour over photo sequence
- 2nd Mike Scanlan – underwater setup for rolling
- 3rd Raewyn Knight – surf paddler under power

### Seascape

- 1st Colin Knight – lake reflection (see page 23)
- 2nd Ian McKenzie – rugged sea stacks
- 3rd Paterson Inlet – Ruth Henderson

### Marine Flora and Fauna

- 1st Ruth Henderson - New Zealand fur seal (see page 23)
- 2nd Ruth Henderson - flirting penguins
- 3rd Nadia Lehmann – This is my beach

### Humour

- 1st Ruth Henderson – a picture tells 1,000 words
- 2nd Ian McKenzie – towing kayaks
- 3rd Ruth Henderson – pirate of Paterson

### Paddlers' Choice

- Colin Knight – lake reflection (see page 23)

*Colin and Raewyn Knight - See story at right.*



## A SHORT HISTORY of a NOVICE SEA KAYAKER by Colin Knight

After five hours driving on a hot Friday afternoon, we pulled into camp at Raglan for the 2013 KASK Forum filled with anticipation of a weekend of learning from the best.

I was expecting to be very much the newbie but soon I realized as we got talking to the growing crowd at Friday evening's supper presentations that, although there were some real heroes of sea kayaking present, there were probably many there at a similar or maybe even less level of experience or capability. I wondered about their stories as I reflected on my kayaking history. I don't quite know what triggered it but a few years back I decided kayaking would be a fun thing to add to my mountain-biking, running and general pursuit of things outdoor.

I bought a second-hand Perception *Dancer*, spray skirt, PFD and paddle and in doing so became a kayaker - yeah right! Early in the piece, I did learn to wet exit before doing a guided trip down the Manawatu Gorge, and did eventually learn to paddle the naughty beast in a straight line after much frustration. Various holidays saw me set bravely to sea or out onto a lake in the *Dancer* but I was always conscious that I had really no idea what to if I did indeed end up swimming a few hundred metres from land, so trips were limited to calmish waters and I kept close in. Meanwhile we'd bought Raewyn an *Arcadia* to join in the fun.

The trigger for really needing to upgrade my knowledge came when, on a day trip down the Wanganui, I managed to get tail-whipped by an eddy after stopping to photograph my wife and daughter coming down a rapid and went swimming. The ensuing time taken and events of getting to shore cold and wet, getting changed, getting back, getting going again then tipping out again 10 minutes later after getting pinned against a rock wall exiting a rapid, getting even colder etc. left my confidence in tatters. I found myself



panicking on flat water, the next time I went out and lost the horizon due to sun-strike.

The *Dancer* was obviously out to get me so time to purchase something 'stable'. Lured by the internet, I bought a Feel Free *Atlanta* for \$1,000. It was OK but large volume, light construction and crappy rudder system and seemed to bob around way too much for my nervous disposition. It was also out to get me! Having paddled it with very tight butt cheeks in a smooth one metre swell around New Plymouth's Sugar Loaf Islands, and compared it to the *Tui* that Q-Kayaks had kindly given us for a trial for the weekend, I decided the *Atlanta* had to go. I took only money back to Q-kayaks, ordered another *Tui* for Raewyn, sold the *Atlanta* and we were now the proud owners of a *Tui* fleet.

The only problem with this situation was that we were still very inexperienced, so still limited ourselves to flat water, turning for home if the waves dared reach much over half a meter. This approach somewhat limits sea or even lake kayaking experiences and opportunities. The situation had to change. In January 2012 we finally took part in one of Canoe and Kayak's beginner sea kayak courses. This gave us some valuable paddling techniques and enough practice to at least know how to attempt self and assisted rescues.

Inspired with a little more confidence but realizing we were not yet bullet proof or ready to tackle Cook Strait in a southerly, we set our first decent paddle trip as an overnight in the Marlborough Sounds in April 2012. After two to three hours paddling, we arrived at a Kumototo Campsite and set up for the night, then went out for another couple of hours playing just for good measure. It was a cold dark night, so after a dinner we hit the tent very early and very satisfied. Finally we were out there doing it.

The next day was equally satisfying, setting out in fog and watching the scenery unfold and wildlife come out to play as the sun broke through

will always stick in our memories of our first real adventure.

The intervening year saw us hungry for trips that would help us gain confidence to have more experiences etc. We grabbed every chance we could to hook up with groups to paddle in the security of numbers and milk the knowledge of more experienced paddlers. We bravely set out by ourselves through the surf off our local Manawatu beaches to gain ocean experience. OK so we waited for days when the breakers were not much higher than your average dining table but they were breakers none the less. We were also fortunate enough to get a trip with Max and Melz Grant out to Cape Kidnappers. All the while we were putting in two to three hours per week hard paddling, in training for our first multi-sport event.

All of this set us up well for a superb summer holiday of paddling around the Coromandel, mainly off Whitianga and Hahei. Upgrading our fleet to a Q-kayaks *Southern Skua* and *Foveaux Express*, we equally upgraded our experience as we confidently took on wind, swells, chop, heavy rain, surf launches and landings while enjoying the stunning scenery of that area.

After the KASK forum, where we listened to the legends, nearly managed to roll our kayaks and paddled and talked with others, we decided that we had in fact become real sea kayakers. Still not ready for Cook Strait in a southerly or to chase Paul Caffyn around Greenland, but certainly up for having a go at stuff that would have left us trembling one year ago.

So what have I learnt; face my fears, get outside my comfort zone and extend myself - but do so rationally and maintain a healthy respect for the sea; take on stuff yourself but also learn from others and probably most importantly, the main reason for falling out of any boat or not feeling at ease, is a whole lot more about me than it is about the boat. (I have been back in the *Dancer*).

Colin Knight

## Overseas Reports

### WEST ISLAND BITS

March 2013

by Dave Winkworth

Back home to the NSW south coast recently from NZ and the Raglan KASK Forum - what a bit of fun the Forum was! Great to catch up with so many friends. If you're a KASK member and have never been to the annual Forum, mark it on your calendar for next year - you'll have a great time - guaranteed!

Along the NSW coast, we're coming into some of the best paddling weather of the year. A lot of the heat has gone out of the system and we're spared our daily 30 knot sea breezes. Swells are lower and we can get into caves and through rock garden passages that are off limits in the summer months. Love it! Do you have the same conditions in NZ waters?

Often, benign sea conditions that we have at 0700 are still there at 1800 hours. If we want to cut the miles up or down this coast, then autumn and early winter is a good time to do so. Keep it in mind if you're planning a paddling trip over this way!

#### All the Way Around

In a recent WIB, I chatted about Jason Beachcroft who is attempting an Around Australia paddle in his *Nadgee* kayak. Jason called me from Cairns in far north Queensland the other day. He has about 900 kms to go to Cape York, the northernmost tip of Australia. He is happy with his progress and most of his gear is working well.

A little bird did tell me though, that his GPS packed it in and he had to buy another one. The new one, in its waterproof case fell off the deck and sank. Back to the shop for GPS No. 3! He left that one on a beach at a camp and had to do a significant backtrack to collect it. It was still there! That was lucky Jason! ([www.jasonbeachcroft.com/](http://www.jasonbeachcroft.com/))





*Dave enjoying autumnal conditions off Boyd's Tower, South Head at Eden, in southern NSW. Photo: Graeme Thompson*

He plans to include Tassie in his circumnavigation. If he makes it back to Sydney – his start point, and a lot of things have got to go right for him to do so - he will be the first solo non-assisted, non-sailing Australian continental circumnavigator! Now that's a mouthful! Go Jason!

#### **On the Way Down Under**

Sandy Robson continues to do amazing things in her kayak! She is currently retracing Oscar Speck's huge 1930s kayak trip from Germany to Australia. She called the other day from her Mum and Dad's home in Geraldton, Western Australia - back home to earn some money kayak guiding for Capricorn Sea Kayaking, she has recently completed paddling the coast of India - and in a 12 year old leaking folding kayak no less! Sandy thinks she may be the first woman to paddle the coast of India. Do you know of a woman who has done it before?

Crikey, she does have some good stories to tell! - like running into the naval border guards on the India Pakistan border and being able to talk her way past them. She says her documentation to paddle the Indian coast 'may not have been quite complete' and that she was reluctant to have it all fixed up in case they kicked her out. 'Flying below the radar' she calls it.

Middle Eastern and Asian political changes since Oscar Speck's trip have forced Sandy to skip countries like Iran, Syria and Pakistan. She is hoping to do a circumnavigation of Sri Lanka later this year, which I reckon will more than make up for those countries. She told me that northern Sri Lanka could be difficult because of the presence of land mines left over from the Tamil Tiger civil war.

I asked Sandy: "You were going to paddle the Indian coast with a male paddler for security. What happened to him?"

"Oh, we parted," she laughed. "He wanted me to cook dinner for him every night! Not much chance of me doing that!" ([www.sandy-robson.com/](http://www.sandy-robson.com/))

Like Jason's trip, a lot of things have to go right for Sandy to eventually make it to Australia. You can follow Sandy's adventures on her website. Now that she is well into this big paddle, hopefully we'll see Sandy in a future "This is the Sea" DVD and in *Sea Kayaker* magazine.

#### **Golden Age**

Let me pose a question: Are we in a 'Golden Age' of sea kayaking? Before you skip to the bottom of this article looking for the answer, let me say that I don't have that answer for

you. But do look at the proliferation of sea kayak models in the last say 20 years, and the number of major kayak expeditions that have been completed and are currently underway.

Worldwide we have a huge range of kayak models in 'glass, thermo and roto-moulded plastic and an increasing range of folding kayaks too. Specialist clothing and gear manufacturers continue to appear. Here in SE Australia we have Flat Earth Kayak Sails. Owner Mick McRobb exports his quality products all over the world. Sea kayak clubs here in Australia continue with high membership numbers, reporting high demand for skills and training and Australian sea kayak club members continue to venture further afield in their sea kayaking trips.

Internationally, Freya Hoffmeister is well into her huge South American continental circumnavigation and Sandy Robson continues her Oscar Speck paddle. Once these 'firsts' and others like them are complete, will there be the same interest in doing them again or is it a case of 'no prizes for second'?



*Hard to believe that a highly esteemed Aussie paddler would pretend to be Skippy the invisible kangaroo at the Raglan forum in order to spy on the other six teams building their cardboard kayaks.*



## To PFD or Not to PFD?

Here in NSW, our state government recently changed our PFD laws. Until recently, we've always had to wear a PFD when more than 400 metres from shore in enclosed waters and full-time in ocean waters. This arrangement suited me as I could do a training paddle in enclosed waters and not worry about the encumbrance of a lifejacket.

Now that 400 metre distance on enclosed waters has been reduced to 100 metres which means I can't cut across some of our coastal lakes sans PFD without risking a fine. I wonder at the reasoning for this law change. I assume it's because our lawmakers believe most people wouldn't be able to swim 400 metres ashore if they capsized and couldn't re-enter their kayak. Judging from the shape and condition of some paddlers I see, I reckon 100 metres would be beyond many of them too!

But really, we should never ever be thinking of swimming ashore. The kayak is our survival tool, our visibility signal and our refuge. Get back in - however you do it - just get back in it! I make glass fibre kayaks and do you know that the thickness of the hull laminate is around 2mm! That's all. Not much is it! But it's enough to keep you out of the water and warm.

Think for a moment about paddling solo and wet exiting your kayak - and not being able to re-enter it. That really is a desperate situation. I wrote about just that situation that a friend of mine found himself in off the NSW coast north of Sydney in winter waters not so long ago. His re-enter attempts all failed and basically, he hung onto the hull to wait for rescue or death, whichever came first. He was lucky.

If you haven't got a self-rescue plan and skill, make sure you get one now before our waters cool for winter. I hope you can enjoy some great autumn paddling.

Dave Winkworth

## DVD REVIEW

### THIS IS THE SEA 5 By Justine Curgenven

Run time: 3 hours

PAL DVD

Filmed in High Definition

16:9 Widescreen

Available from: cackletv.com

Reviewed by: David Winkworth

### VOLCANOES, VOLCANOES... MORE F\*\*\*ING VOLCANOES!

TITS, as the THIS IS THE SEA DVD series is affectionately known, first appeared on the sea kayaking scene in about 2005. For us down under in the southern hemisphere, it was a great connection with sea kayaking in the big northern hemisphere paddling centres of Europe and the USA. It was sea kayaking action up close, it was alive, it was fresh and it made Justine Curgenven with her trademark cackle laugh a household name in sea kayaking.

Curgenven pioneered movie photography from a kayak, grabbing scenes that no-one had tried to catch before and teaming them up with modern music themes. It was most likely a bit of a punt with the first DVD, but it paid off for her and she has travelled all over the world in recent years paddling and filming successive editions. If you're a sea kayaker and you haven't heard of her - well then - you should get out more!

This is a review of her latest offering: No. 5 in the TITS pentalogy.

There are 8 segments in TITS 5, ranging from 6 minutes to about 50 minutes duration. Each segment can be individually selected from the DVD menu. Total run time is around 3 hours.

After a brief action-oriented intro we meet Paul Kuthe, an American surfing cold dirty water in Wales. There are some great kayak surfing scenes

in this segment but what is it with the higher latitudes of the northern hemisphere? Is it really that bleak and cold?

This is followed by another much longer (42 mins) piece on Sarah Outen, an English girl getting around the world by human power and raising money for various causes. Naturally, some of the trip is by kayak and Curgenven accompanies Outen on the sea kayaking legs across the English Channel and from Russia to Japan. Actually, Curgenven joined Outen's team as the expert kayaker, a role she is eminently qualified to fill. This does carry risks however if the subject turns out to be a dud paddler. Thankfully that is not the case but we do hear from Outen when she flops onto the Japanese shore that the just-completed paddle of 50 kms was her longest ever! Really!

Paddling scenes along the Russian island of Sakhalin are beautiful with great wildlife footage.

Much of this segment is shot in the dark or in dirty water and it had me reaching for the blanket to warm up. There is a bit of unnecessary hype in this segment too. Curgenven tries to convey a sense of urgency with Russian bureaucratic and diplomatic stuff-ups but it doesn't work. It reminded me of TV home improvement shows where the renos need to be completed before the owners come home!

A short segment on English paddler Harry Whelan is next. He's done some big trips, including circum-navigations of Britain and Ireland but his favourite paddling, and most of what we see, is riding low ferry wakes on the dirty Thames.

We then skip to the Med for a travelogue paddle through the Italian Aeolian Islands, joining an 'international group' of 40 sea kayakers. It's a pretty damn busy half hour as we check out active volcanoes, more volcanoes and ice cream shops. There's even a dog rescue off a cliff! Then it's back to Sicily to harvest grapes in a vineyard. There is some great flat water paddling scenery in-



cluding caves but that's not enough to redeem this piece – it's a stocking filler.

Then it's onto downwind surf skis for a 15 minute segment in which we meet surf ski identities Oscar Chalupsky, Greg Barton and Joe Glickman. The latter is the author of *Fearless*, the book about Freya Hoffmeister and her around Australia paddle. A world of alpha males it seems, with Chalupsky leading the pack.

Back in the Mediterranean for a 500 mile pre-season circumnavigation of Sardinia, the second largest island in the sea - this time it's just Curgenv and her partner Barry Shaw. I like watching these two – they have good chemistry between them. They could make a full series by themselves and I'd be cool with that. They complete the circumnavigation of this very pretty island, and along the way get flooded out in their tent, weatherbound and Barry gets to do an awful lot of eating for the camera. How come you're not fat Baz? A nice segment and a warm-up for the best bits to come.

Rolling maestro Turner Wilson features in an all-too-short piece on rough water rolling. Great footage, and great rolling wisdom from the man with the smooth-as-bourbon voice. For my money, it's worth buying TITS 5 just for this segment! If this gets paddlers working on their combat rolls then that's terrific!

How about these pearls from Turner Wilson:

On going from skiing to kayak rolling: "Add the idea of swell and rhythm and stir."

Or this: "Take advantage of the full circle sea worthiness of the kayak."

And this: "Rolling technique allows you to become as one with a powerful sea."

Yes, give this man his own show!

Turner Wilson also featured with Cheri Perry in Curgenv's recent instructional *This is the Roll* DVD. The last segment (50 mins) again sees Justine Curgenv and Barry

Shaw tackle a 1,000 mile circumnavigation together. This time it's the island of Tierra del Fuego right at the southern tip of the South American continent. It's high latitude, cold and very windy. The scenery is just stunning – glaciers tumble into the sea and wildlife abounds.

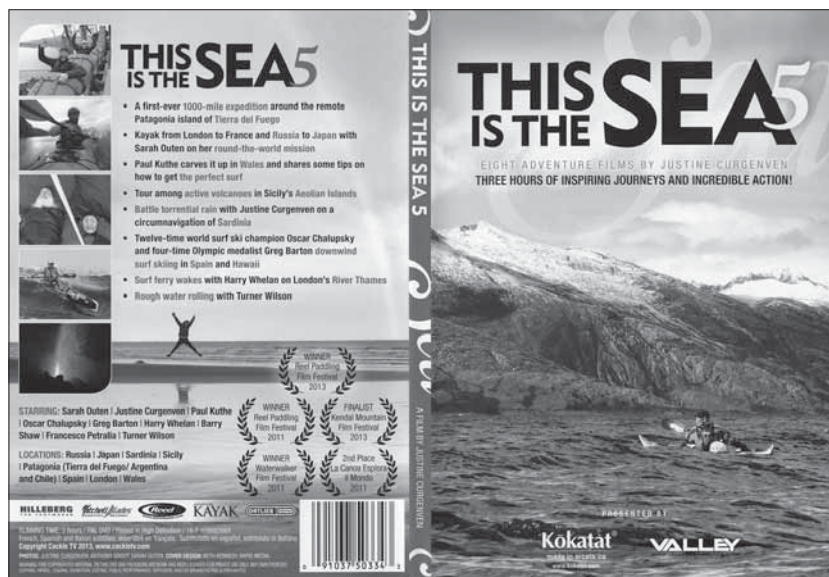
There is a nice intro to the pair in Wales – followed by the trip south, the collection of their kayaks from Customs etc. and with Argentinean bureaucracy it takes them 10 days to get on the water. Unfortunately, after only eight days on the water, Barry gets tenosynovitis in his wrist. It's a nasty, common disabling injury for a paddler and despite three week's rest it remains stubbornly painful for Barry. The pair has no choice but to put the trip, and Barry's wrist, on ice for 12 months.

They return the following year and complete the circumnavigation with

part of it in the reverse direction to dodge blistering headwinds. Some might wonder if this qualifies as a legit circumnavigation! I'd be keen to give a go. It is beautiful!

This segment is vintage Curgenv – laughter, Barry eating, tears, problem solving with minimal campsites, fierce winds and glorious paddling scenery – all beautifully filmed by the paddlers. One minor gripe – I would like to have seen a gear list for the trip and some more detailed trip info.

So, what of the future for Cackle TV and the TITS series? Do we want her to do it again? I'd love to see more, perhaps with Justine focusing her lens on some more instructional segments. The TITS series is widely viewed by sea kayakers and it's a great opportunity to stick in a little training segment here and there. And - no one would dare call it padding!



Baz and Justine's next trip is a 7 week paddle around Ireland



Barry and Justine at Blaketown Lagoon, Greymouth in 2008. Photos: P. Caffyn





## BOOK REVIEW

**Title:** *Paddling North*

**Author:** Audrey Sutherland

**Published:** 2012

**Publisher:** Patagonia Books

**Contents:** 171 pp, map per chapter, illustrations, recipes, bibliography

**Cover:** Casebound, dustjacket

**Size:** 153 x 244 mm

**Price:** NZ\$23 (Fishpond)

US\$15 (Amazon)

**ISBN:** 978-1-938340-02-4

**Review:** Paul Hayward

“Go Simple, Go Solo, Go Now...”

Good books come in many guises – some make you think, some make you feel, some educate and some just help you sleep. *Paddling North* made me stop and chuckle and then sit and think, with a smile on my face. Many times.

Audrey Sutherland has a great capacity to carry you with her, quietly and with humour. Carry you on a voyage of discovery as she paddles into a role as one of our kayaking greats. Great in heart and spirit and accomplishment, but so very uninterested in what the world thinks of her - arrestingly different to some modern kayak heroines.

In writing *Paddling North*, Audrey drew from her salt-stained journals, penned so many years ago in the tent before sleep; because as she says “long-ago recollections are always distorted”. This gives the tale a strong in-the-moment feel – the lessons Audrey learns are fresh and crisp. A few quotes: - “It is strange to wake each night and wonder where I am and is this real.” - “Warm and dry with sunshine, I would tackle anything.” - “But I was afraid, a deep gut fear.”

At 59, Audrey had decided that she needed to get on with it. She reprioritised her life and moved her dream of paddling in Alaska to the top. She took all she knew about kayaking and Hawaiian surf-coast swimming and worked out how to make paddling SE Alaska survivable

and enjoyable.

Over the next 22 years, Audrey returned to Alaska every summer and paddled 13,000 km – not to set any speed or distance records, not to tick any boxes, but just because she loved doing it. A few weeks into that first 87 day trip, she decided to “Start worrying less and enjoying more”. She clearly succeeded.

This is a tale of pure adventure – of how to pare down the challenge to the bare essentials, so that it becomes possible to step into a remote and challenging world and live a dream so well that you want to return each year until simple frailty prevents you.

She takes great delight in her food – creative ingredients with tiny amounts of wine and rum – her ‘epicurean spoof’ as she terms it. She soaks up the strange plants and animals and learns the weather, tidal and sea conditions. Alone in the wild, she ‘was a wary animal, alert to every sound, a part of it.’

This, of course was in 1980 - so the gear was primitive and the safety nets cobwebby. Novice or experienced, today’s kayakers can learn much. The whole book is full of insight into how to be safe while confronting risk. Not with certificates and standards and gadgets, but with eyes open, mind working hard and enough preparation of body, mind and simple gear to be flexible and ready to assess and surmount challenges or to retreat without shame or bruised ego. Audrey was safe and survived because she didn’t expect safety to come from following rules. She knew she had to make herself safe – so she did. Looking over her shoulder is as educational as any ‘Bugger File’ drama.

Spare in frame and delightfully spare in style as an author, Audrey sets a stage, enacts a scene and reflects on an outcome in just a few rich sentences. This is a slender book (170 pages), very much in keeping with her philosophy. It’s all the better for leaving out the fat.

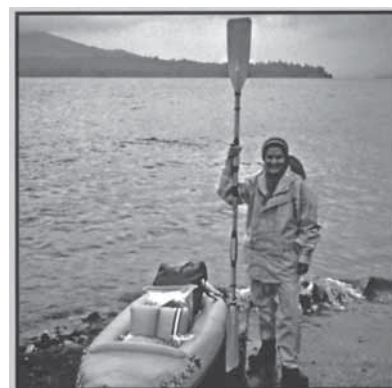


Lest you think the book is tied to being a monologue, Audrey uses a couple of dialogs... Left Brain – Right Brain and Paddler – Critic – Writer, which illuminate her decisions and amuse the reader. The maps are good, the illustrations a delightful alternative to the photos she couldn’t take and there are a few recipes thrown in for good measure.

Audrey is also skilled at drawing in the thoughts and writings of other writers – ones who have helped or inspired her in her adventures. Not one, but two bibliographies open the door to further enjoyment. I’ve read a good few of those on her lists – all of which inspire me to hunt up the rest.

As you may have guessed by now, I’d suggest you hunt up Audrey’s *Paddling North*. It’ll do everything a good book can - except put you to sleep.

*Dustjacket photo of Audrey with her inflatable kayak*





## BOOK REVIEW

**Title:** *Fiordland and Beyond*  
**Subtitle:** *A Circumnavigation of the South Island of New Zealand*  
**by** Kayak

**Author:** Max Grant

**Published:** February 2013

**Publisher:** Max Grant

**Website:** [www.q-kayaks.co.nz](http://www.q-kayaks.co.nz)

**Contents:** 143 pp, 15 mps, 165 colour photos, equipment list

**Cover:** hardcover and softcover

**Size:** 218 x 294 mm

**Price:** NZ\$ 35 s/c

NZ\$ 58 HC

**ISBN:** 978-0-473-22363-2 s/c

978-0-473-22362-5 HC

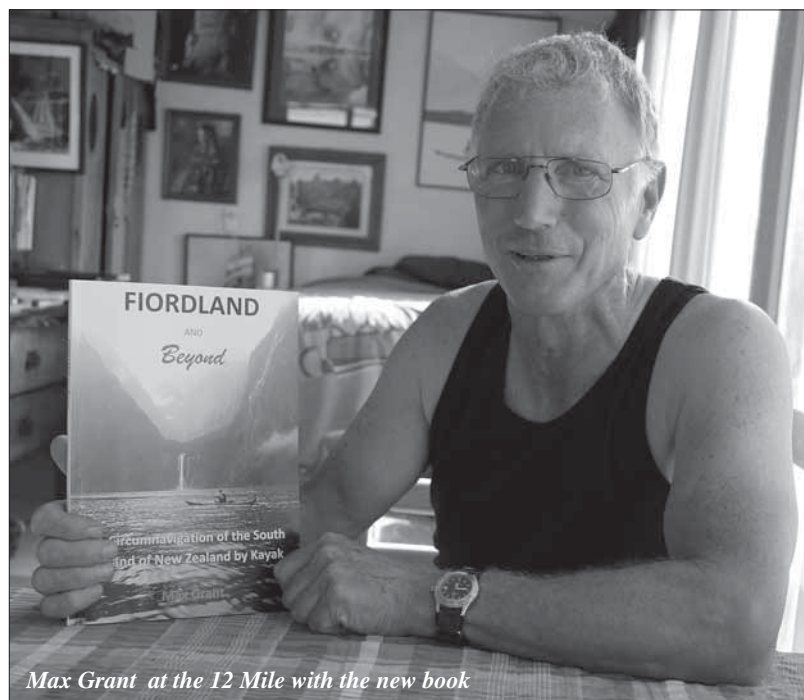
**Availability:** <http://q-kayaks.co.nz/index.php?id=latest-news>

**Review:** Paul Caffyn

Although the *New Zealand Sea Canoeist* kept paddlers informed and up to date with the adventures of Max and Melanie (Melz) Grant during their remarkable father and daughter team kayak circumnavigation of the South Island, this new book written and self published by Max is a valued addition to the stable of South Island books already in print.

What Max's book has over Chris Duff's *Southern Exposure* and Paul's *Obscured by Waves* is that all the photos in *Fiordland and Beyond* are in colour. One of the very positive aspects of self-publishing is that the author not only chooses the photos to accompany the text but also can place them where they are most relevant. Too often these days, new paddling books have either no photos or a slim black and white plate section where white background page overwhelms thumbnail size pics.

From the cover photo of a grey day in Milford Sound with sheer cliffs and waterfalls dropping into the sea, to the champagne and pavlova finishing photo at Jackson Bay, the 165 photos are all good story telling photos and so enrich the quality of the book. Fifteen large scale, detailed section maps add greatly to the quality of the book, showing the route followed



Max Grant at the 12 Mile with the new book

and overnight stops. It is so easy to flick back a page or two to look at the site of one of the horrific surf thrashings, scenery highlights or a meeting with locals.

On 29 April 2007 Max and Melz headed south, from Jackson Bay, to paddle around Fiordland to Te Waewae Bay. Work commitments dictated a three stage trip, the 1<sup>st</sup> to Milford, a 2<sup>nd</sup> stage to Doubtful Sound and a final stage to Te Waewae Bay, at the western entrance to Foveaux Strait. That 1<sup>st</sup> stage included a 'hell portage' from Big Bay up an old dozer track to the Pyke River, then downstream via the beautiful Lake Alabaster to the Hollyford River, then down river via Lake McKerrrow and over the Hollyford bar, then down the coast to finish in Milford Sound.

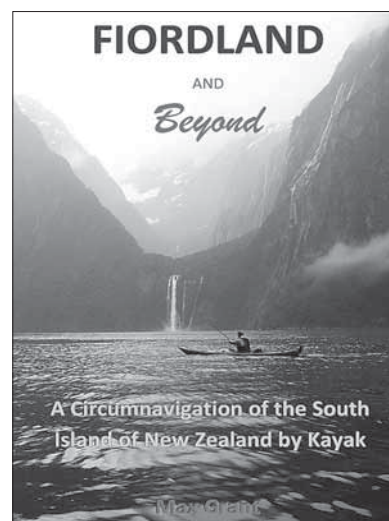
Once Fiordland lay astern, the plan then grew into completing a paddle right around the South Island. It grew also into a fundraiser for Child Cancer as Max's son, and Melz's brother, Steven had died of a brain tumour in the late 80s. Over \$7,000 was raised by the end of the trip.

Max's writing style is a treat to read, with graphic 'heart racing' details of severe thrashings in the West Coast surf, snippets of history, up close and personal encounters with marine fauna

and enjoying wonderful hospitality from the locals they met on the journey.

On 19 May 2010, Max and Melz paddled back into Jackson Bay, on a glorious sunny West Coast day, to be welcomed ashore with the traditional 'circumnavigators' pavlova and champagne.

A few minor spelling mistakes missed the final proofing, but that is such a minor quibble with a cracker of a book. Max printed both hard and soft cover editions, which can be sourced with the link above. Those of us fortunate to catch Max at the Raglan forum were able to get autographed copies, signed by Melz and Max.





## BOOK REVIEW

**Title:** *West Coast Walking*

**Subtitle:** *A naturalist's guide*

**Author:** Kerry-Jayne Wilson

**Published:** March 2013

**Publisher:** Canterbury University Press

**Website:** [www.cup.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.cup.canterbury.ac.nz)

**Contents:** 366 pp, colour photos, maps, species index, index

**Cover:** softcover

**Size:** 153 x 227 mm

**Price:** NZ\$ 40

**ISBN:** 978-1-927145-42-5

**Availability:** NZ bookshops

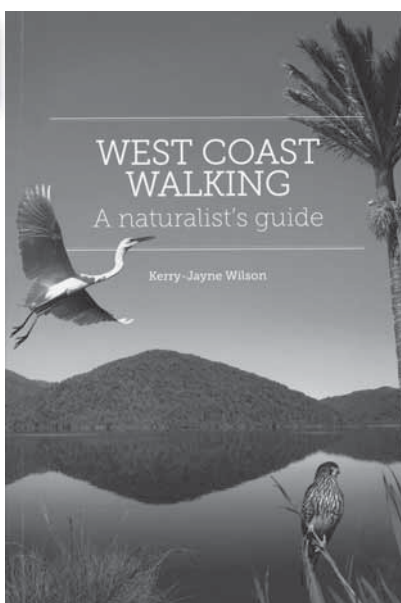
**Review:** Paul Caffyn

Kerry-Jayne Wilson is a long time KASK member and some of the gorgeous colour photos in this book have been taken from Kerry-Jayne's kayak.

After Kerry-Jayne retired from her Lincoln University lecturer (ecology and conservation) job, she moved to the West Coast and began a four year project of researching and writing a field guide to the fauna and flora from Haast northwards to Karamaea and east to include Arthurs Pass and Murchison. At the Hokitika book launch on 27 March, Kerry-Jayne said she was enjoying the research so much, the project could have run for another year or two, but the publisher gave her a very strict deadline to have the draft on her desk.

In Part One, 'Setting the Scene', three chapters describe the 'physical environment', 'plants' and 'vegetation and animals'. Each of these chapters is well illustrated, from the opening double page pic to the one or two photos per page, which are inserted to match the page text and the captions are well thought out.

In Part Two, nine chapters describe details for nature guides to the walks, lakes and highways of each region. A superb two page landscape photo highlights each region, while page edge side bars allow an easy of flick through to the right region. Each chapter has only one small scale map, which is perhaps a disadvantage, but easily overcome with



more detail on specific 1:50,000 topo maps or national park maps. A double page 'walk details' summary table follows each chapter map, with headings: length, grade and type, walk starts at, attractions, and a colour code showing at a glance the time for walks, from under an hour to four hours or longer. Those tracks with wheelchair access are shown. Kayak trips are tagged with crossed paddles.

Then each chapter tiki tours through the towns, walks, lakes and rivers. An example; Lake Mahinapua has an introductory paragraph, then describes the history, geology and geomorphology, vegetation and wildlife. Five walks are described with a final section on kayaking on the lake, complete with an easily recognizable photo of Sandy Ferguson paddling.

Occasional side-bars accompanying a photo, provide specific details on fauna and flora species. The 'Further reading' list is comprehensive, and just before the index is a 'Species index' for fauna and flora, with both page numbers listed for photos and text. Ideal for 'twitchers'\*.

The West Coast book launch, held in Hokitika, was well attended. Kerry-Jayne spoke of

how, during her research trips, people would react to see her armed with binoculars, species identification guides and notebook.

"What do you do?"

"I'm an ornithologist"

"A what?"

"An ornithologist, I study birds."

"Oh so you are a twitcher\*."

"No I do research on birds."

Stunned silence.

Next time I tried a new response:

"I'm an ecologist."

"So you are a sandal wearing, lentil-eating, hippy conservationist."

So the next time I tried: "I'm a naturalist."

"Oh so you like running round naked."

"NO, naturalist not naturist! I'm interested in natural history."

"Ah, so its gold-mining you study?"

"No, not history - nature!"

This book is a brilliant resource for paddling or tramping trips to the West Coast. The book will fit easily into a day hatch, or back pack. I would also suggest it is an ideal 'pressie' to attract friends or partners over to the wild West Coast.

\* I had to look this term up. Twitching is a British term used to mean, 'the pursuit of a previously-located rare bird.' In North America it is more often called 'chasing', though the British usage is starting to catch on there, especially among younger birders. The term twitcher, sometimes misapplied as a synonym for birder, is reserved for those who travel long distances to see a rare bird that would then be ticked, or counted on a list."

*Photo: Jose Watson*





## BOOK REVIEW

**Title:** *Paddling to Jerusalem*

**Subtitle:** *An Aquatic Tour of Our Small Country*

**Author:** David Aaronovitch

**Published:** 2000 (pbk 2001)

**Publisher:** Fourth Estate, London

**Website:** [www.4thestate.co.uk](http://www.4thestate.co.uk)

**Contents:** 306 pp (no photos or maps)

**Cover:** Hardcover with d/j

**Size:** 240 x 160 mm

**Price:** NZ\$ 24.95 (pbk)

**ISBN:** 1-84115-101-7 hardcover  
1-84115-131-9 paperback

**Availability:** ABEBooks.com

**Review:** Alan Hyde

A story of a family man in his 40s, journalist, 258 pounds +/-, mid life crisis. Bored with his job and overweight he intended to do something adventurous, so he bought a sea going kayak and set off going north from London on the canal system. He took a course in kayaking which seemed less than adequate.

Those who paddle the rivers and the sea rarely venture on canals. David reveals the drawbacks. After three days of rain he quits. He goes home but his wife returns him to the misery of views limited by canal banks, towpaths, dead dogs floating, vicious killer dogs defending grim warehouses, male swans defending their territory with fury.

Does this put you off the idea of reading the book? He captured my interest by the sardonic humour he employs. Several involuntary guffaws caused my wife to ask, "What's so funny?" To have known English events about 50 to 20 years ago, extracts the full flavour.

As the days and miles went by he came to locks on the canal where a difference in levels allows narrow boats to rise or fall from one level to another. Kayaks are not allowed to go through alongside narrow boats for fear they are sunk by the inrush of water – the kayaks that is. He relates how he exited the cockpit, put the loaded kayak on its wheels

and dragged it up the lock system, which can be anything from one to three and five more locks in a chain. Very wearying. Soon he found that narrow-boat skippers were happy to strap his kayak on the roof of the narrow boat and carry him upwards and onwards.

His views on Northern English ways are peppered with comments on the beauty of the land which being hilly could be seen from the cockpit. Camping on the grass adjacent to a pub had its drawbacks too. Fishermen with their rods, lines and hooks gave him problems. On the Severn at Ironbridge he descends Jackfield rapids where 1966-67 I took school children paddling. We changed in the bottle store of a pub there. Now the pub is derelict. He comments on the people where he enjoyed B&B - he is a powerful observer of human nature.

I found many critical observations. He mentions narrow-boats surging at speed, crewed by feckless youths, dropping water in the cockpit so it seems he did not use a spraydeck. Towards the end of his long journey he describes tenosynovitis, right wrist, (Feathered paddle, right hand control) which for a man engaged in writing is a serious drawback. In my view feathered paddles for novices on canals are unsuitable.

If English history going back to Oliver Cromwell interests you, the next bit as he follows the Thames is riveting. Well it riveted me. He mentions Osney Lock at Oxford where the spill weir could have killed me when the Thames was in flood - long story. To read these names took me there, his descriptions are powerful.

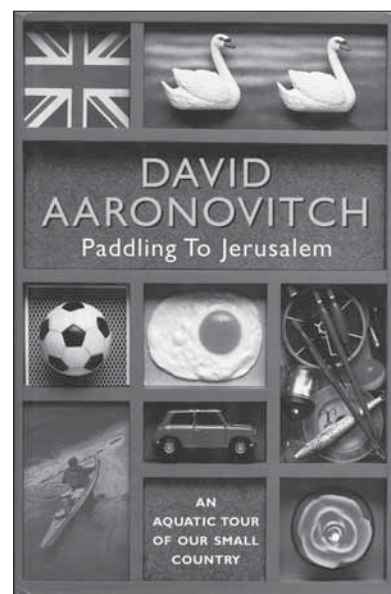
When tenosynovitis threatened, he called his wife and she took away the kayak, tent, accumulated gear and left him his walking boots. At Oxford he spends a night at the Randolph hotel, a pricey place for the well heeled. He continued his journey along the Thames towpath visiting places of interest along the way. He arrives at Greenwich and the site of the 'Dome of Discovery' still under construction. That dates his jour-

ney. Then he takes the Underground and goes home. The final part of the book is about his family, the emotion he expresses gave me reason to examine my own. This book is not much about kayaking, it is a solid warning about paddling on canals in cities, great on history of England, overall a gripping read.

'Paddling to Jerusalem' is (one assumes) a reference to Blake's hymn 'Jerusalem':

And did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?

And did the Countenance Divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Among these dark satanic mills?



### Book Queries

For any queries re sourcing titles or availability, please email me at: [kayakpc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kayakpc@xtra.co.nz)

### PADDLING BOOKS FOR SALE

In a listing of new and secondhand paddling titles, I have over 40 books available. Email for viewing.

### Past KASK Newsletters Available

Unfolded hard copies of most newsletters are still available - swap for stamps. On the KASK website, PDF copies of newsletters back to the dark ages can be downloaded.



## HUMOUR

### Soothsayer

In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the Mystic delivered grave news. "There's no easy way to tell you this, so I'll just be blunt. Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year."

Visibly shaken, Laura stared at the woman's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself - and to stop her mind racing. She simply had to know. She met the Fortune Teller's gaze, steadied her voice and asked, "Will I be acquitted?"

### Lawyer versus Psychologist

A handsome young male university student is looking for a place to sit in the crowded library. He asked an attractive girl, "Do you mind if I sit beside you?"

The girl replied in a really loud voice, "No, I don't want to spend the night with you!" All the students in the library started staring at the bloke. He was truly embarrassed and moved to another table.

After a few minutes passed, the girl walked quietly to the student's table and said with a giggle, "I study psychology, and I know what a man is thinking. I guess you feel embarrassed, right?"

The guy then responded with an equally loud voice, "\$500 for one night? That's too much!" All the people in the library looked at the girl in shock. The bloke then whispered in the girl's ear, "I study law, and I know how to screw people."

### Talented Golden Lab

A man sees a sign outside a house - 'Talking Dog for Sale'.

He rings the bell. The owner appears and tells him the dog can be viewed in the back garden. The man sees a very nice looking Golden Labrador sitting there.

"Do you really talk?" he asks the dog.

"Yes," the Labrador replies.

After recovering from the shock of hearing the dog talk, the man asks,

"So, tell me your story."

The Labrador looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government so I got in touch with the SAS. In no time at all, they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one imagined that a dog could be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years but the jetting around really tired me out.

I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at Heathrow to do some undercover security work, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded several medals. I got married, had a few puppies, and now I've just retired."

The man is amazed. He goes back into the house and asks the owner how much he wants for the dog.

"Twenty dollars," the owner says.

"Twenty dollars! But this dog is absolutely amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheaply?"

"Because he's a lying bastard. He's never even been out of the back garden."

### The Sensitivity of Seniors

This letter was sent to the Lions Bay School Principal's office in West Vancouver after the school had sponsored a luncheon for seniors. An elderly lady received a new radio at the lunch as a door raffle prize and was writing to say thank you. This story is a credit to all humankind.

'Dear Lions Bay School, God bless you for the beautiful radio I won at your recent Senior Citizens luncheon. I am 87 years old and live at the West Vancouver Home for the Aged. All of my family has passed away so I am all alone. I want to thank you for the kindness you have shown to a forgotten old lady.

My roommate is 95 and has always had her own radio - but she would never let me listen to it. She said it belonged to her long dead husband, and understandably, she wanted to keep it safe. The other day her radio

fell off the nightstand and broke into a dozen pieces. It was awful and she was in tears. She asked if she could listen to mine, and I was overjoyed that I could tell her to get a job that involved sex and travel. Thank you for that wonderful opportunity.

God bless you all.

Sincerely, Edna'

### Bacon and Eggs

On his first full day in office two English cooks upset the new Pope. The cooks, Tina and Marge asked if the Pope would like a full English breakfast. Clearly still upset by the 1982 Falklands episode, he responded with, "Don't fry for me Marge and Tina!"

### Cell Phone Etiquette

After a tiring day, a commuter settled down in her seat and closed her eyes.

As the train rolled out of the station, the guy sitting next to her pulled out his cell phone and started talking in a loud voice, "Hi, sweetheart. It's Eric. I'm on the train."

"Yes, I know it's the 6.30pm and not the 4.30, but I had a long meeting."

"No, honey, not with that blonde from the accounts office. It was with the boss."

"No sweetheart, you're the only one in my life."

"Yes, I'm sure, cross my heart"

Fifteen minutes later, he was still talking loudly. When the young woman sitting next to him had enough, she leaned over and said into the phone,

"Eric, hang up the phone and come back to bed."

Eric doesn't use his cell phone in public any longer.

### Tell Me This Won't Happen To Me

An elderly woman called 111, to report that her car has been broken into. She was hysterical as she explained her situation to the dispatcher: "They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried. The dispatcher said, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way." A few minutes later, the officer radioed in.

"Disregard," he says. "She got in the back-seat by mistake."



## 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, trip reports, book reviews, equipment reviews, new techniques, letters 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 via mail or cybermail to:

**Paul Caffyn,  
1843C, Coast Rd,  
RD 1, Runanga 7873, West Coast  
Ph: 03 731 1806  
Email: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz**

### **KASK Annual Subscription**

\$35 single membership.  
\$40 family membership.  
\$35 overseas (PDF email newsletter)  
For new members, a special price of \$15 is offered for the KASK Handbook - \$50 for the sub. & handbook.

A subscription form can be downloaded from the KASK website. Cheques should be made out to: Kiwi Association Sea Kayakers & mailed to:

**KASK Administrator  
PO Box 23, Runanga 7841  
West Coast**

### **Correspondence - Queries**

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS to:  
Kay Pidgeon, KASK Administrator  
PO Box 23, Runanga 7841  
West Coast**

**or email Kay at:  
admin@kask.org.nz**

### **4th Ed. KASK HANDBOOK**

Updated to March 2008

For trade orders of this mother of all sea kayaking handbooks, contact Paul Caffyn:

email: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz

Shop RRP: \$34.90

NZ KASK members only, including p&p: \$22.50 Make cheques out to Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers and mail to KASK Administrator:  
PO Box 23, Runanga, 7841 West Coast

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

### **SEA KAYAKING NETWORK ADDRESSES**

#### **NORTH ISLAND**

##### **NORTHLAND Canoe Club**

PO Box 755, Whangarei  
Catherine Keleher  
Ph: 09 436 0341  
email: cathkel@xtra.co.nz

##### **AUCKLAND Canoe Club**

PO Box 9271,  
Newmarket, Auckland  
email: secretary@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz  
**HAURAKI Kayak Group**  
PO Box 46-146, Herne Bay, Auckland  
email: kayak@hkg.org.nz  
www.hkg.org.nz

##### **WAIKATO KASK Contact**

Evan Pugh, RD2, Putaruru 3482  
email: sheepskinsnstuff@xtra.co.nz  
Ph: 07 883 6898  
www.sportsground.co.nz/bayseakayak

##### **RUAHINE Whitewater Club**

71 Salisbury St., Ashhurst  
Ph: 06 326 8667 Fax: 06 326 8472  
www.q-kayaks.co.nz/pages/club.asp

##### **BAY OF PLENTY - KASK Contact**

Iona Bailey, Tauranga  
Ph: 07 576 1492  
email: bailhut@kinect.co.nz

### **ROTORUA- KASK Contact**

John Flemming  
PO Box 1872, Rotorua  
Ph: 07 347 9950  
email: shakey@farmside.co.nz

#### **ROTORUA Kayak Club**

7 Mahana Place, Rotorua  
Ph: 027 292 3138  
email: Woolhouse.Clark@xtra.co.nz  
**GISBORNE Sea Kayakers Club**  
John Humphris, 3 Matthews Rd, Gisborne  
Ph: 06 868 4657  
email: thetrolls@xtra.co.nz

#### **WELLINGTON Sea Kayak Network**

Sandy Winterton, 1 Antico St, Melrose, Wellington  
Ph: 04 977 1862  
email: sandy@energyadvantage.co.nz  
www.wskn.wellington.net.nz

### **SOUTH ISLAND**

#### **MARLBOROUGH**

Martyn Smith  
Ph: 03 577 6256  
email: blueskua@hotmail.com

#### **NELSON - KASK Contact**

Chris Hinkley  
Ph: 03 526 6817  
email: kask@nelsonkayakers.co.nz  
**CANTERBURY Sea Kayak Network**  
Andy & Deirdre Sheppard  
53 Kent Lodge Ave,  
Avonhead, Christchurch 8004  
Ph: 03 342 7929  
email: d\_sheppard@clear.net.nz  
www.sportsground.co.nz/canterburyseakayak

#### **OTAGO**

Josh Sullivan  
Ph: 027 362 2122  
email: Paddlingmountains@gmail.com  
**SOUTHLAND Sea Kayak Network**  
Stan Mulvany  
03 215 7263  
email: eiger@xtra.co.nz  
www.sskn.uniformnz.com  
**SKOANZ**  
Sea Kayak Operators Assn. NZ  
email: pete@canoeandkayak.co.nz  
Ph 027 452 9255  
www.skoanz.org.nz

### **YAKITY YAK CLUBS**

www.canoeandkayak.co.nz  
or freephone: 0508 KAYAKNZ  
0508 529 2569

**KASK Website:  
www.kask.org.nz**



*New Zealand Fur Seal - 1st prize winner in the marine  
fauna and flora section of the KASK photo competition.  
Photo: Ruth Henderson*



*Lake Reflections - 1st prize winner of the KASK Forum 'Open' section of  
the photo competition Also winner of the Paddlers' Choice award.  
Photo: Colin Knight*





MAILED TO



**If undelivered, please return to:  
KASK, PO Box 23, Runanga, West Coast 7841**



*2013 Raglan KASK Forum - the Dave Winkworth rolling clinic; from left Colin and Raewyn Knight, Dave (blue top) with Wendon Hutchins, and Paul Caffyn (grey hat) with Nadia Lehmann. Photo: Iona Bailey*

### 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
- the KASK memberships 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 on confirming renewals from existing members from July to October; and promoting new KASK memberships from November to February

