



NEW ZEALAND SEA CANOEIST

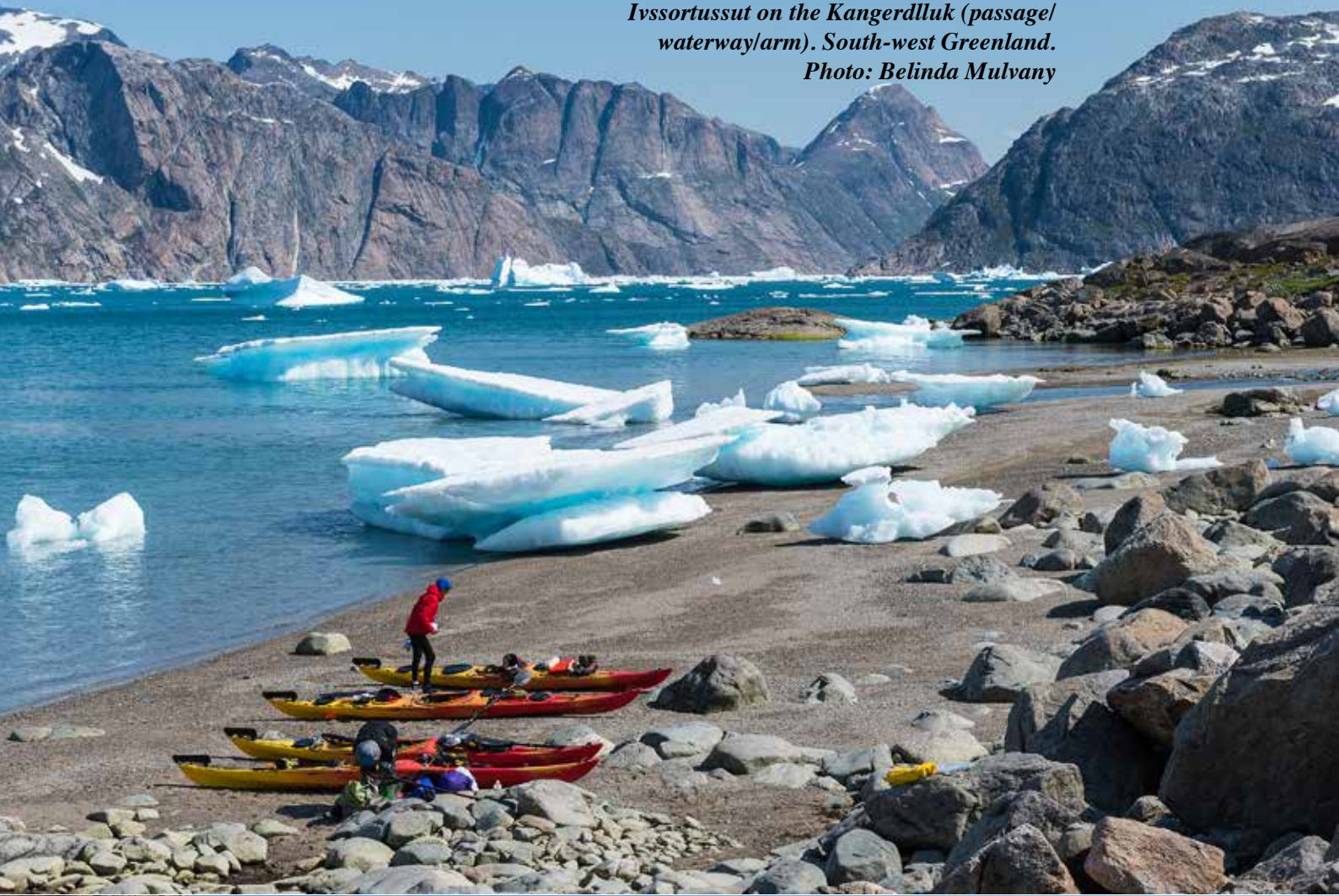
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August - September 2015

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

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*Ivssortussut on the Kangerdluk (passage/
waterway/arm). South-west Greenland.
Photo: Belinda Mulvany*



*Narssap Sarqa (passage/waterway/arm). The old name is the Herjolfsnes
Fjord. A stunning backdrop for an overnight camp in south-west
Greenland. See story on page 7. Photo: Belinda Mulvany*



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Editing & layout: Paul Caffyn
em: kayakpc@xtra.co.nzProofing: Lynda Ferguson
and Karen Grant
Deadline for material for
next magazine:
25 November 2015**RENEW PROMPTLY**

Please renew your membership promptly for 2016. You will have received a renewal form with your details. Include your KASK membership number when direct crediting.

Karen has received some nice letters from paddlers now too long in the tooth to paddle, and not renewing, but acknowledging the magazine and work down by KASK over the years.

EDITORIAL**KASK Membership Renewals**If you have not renewed for the 2015 - 16 year, your membership has now expired; it has shuffled off the mortal coil; this will be the last, very last KASK magazine you will receive via the postie. Apart from the wonderful *NZ Sea Canoeist* and the annual forums, KASK maintains the interest of recreational paddlers at a national level through its representation with the Safer Boating Forum and Water Safety NZ.

If you are unsure if your membership is current, please check the membership expiry date on the postal address label on your magazine. Karen Grant requests that you include your membership number with the direct credit bank statement details.

If you have yet to pay your membership subs, please check that the funds are going to the correct KASK bank account:
03 1706 0010205 00**2016 Anakiwa KASK Forum**

The Outward Bound School at the base of Queen Charlotte Sound is a superb venue for the 2016 KASK Forum, for on shore and deep water practical sessions; not to mention the fabulous tucker. The Sunday evening is our traditional paddle out to Mistletoe Bay for an overnight campout, sharing of favourite beverages and swapping stories about trips and favourite bits of kit.

Please register soonest with Lois Cowan; the four page centrefold can be carefully removed from this magazine, or downloaded from the KASK website. As Karen noted above, the KASK Forum account differs from the main 00 account. Either post, or scan and email your details back to Lois. If you can help with a session – either on or off the water – please let myself, JKA or Lois know.

The prestigious forum photograph competition will be on again. Nominations for the annual awards are sought – the Bigger! File, also better than average contributions to sea kayaking and the KASK magazine.

Overseas ReportsThis issue should really be the *Overseas Sea Canoeist* with a proliferation of Kiwi paddlers on wonderful overseas sojourns. Pretty amazing that Tara Mulvany's mum and dad were paddling in south-west Greenland while Tara was circumnavigating Svalbard.

Conrad Edwards soloed around the North Cape (Nordkapp) of Norway, marking almost 40 years since the first of the Frank Goodman-designed kayaks was used for a British expedition around the Nordkapp.

Paul Hayward and Natahsa Romoff experienced a run of fine weather during a paddle out of Seward, in southern Alaska. They had a near ramming experience with a very large and territorial humpback whale in Aialik Bay:

Thing was the size of a big freight truck and felt like a train going past the platform in a railway station. He wasn't just ambling along – he motored across our bows at 45°, and we would have hit his 'shoulder', but for some bow and stern rudder application. We were both scared the whale would deliver a coup-de-grace with a tail splash, so we were pushing for more distance and not reaching for our cameras. All the local kayaks are yellow, so perhaps our hull was misinterpreted.

CackleTVJustine Curgenven has announced the release of *This is the Roll 2* – expert tuition on 22 Greenland rolls: 'From popular favourites like the butterfly, we progress to hand and Norsaq rolls, culminating in the straight-jacket roll and sculling rolls.' The entire DVD can be purchased.**COVER:***The passing of the old days in south-west Greenland. The sun-bleached wooden frame of a West Greenland kayak in the town of Nanortalik. Fibreglass and aluminium 'tinnies' have now completely superceded the traditional seal skin and wooden frame kayaks in both east and west Greenland. Photo: Belinda Mulvany*

chased from Justine's website, or selected rolls as digital downloads.

John Kirk-Anderson has a review (p.20) of *TITS Aleutians*, Justine's careful shepherding of paddler Sarah Outen along the Aleutian Island chain to Homer. It is also available from: CackleTV.com

Recreational Boating Safety

1. Maritime NZ (MNZ) is promoting, for the 16 – 23 October Safer Boating Week, a new waterproof mobile phone pouch, which has been developed by Hutchwilco. Vastly superior to the past recommendation of using a ziplock bag, the new 'pouch' has three levels of waterproofing, two solid 'zip-locks' and a fold-over clip third line of defence. It comes with a lanyard for attachment around your neck or to decklines. Feedback after sea kayaking trails is in the offing from KASK committee members and John Kirk-Anderson.



The new cellphone pouch. Two sturdy zip-locks, a fold down and clip, plus a lanyard.

Members of the Safer Boating Forum will be provided with 100 of the new pouches. KASK will include one with each new member pack, and for those registering for the 2016 Anakiwa KASK Forum.

For lots more information about safer boating, visit:

Facebook: "[Safer Boating NZ](https://www.facebook.com/SaferBoatingNZ)"

Website: www.saferboating.org.nz

2. Forum Data Sub-Group

On behalf of KASK, I attended the initial meeting on 30 September in Wellington, of some of the recreational boating organizations which collect, maintain and analyse information on fatalities and incidents.

Keeping records is not all that an onerous task, but it is the analysis of recreational boating incidents that takes gumption and expertise. From that analysis comes the initiatives to help improve safety on the water. I was particularly impressed with the 'on the water' boatie interviews and analysis undertaken by Kim Parker of Environment Waikato, and the statistics and analysis provided by Patrick Holmes of Coastguard.

3. October 1 Safer Boating Forum

Not a lot of good news forthcoming; the National Government has rejected two MNZ/Safer Boating forum recommendations; the first for mandatory alcohol testing of skippers involved in accidents while underway, and second, a minor wording change to mandatory wearing of lifejackets instead of the existing 'mandatory carriage'.

Also disappointing, the last item on the agenda with draft guidelines on inflatable lifejackets for recreational boating - it states that inflatable lifejackets are not appropriate for: bar crossing, jet skiing, kayaking, towing (includes water skiing ...).

On a positive front, forum members are gearing up for the second annual 'Safer Boating Week' with excellent safety initiatives.

Lake Tekapo Double Fatality

Sad news re the two young Monash University students drowning in the cold waters of Lake Tekapo. Lots of unanswered questions; especially as to the recommended carriage of two means of emergency communications by the group of 11 paddlers.

Paul Caffyn

KASK Committee 2014 - 2015

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KASK Administrator (Karen Grant)		email: admin@kask.co.nz

2016 KASK NATIONAL SEA KAYAK FORUM

Friday 26 - Sunday 27 February 2016
Overnight campout Sunday evening at Mistletoe Bay.

If you can help with on the water sessions; please get in touch with John Kirk-Anderson: jka@snap.net.nz

If you have ideas for on shore sessions, or can help with the forum organization, please email Paul: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz

Experienced Aussie expedition paddler and film maker Larry Gray is our Saturday night keynote speaker.



POINT OF VIEW

Kayak Design & Safety by Mike Scanlan

Disclaimer – Mike has no financial interest in any kayak manufacturer or business

The NZ Sea Canoeist June – July 2015 (No. 177) featured articles on ‘Safety’ and contained some fascinating insights. Paddler skills, proper use of equipment (PFDs, communications, clothing etc), and sound judgement of conditions are identified as major factors contributing to safety.

John Kirk-Anderson’s ‘Bugger File’ showed that even a person at the top end of kayaking skills can end up in the water out of his kayak. John may berate himself over ‘skill erosion’, but the fact is his skill level far exceeds that of most readers of this magazine.

Similarly one of NZ’s best Greenland rollers wet-exited in rough conditions at the Martin’s Bay International Kayak Week a few years back after a failed roll. It can happen to even the most skilled.

A major safety issue with kayaks is that a capsized, flooded kayak is very difficult to get back into, and then pump out, in rough/very rough conditions.

In very rough conditions and surf (where capsizes are most likely to occur) assisted rescues may not be possible - they should not even be attempted in surf. Paddle float self-rescues are very marginal, particularly at the pump-out stage in an unstable flooded kayak, and a re-entry and roll (paddle-float assisted), is not as easy as it sounds.

All of these techniques are much harder in rough, cold conditions than in controlled practice sessions.

The impact of kayak design on safety gets much less attention, other than an occasional comment on kayak suitability for individual



The Star Kayak; all photos: Mike Scanlan

skill levels (Dave Winkworth in the KASK magazine). Kayak design is also much less controllable by paddlers – you can only buy what manufacturers offer.

What difference would it make to your safety if you could re-enter a kayak, in rough conditions, on your own, by simply hoisting yourself back in and paddling away (with no aids)?

I regularly practice exactly this in my kayak and it is made practicable by its large cockpit entry/exit and small cockpit flooded-volume (‘pod’).

The advantages of a small flooded-volume cockpit (pod) design are mentioned in John Kirk-Anderson’s KASK magazine article – their reduced volume means there is much less water to slosh around and tip you back over after re-entry. Hopefully their design will also allow you

to tip out 90% of that water by holding the kayak on its side before re-entry.

And what water remains is more central in the cockpit.

I can sit in my kayak, fill the cockpit up to overflowing with water, and rock it vigorously side to side, with solid stability. Entry is done by holding the cockpit rim on each side and launching the body up and across the kayak, twisting sideways, and dropping my backside into the cockpit. The legs are then swung in.

This manoeuvre is not a delicate balancing act and the average paddler would have little trouble in quickly learning it. Everyone who has tried it with me has succeeded.

The large cockpit entry/exit size also makes launching and landing much simpler, particularly in surf and dumper wave situations (also discussed in the June-July KASK magazine). I routinely launch my kayak in knee-deep water by dropping my backside sideways into the cockpit and then swinging the legs in and paddling off. Same technique in reverse for exits. This makes for

The large cockpit with thigh straps to allow bracing



Exiting the cockpit



Emptying the cockpit

a much faster launch/exit which can be crucial. It is also far easier to get in and out of the kayak – significant for bodies that are not as flexible as they used to be.



Getting ready for the cockpit re-entry

The cockpit design has not compromised kayak performance. In surfing sessions, good-sized breaking waves have not caused the larger-sized sprayskirt to implode.

The 60 cm width of the kayak is the same as most sea-kayaks, and paddling speed, manoeuvrability and stability are as good as any kayak I have paddled. Solid thigh braces got in the way of easy entry/exits



The upwards launch back into the cockpit



Back in the cockpit

so the thigh-belt setup was devised (if wanted). It has a quick-release buckle, or you can just slide out backwards.

These two cockpit design features combine to significantly add to my kayaking safety. In addition to my regular practice-roll sessions in the ocean, checking the marine forecast before leaving, etc, I now have an extra layer of safety so that, if events put me out of my kayak and in the water, it is now a simple matter get myself back in.

The photos give an idea of the re-entry in action but a much better look is on video I recently recorded - *YouTube Easy Kayak re-entry (Star Kayaks)*

I hope that tradition does not get in the way of good debate.

Mike Scanlan



That was easy!

TECHNICAL

Waterproofing Cameras by Belinda Mulvany

Regarding the Sport Housing (not for diving but OK in the waves etc) for my camera. The main thing is, I got my camera back home from Greenland, safe and sound this time. But then again I didn't fling the camera into the sea either.

It certainly relieved the stress of having to try and keep it dry. It meant it was sitting on the deck in front of me at all times, ready for use. By the end of the trip I even managed to take 3-5 photos in one go without needing to put it down for a rest. It is heavy!

The issue regarding not being able to turn the camera on and off whilst in the housing ended up not being as big a problem as I had envisioned. I just bought a 3rd battery. The batteries for my camera last a long time.

The biggest hassle was not having a fitting on the right hand side of the housing to attach a cord and carabiner to. The kayaks did not have full deck lines either. So I had to be very careful with launching and landing. (The kayaks were hard-chined so very wobbly). Fortunately the kayak had a front day hatch, so I just sat the camera on that. If the deck had been curved or a v-shape as per the Q-Kayaks *Penguin*, I would have had to put it on the sprayskirt which would have been a real pain.

The optional neoprene cover over the front of the port/lens was excellent most of the time, as it prevented the usual water droplets on the port/lens.

Due to fluctuating temperatures, there were issues with fogging at times. But this can be expected even without the housing.

Overall it was a success. My main suggestion for anyone with waterproof housings, or even waterproof compacts, is to have some sort of cover over the port/lens which can be quickly removed and replaced, as constantly having to wipe the port/lens does not work.

Overseas Reports

Sea Kayaking to Prins Christian Sund by Stanley Mulvany

In 2014 I led a sea kayaking trip to Tasermiut Fjord in south-west Greenland and on the last day in Nanortalik, I climbed a mountain behind the town and looked south to a hazy coastline disappearing into an archipelago of islands, the gateway to the renowned Prins Christian Sund Fjord. A look at the topo map showed a vast network of fjords, like the spokes of a wheel radiating out from Augpilagtoq, the most southerly village in Greenland. All mysterious and alluring. I had to return.

Mark and Lisa, from Sydney, joined Belinda and myself, making a party of four. We arrived in Narsarsuaq on 14 July from Copenhagen and took a connecting helicopter to Nanortalik. There we were met by Niels Jepsen and taken to his hostel 'Matilda' by the sea. I had rented 4 *Rainbow Laser* 5.5 sea kayaks from a Frenchman called Yann Guillou.

We spent a day getting organized and then on the morning of 16 July we kayaked out of Nanortalik. At Tuapait just around the headland we were amazed to see musk ox. They are through the Arctic in North America and in north-east Greenland but not in the SW so I figured it was a re-introduction. Niels confirmed this later. Musk ox along with the North American bison are one of the few large animals to have survived the ice ages in North America and Greenland. They are entirely at ease on the tundra. It is similar to the Highland cattle of Scotland though bigger, with long hair and a huge



head crowned with rapier like horns curved forward close to the head. They move with measured steps, placidly across the landscape.

We then crossed to the south shore of Tasermiut Fjord, and around a huge headland into the open Labrador Sea. We followed big sea cliffs along the coast and after about 5 kms, entered a passage between an island and the headland and stopped for lunch. We eventually arrived at a deserted house at a place called Igdlukasik, where we set up camp inside. On the hill above was a large cross and at least eight graves. The graves are just piles of rock placed over the body and, looking down, you can see skulls and bones of the deceased. There was a melancholy air about this deserted place and looking down at the ruined house and rusting child's swing outside, I could imagine a way of life swept away in the changing way of life of the Inuit people. Off shore a few seals were periscoping and keeping an eye on us.

We had a comfortable night in the house and were greeted by a lovely day. We paddled south between islands to an opening towards the ocean. Here we saw a large iceberg and the current was flowing strongly around it to the sea, ruffling the surface in boils and eddies. We followed more sea cliffs on a bumpy sea to the opening to Sandhavn on the left. Later we came to a bay with a sandy beach at the head and Norse ruins.



What a delightful place, a peninsula surrounded by steep mountains and the remains of an ancient church and some Norse ruins scattered about. Herjolfsnes was a Norse settlement established in 985 by Herjolf Bardsson, about 50 km northwest of Cape Farewell. Herjolf accompanied Eric the Red in the great exodus from Iceland in 985. Eric and his kinsmen chose to settle away from the sea further north deep in the fjords where the weather was milder and where the land was more suited to farming. Herjolf probably decided to settle at this place and use it as a trading post for incoming ships to the Norse settlements. It was the most southerly and easternmost homestead of the colony's Eastern Settlement.

It was a lovely day with little wind as we set up camp. The flies were bad so we needed our headnets right away. Once that was done I



*From left, Stanley Mulvany, Mark and Lisa in SW Greenland.
Photo: Belinda Mulvany*



Belinda with her waterproof DSLR housing on the foredeck

went off and climbed a pointy peak about 500 m above me to the right of a prominent waterfall. There was an absolute riot of colourful flowers and it was a peaceful and enjoyable climb with no drama.

We camped near the ruins. All that remained of the church were low stone walls. The Norse houses were depressions surrounded by earth walls and tall grass. The sun snuck up over the mountains at 6.00 am and warmed up the tent. It was another lovely, windless day.

It was a 3 km crossing to Narsap Kujalleq past numerous icebergs. This is a small colourful village and we left a weeks food with Lars Kuist, the local school teacher to pick up on our return. We rounded a headland and paddled into the channel between the mainland and Nunarssuaq, a large offshore island. There were steep mountains dropping into the fjord and we found a small bay backed with a boulder beach, and landed there.

Next day we paddled about 20 km northward past spectacular mountains to Stordalens Havn. Towards the end of the paddle the mountains were giant pinnacles 1500 – 1700 m high and dropped vertically into the fjord. The ice increased and seemed very closely packed where the fjord took a right turn towards Augpilagtoq. We landed and found a nice campsite near a Norse ruin.

The wind died during the night and

mist drifted in around us so it was warmer next morning. We packed up and were off early heading east towards Augpilagtoq. The ice gradually thickened as we closed on Augpilagtoq and we were following narrow leads around a rocky headland, weaving in and out around enormous icebergs. Eventually we found a lead into the small harbour through its narrow entrance, which was almost blocked with ice. Inside it was pretty clear and we landed on a seaweed-clogged foreshore. We bought some bread, cinnamon loaf and drinks in the small store that was surprisingly well stocked.

Then we took off and at the entrance noticed the ice if anything, was worse and fast moving in the current. Here we made a stupid mistake and followed a narrow lead between the cliff and the ice and to our horror found it closed off behind us almost immediately. Belinda jumped up on the rock to look for more leads and spotted some out to our right and shouted for us to hurry before they closed. So Lisa and I took off at great speed and reached more open leads in the centre of the fjord and waited and waited and then became alarmed when Mark and Belinda did not appear. I was just about to dash back in when Mark and Belinda appeared somewhat shaken as Belinda had got jammed between two ice floes coming together and only with

difficulty managed to break free. We resolved never to enter close pack ice again. Out in the middle of the fjord the ice was still moving fast in the current, but the leads were big so we had no difficulty in reaching Kangerdluk Fjord and found a camping place at Ivssortussut. It was warm and inviting with spectacular views.

The next day we decided to go for a walk up Kangerdluk Fjord and climb up to the pass that led to Taserssuaq Lake. It was a pleasant walk over undulating slopes covered in dwarf birch and willow. As we were having dinner a Norwegian kayak guide called Camilla Ianke whom we'd met earlier, and her team paddled into the bay. They camped on the other side of the river and she came over for a chat. She told us the local Inuit had shot three polar bears recently which was slightly worrying news.

The following day we paddled over to Nuk, about 8 kms away. We landed in a shallow bay where there were two seal carcasses lying on the rocks. Just behind the bay were the derelict ruins of Inuit huts with rubbish scattered about - not a pleasant site. We then paddled up Kangikitsaq Fjord and camped on a pleasant flat at its head. The flats were surrounded by spectacular mountains and backed by odd conical shaped hills about 20-30m high.

The verticality of the south-west Greenland fjords, and Stanley sticking his tongue to a icy bergy bit. Photos: Belinda Mulvany



July 23 was Belinda's birthday so she slept in till 9.30 am. We presented her with a bouquet of wild flowers plus a camera mug, a present from Tara to Belinda. In the afternoon at camp I brought out the birthday cake I'd taken along and put some candles in it.

On 24 July we paddled back down the fjord and checked out the cabins the others had seen on the left side and the ice conditions in Nup Kangerdlua. One cabin was tidy enough and had a gas range and a red wig hanging on a hook on the wall. I could not resist the temptation of donning this and posing outside, like a rock star. At Nup we again stopped for lunch. The seal carcasses were still there so we paddled on around the headland into Nup Kangerdlua and after about 7 kms, we pulled into a small bay on the left and camped on a nice terrace above the beach. We used this as our base and next day paddled up to the tidewater glacier at the head of the fjord on the right.

Over the next few days we paddled south into Prins Christian Sund and camped at Igdlorssuit, a valley where a glacier reached a sandy plain behind the beach. The following day we paddled back to Augpilagtoq and then headed down Torssukatak Fjord back to Fredericksdal. Over the next few days we explored the Herjolfsnes Fjord and climbed a 750 m peak at its head. The views were stunning of lakes, mountains and rock spires above glaciers and snowfields.

On our return journey we portaged over to Tasermiut Fjord to avoid the big headland at its mouth. Once in Tasermiut fjord we paddled to Tasiussaq, the only village in the fjord and camped in the big bay behind the town. On 15 August we woke to -6°C with frost on the tent. Conditions were calm as we paddled back to Nanortalik, which we reached at 10.30am. Then it was a big cleanup and the next day, we left Nanortalik for our return journey.

Stanley Mulvany
Invercargill
16/9/15

Overseas Reports

Kayakers complete World First Circumnavigation of Svalbard Archipelago

Words and photos from Jamie Sharp

On the 5 September 2015, a team of three kayakers completed the first ever kayak circumnavigation of Svalbard Archipelago. The 2,200 km long journey took them 71 days, during which they paddled north over the 80th parallel, had many encounters with polar bears, negotiated ice choked waters, survived gales, and endured days of freezing temperatures in the Arctic wilderness.

The team consisted of New Zealanders Tara Mulvany and Jaime Sharp, as well as Per Gustav Porsanger from Norway. It was Jamie who first envisioned the trip six years ago and brought the team together. He noted, "I had dreamt of doing a trip like this since I was a kid. Arctic exploration in my mind is the plateau of any pursuit and of course every adventurer dreams of claiming a 'world first'. Even after watching the failed attempts previously over the last six years, I was still drawn to do the trip, and this year it all fell into place as if it was meant to be."

In late 2014 the dream began turning into a reality and with Tara and Porsanger onboard they began organizing, planning and preparing for the expedition which they expected to take between 2-3 months.



26 hours of continuous paddling along 180 kms of ice cliffs

Situated in the Arctic Ocean between 76-81° north, Svalbard Archipelago has seen a number of attempts by expedition kayakers over the years, the last being in 2010 when two Norwegian paddlers were attacked by a polar bear while sleeping in their tent. In order to save the man, who the polar bear had dragged from the tent by his head, the other had to shoot the bear dead while not hitting his mauled team-mate. Despite this known harsh reality, Sharp's dream persisted.

With the constant threat of polar bears, the kayakers slept in shifts with one person awake at all times on 'polar bear watch' to guard their camp. Numerous times they were



One of the team's unbearable moments. What a photo by Jamie Sharp!

forced to use rifles and signal gun shots to scare away bears, some in excess of 800 kg and which came within 50 m of their camp. They saw a total of 40 bears during their expedition. The most intense encounter required 13 rifle rounds and six flash bangs to repel a single bear, only to have yet another one come at the group only a minute later. "Sometimes you just have to use the rifle," Porsanger stated bluntly. Thankfully the group never had to shoot a polar bear in defence, which by Norwegian law would have brought their trip to a premature end.

Apart from the bears, one of their biggest challenges was a 180 km uninterrupted glacial front, with waters often choked with ice debris, which took them over two days to cover including one last push of more than 26 hours of continuous paddling until they could step on solid ground again. For 17 hours of this endeavour, they were also surrounded by thick fog and had to navigate by compass. Tara Mulvany described this experience as being, "Brutal yet beautiful, and totally surreal."

They also tackled a number of long open water crossings across the fiords, the biggest being 65 kms which took them 15 hours of paddling before they landed on the other side.

In their 18 foot long sea kayaks, they carried more than 50 days worth of food, as well as rifles, camping gear and everything else that they needed to be self sufficient for months at a time. Along the way they had one food resupply, which they had organized for a small cruise boat to drop for them approximately 500 kms into their journey.

Some of their highlights included sleeping atop a low section of glacial cliff, many encounters with wildlife including walrus, belugas, humpbacks and fin whales, as well as swimming polar bears who, despite attempting to eat the kayakers, were one of the most memorable moments of the trip.



Only in the high Arctic could you see a sight like this.

When asked if they would do it again, the unanimous opinion was, "No!" Sharp stated. "We were so lucky with many things, not just the sea ice breaking and allowing us to pass, but the weather. We had a weather year like no other, and all the locals scoffed in disbelief on our return when we told them how little wind we had the whole trip. We hit the jackpot. This kinda trip is about being prepared and able yes, though there is a reason so many have failed before. I believe Svalbard is 70% luck, she has to want you to succeed."

Further information about their journey can be found at:

www.svalbard.worldwildadventure.com



The successful Svalbard circumnavigators

For Sale

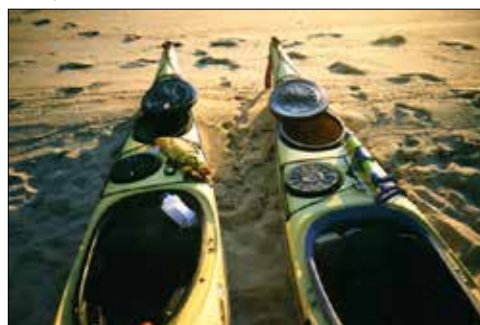
Two Wilderness Systems *Tempest 170 Pro* Sea Kayaks

Winner of *Seakayaker Magazine* Readers' Choice Award. For further details see: <http://www.wildernesssystems.com.au/index.php?wildernesssystems=16&boat=1>

Used, but lovingly cared for. Ready to go. Complete setup for two kayakers. Two very stable 17', composite, sea kindly, comfortable, three hatches, retractable skeg. Kevlar paddles, custom covers, spray decks, hatch covers, PDFs, bilge pumps etc. Also included is one brand new, never used; Flat Earth sail, Outdoor Research Tarp. Durable boats that look good. Ideal all-rounders - suitable for competent beginners and experienced kayakers. One kayak yellow overall, other kayak with yellow deck and white hull. Kayaks available for inspection in Nelson.

\$3,500 for two kayaks and gear. Price negotiable for individual kayaks.

For detailed complete list and additional information.
Contact: pinotd@me.com





2016 NATIONAL KASK FORUM

REGISTRATION FORM

Cobham Outward Bound School, Anakiwa, Marlborough Sounds

Friday 26 - Monday 29 February 2016

Based at Anakiwa Outward Bound School, on the foreshore of Queen Charlotte Sound,
Outward Bound provides the most scrumptious meals for paddlers in all of NZ

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

Evening Speakers Include:

Friday night: Max Grant on paddling in the Sub-Antarctic islands (sea sick pills available)

On Saturday night, Australian expedition paddler and film maker Larry Gray is our keynote speaker. Larry was a member of the 1986 Australian kayak expedition to East Greenland, and has subsequently filmed a kite surf kayak crossing of the Greenland Icecap, and paddling in the Solomon Islands.

On the Water Instruction:

By popular demand, Australian paddler David Winkworth, is returning again to Anakiwa with brand new instruction sessions along with his new fireside chat sessions. John Kirk-Anderson is co-ordinating the on-the-water instruction program. If you can help with a session, email JKA: jka@snap.net.nz

Sunday Night Campout at Mistletoe Bay:

Paddling distance from Anakiwa to the campsite is a leisurely 8 kms (5 miles). Mistletoe Bay is a sheltered elongate bay at the head of the northerly trending Omahau Bay. We launch from Anakiwa after 3 pm on the Sunday, which leaves plenty of time for chatting on the water, and we paddle back to Anakiwa by mid-morning Monday.

Non - KASK Members: For an extra \$20, on top of the \$180 registration fee, paddlers will be given five month's membership of KASK (from March to 31 July)

The KASK Forum offers:

- grand opportunities to take part in practical and theoretical sea kayak training
- share of ideas on sea kayak design, equipment and gadgets
- learn about the local area and journey out on exploratory paddles
- attend the KASK AGM with paddle trophy award presentations
- join the paddle out to Mistletoe Bay for the overnight camp-out on the Sunday night
- bring your photos for display in the prestigious KASK Photo Competition

Registration: from 5 pm Friday 26 February



*Anakiwa
offers perfect
conditions for
on the water
instruction*

2016 NATIONAL KASK FORUM - REGISTRATION FORM

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Email(s): _____

Phone: _____

Mobile(s): _____

Emergency contact while at Forum

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

ACCOMMODATION

Spacious bunkrooms on site. Bring sleeping bag and pillow.

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 Friday night, the Sunday night camp-out dinner & for breakfast Monday morning.

Vegetarian food is available.

Tick if you require vegetarian meals:

☐

BYO wine / beer or drink of choice.

Tick if you require gluten free meals:

☐

Smokefree: Anakiwa is a smoke free site.

KAYAK HIRE

Kayak hire is available from Anakiwa Sea Kayak Adventures. For more info see: www.nzseakayaking.com

Email Aaron: info@nzseakayaking.com (mention the KASK forum for a discount)

Phone: (NZ ONLY) 0800 ANAKIWA (262 5492). From overseas: (0064) 3 5742765

MISTLETOE BAY CAMPOUT (Sunday night):

Bring your cooker, food for dinner and breakfast Monday morning, tent, sleeping bag, etc.

Fresh water on tap, toilets on site. Undercover cooking in bad weather.

TRANSPORT

Ferry pickups available by arrangement at additional cost

Please indicate :

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

EMAIL Contacts:

For general forum enquiries or offers to assist at the forum email Paul Caffyn:

kayakpc@extra.co.nz

Financial/registration queries to Lois Cowan:

loisc@paradise.net.nz

On-the-water instruction and sessions to John Kirk-Anderson:

jka@snap.net.nz

View from seawards of the beach at Anakiwa. The Outward Bound School is just behind the row of trees.



Instruction Sessions

What on-the-water instruction sessions would you like included in the program?:

Email JKA (John Kirk-Anderson) if you can instruct or assist with on the water sessions: jka@snap.net.nz

On Shore Sessions

Particular topics you would like included in the program?:

Email Paul Caffyn if you can present a session: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz

Note: Forum participants will be expected to abide by the guidelines set by the FORUM organizers

- No refunds after 31 January 2016 due to booking and catering -

FORUM COST

- KASK member \$180 per person
- Non-KASK member \$200 per person (includes five month's KASK membership)

Cost includes bunkroom accommodation on Friday & Saturday nights plus Sunday night camp-out fee; Saturday breakfast, lunch & dinner, Sunday breakfast, lunch; morning/afternoon teas)

PAYMENT / QUERIES: please pay by direct credit

Financial queries to Lois Cowan: loisc@paradise.net.nz

I enclose my registration fee of: \$ _____

Make cheques out to: **KASK 2016 Forum**

For internet banking, include your name

and (both if a couple) initials please. The account details are:

Bank: Westpac

Account Name: KASK 2016 Forum

Account No: 03 1706 0010205 01

Return form with cheque payment to:

**Lois Cowan
KASK FORUM 2016
113 Malcolm Avenue
Beckenham
CHRISTCHURCH 8023**

On-line registration is also being set up via the 'Events Page' on the website: www.kask.org.nz
Also planned, an email to KASK members inviting on-line registration

FERRY BOOKINGS FOR OVERSEAS PADDLERS (North Island)

Book early for vehicle ferry travel across Cook Strait. There are two ferry services, Bluebridge and InterIslander. Allow the following week for tiki-touring in the Marlborough Sounds, or around D'Urville Island. Plans are afoot for semi-organized gatherings.

From:

**To: Lois Cowan
KASK FORUM 2016
113 Malcolm Avenue
Beckenham
CHRISTCHURCH 8023**

KASK NATIONAL SEA KAYAK FORUM ANAKIWA 2016

FOR MORE INFO: WWW.KASK.ORG.NZ



**Where: Anakiwa Outward Bound School - Marlborough Sounds, South Island
When: Friday 26 - Monday 29 February 2016
Registration form is also on the KASK Website**



Overseas Reports

The Broken Group – a Gem on Vancouver Island

Text by Margot Syms

Map and photos by Peter & Margot Syms

The Broken Group Islands lie in Barkley Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. They are part of the Pacific Rim National Park, and are a kayaking Mecca. They provide relatively sheltered waters with little in the way of tidal currents, and yet you still have the opportunity to sample the Pacific Ocean swell by poking your nose outside the island group. There are neither bears nor wolves on the islands. In other words it is an ideal place for the faint hearted like us to do their own thing in a foreign land where they have had little experience.

Our five night trip started in Port Alberni. Up with the larks, kayak gear and food all packed in dry bags, taxi to the dock, fill 40 litres of water bags, load all gear into a bin to be hoisted on board the coastal steamer *Frances Barkley*, and we were on our way to our kayak starting point, the Sechart Lodge. We were not the only paddlers on board, and some had their kayaks with them too. We chugged out the 50 km long Alberni Inlet passing at least a 100 fizz boats trolling for sockeye salmon, which were jumping tantalisingly all around.

At the lodge, a gaggle of us got our pre-booked hire kayaks and started packing. About a dozen spirited young lads were embarking on a holiday together. All in single kayaks, their boats, carrying more beer than water, looked a little top heavy. I tried to find out where they were heading, but the chap I asked did not know the name of the camp, just that it was well out. You may camp only at the seven designated campsites, which all have toilets. There is no fresh water available, and you have to carry all you need - or boil your dinner in beer.

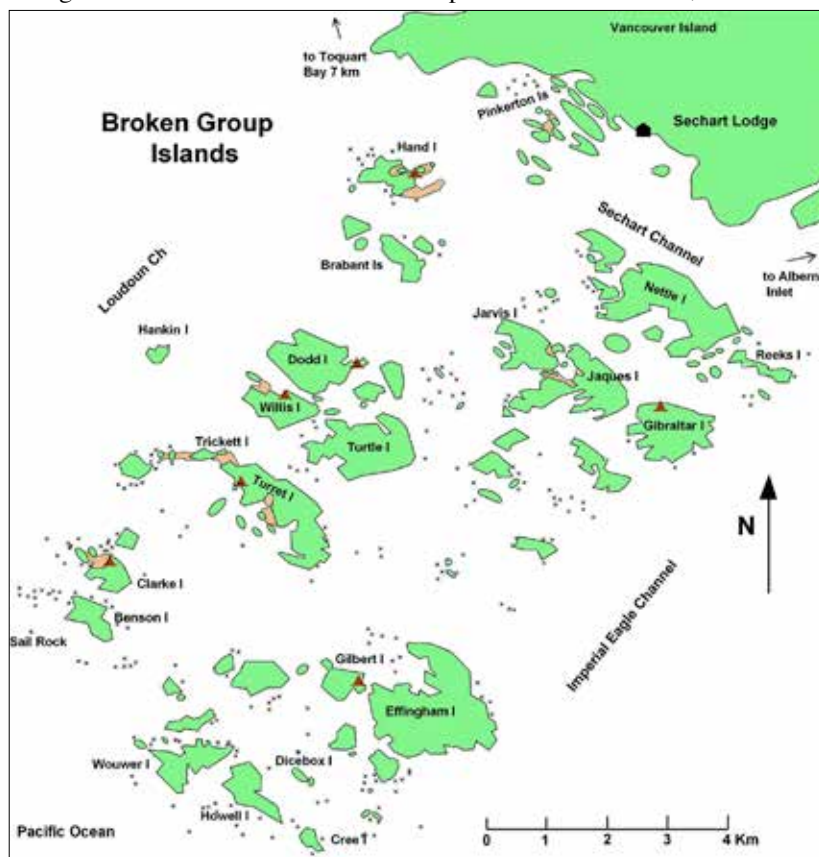
We hired a double kayak, as is our norm, but there was no kayak

trolley available to hire. Maybe the two young ladies who also hired a double would have been able to get assistance carrying their boat up the, at times, rocky beaches, but with our grey hairs we decided not to risk it. We had bought the cheapest trolley available, and considered the cost part of the hire - still cheaper than two singles. At the end of the trip we gave it to the lodge, with the hope they might let other hirers use it.

We were the last kayak to depart and paddled over to Jarvis Island for lunch, sitting on a log just out of the water at high tide, because there was no beach handy. Then after paddling through the Willis, Dodd and Turtle island group we tried to get between Trickett and Turret islands aiming for the camp on the far side of the latter. There are several examples of intertidal beaches joining islands in the area, and the tide had dropped enough for this one to foil us. So we

had to detour around the south end of Turret Island to get there. We were rewarded by finding no sign of the 12 young lads, so decided to stay. We shared it with a guided group of about eight and another couple, room for all, and peaceful enough.

The prevailing summer weather, which was forecast for our trip, is north-west winds, calm in the mornings and building during the day to a maximum mid afternoon. So on the morning of Day 2 we decided to have a look on the wild side. We paddled out around the west of Clarke Island, giving the many rocks with breaking swell a wide berth, around Sail Rock and southwest towards Wouwer Island. Coming in made an interesting example of how a few well placed small islands and rocks can dissipate the energy of the swell. We sneaked through a gap into calm conditions yet still facing the open sea. After a break, we decided





Fog is not uncommon in the Broken Group. Be prepared to use compass or GPS and have your ear cocked for motors – and your whistle handy.

to go along the inside of Wouwer, Howell and Cree islands, although we could not resist peeping out into the swell between the islands. Beaches can be few and far between in places, and when we found one on Dicebox Island for lunch we had to share it with a few other groups. Then to sample the Imperial Eagle Channel we went round the south and east sides of Effingham Island on our way to the camp on Gilbert Island. The more exposed coasts have been shaped into interesting caves, arches and tunnels, which are fun to explore as the swell and courage permit.

On arrival at Gilbert Island, the beach was deserted. But this is the Broken Group in high summer! Surely our navigation is not that bad? A closer inspection revealed a toilet, so we were in the right place. In fact we spent two nights here, and for both we were the only campers. Ironically it was here, on our lonesome, that the park staff caught up with us. We knew that camp fees applied but thought we could pay them at the Lodge (wrong) or to the wardens (wrong again). Instead we were issued with a 'Friendly Reminder' (in English and French of course), which was rather like a traffic ticket with a duplicate copy. We were charged no penalty and we later willingly paid up. At the same time we were given a talk on interesting features in the area and where to find various First Nation's heritage sites. We learnt that the 12 lads were camping at Willis Island, that the wardens had received a lot of complaints, and that other campers had upped stakes and

gone elsewhere. Yet we were alone with our mozzies - do take repellent.

For our day trip next day we went to visit Clarke and Benson islands. This may appear to be back tracking, but that is fine in the nature of the island group. Distances are not great but the islands are very intricate, and the fun of kayaking here is to explore the detail.

The marine chart of the group has a scale of 1:20,000, and it is a joy to behold. Being an A0 size, to use on deck you either need to get it laminated (and then use as a picnic tablecloth when you get home), or to have a big waterproof pouch to hold it. We opted for a smaller scale, laminated planning map for on deck, and kept the chart just under the lid of a hatch for easy retrieval at stops.

Clarke Island camp has a lovely sandy beach, but is rather populated by campers from fizz boats as well as kayakers. We were happy to make it a day visit. The north-west side is a large intertidal sandy area joining the main island with several little islands and rocks. The tide was high enough for us to cruise through and see the swell breaking on the exposed rocks beyond.

On to Benson Island where we walked to an old First Nation's lookout site, with a recently made totem pole erected to carry on the vigilance. By now a SE afternoon breeze was getting up, so we had a bit of a workout paddling back to camp for a late lunch. And what do you do

if you did not bring your VHF? We paddled across to Effingham Bay and asked at an anchored yacht, and listened to the forecast on the spot. Weather still stable.

Day 4 we sampled more of the Imperial Eagle Channel to Reeks Island. It was beautiful in the still cloudy morning with the big open channel on one side of us. We were the only humans around, and there seemed to be more seal and bird life out here. On Reeks Island is the 'face on the wall', which is thought, but unproven, to be a First Nation's carving in the cliff face about 40 feet above sea level. It certainly looked like a face.

After checking out the popular campsite at Gibraltar Island, we visited the lagoon between Jarvis and Jaques islands. This is sheltered from all directions and was obviously used by the First Nation's people as there was levelled terrain and the remains of a fish trap in a narrow inlet. This inlet had a rock wall built across the mouth a bit below high



Mergansers swimming for their lives away from the big bad kayak.

tide level. The people would scare fish inside at high tide, and when the tide dropped the fish would be trapped. Leaving the lagoon we mis-navigated into a small inlet and surprised a family of about a dozen mergansers who swam vigorously away, being very reluctant to fly. They are a grebe relative and have a punk rock hairstyle. A real delight.

By now the wind had got up as expected, so we paddled over to Dodd Island campsite. Here we spent the rest of the afternoon watching a humpback whale in the channel between us and Brabant Island. Apparently it had been there most of the day. This camp is on an isthmus and you can eat your dinner on one side in the evening sun and your breakfast on the other side in the morning sun.

Day 5, we decided to explore the last 'outside' and paddled over to Hankin Island on the edge of the Loudoun Channel. Again there was more wildlife out here including flocks of little surfbirds, which forage among the intertidal seaweed for hoppers etc while being wary for any waves arriving. After we explored Brabant Island we went across to Hand Island to stake a claim at the camp there. Hand is an interesting island with a lot of intertidal sand which forms lagoons at high tide, and also an exposed rocky coast with sea caves.

You can judge the popularity of a camp by the size of the crow population. The more people, the more food left unguarded for those ever vigilant eyes to spot. At Hand Island you are woken at dawn, like it or not, by one of the most unpleasant bird calls I know. Fog is not uncommon in the Broken Group and we had camped here close to the lodge in case a compass/GPS navigation back was required.

We had originally contemplated a last night of luxury staying at the lodge, but found they were booked out when we enquired three months previously. In the event, the day was cloudy but clear and we arrived in plenty of time to return our kayak, shower and have lunch. We had to



Beach on Wouwer Island, facing the outside of the group but calm inside the protective rocks and island. On the left, Margot improvising for a chart table for the big map.

use the 'day facilities', the lodge itself being out of bounds to the likes of us. But we made our lunch with a hot drink on the gas stove on the smokers' picnic table, sans smokers of course.

The *Frances Barkley* steamer arrived to deliver more kayakers, and to collect us and take us on to Ucluelet and to the rest of our travels. As a nice end to the trip, we saw three humpback whales from the boat on the passage.

Useful Information:

1. Lady Rose Marine operate the Sechart Lodge, kayak hire from the Lodge, and *Frances Barkley* steamer travel to/from Port Alberni and Ucluelet, www.ladyrosemarine.com

2. Alberni Outpost sell kayak and other outdoor gear online and from their stores in Courtenay and Nanaimo. They also offer kayak hire delivered to Toquart Bay (you need your own car to get there) or the Frances Barkley dock at Port Alberni. www.albernioutpost.com

3. Parks Canada info on camping in the Broken Group, www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/activ/activ4.aspx

4. Maps - Marine chart 3670, Broken Group, 1:20,000, available at marine and chart shops, and Lady Rose office, Port Alberni dock. Broken Group/Barkley Sound Recreation Map, 1:33,000 & 1:86,000, available at marine and outdoor gear shops.



Peter and Margot Syme

Overseas Reports

WEST ISLAND BITS September 2015 by Dave Winkworth

As I write, my radio broadcasts the double kayaking fatality on Lake Tekapo.

I don't know the finer details of this tragedy but the media are reporting that the group got caught in very strong wind and were capsized. Some made it to an island but it appears that the two paddlers who died were unable to get to the island and also unable to re-enter their kayak. A very sad outcome indeed.

NZ Police Inspector Dave Gaskin was quoted on TV bulletins as saying they were, "Caught out by a freak wind."

A freak wind? Why was it a freak wind? Was it coloured purple? Was it singing? Nah, it was just a wind – a very, very strong wind - and it wasn't a freak. Why do still hear of freak winds and freak waves? They're not freaks - they're just part of our world and we, as sea kayakers need to be ready for them.

I hope that something comes from this tragedy for us all. If not, then all kayaking deaths are a waste of life. I hope it strengthens the resolve of all paddlers to practice re-entry, rolling and bracing skills – in fact all skills related to riding out bad conditions. I'm going to cover these skills at next year's KASK Forum. Perhaps other instructors will too.

I cannot stress enough the need to practice these essential sea kayaking skills. And while I'm on this subject, let me applaud John Kirk-Anderson for his feature article in the last edition of the *NZ Sea Canoeist*. Great work John - all that you said needs to be said!

Do you remember the article? John capsized off Lyttleton Harbour and failed his roll and his standard re-enter and roll self rescue. He

succeeded with the aid of a paddle float and came to the realization that more practice is needed – this from a very competent paddler indeed! Well done again John! It was interesting that John commented on having very cold hands after his re-entry - as you'd expect.

I'm reminded of a capsized drill mantra for the colder waters of North America that I read many years ago. The advice for a paddler in the water and unable to re-enter was to immediately fire off any flares they carried - not because a boat was in sight - but because in a few minutes they wouldn't have the manual dexterity to do so! Cold water is scary!

About two years or so ago I wrote in this column about an incident that happened to a friend of mine – for many years he was the champion roller of the NSW SKC. He capsized in challenging condition mid winter waters off Sydney and failed in ALL his self rescue attempts. After almost an hour in the cold water beside his boat he was effectively waiting to slip away and die. He was rescued by a passing yacht but lost all his gear and his kayak.

Don't let this happen to you! Practice, practice - go back to basics – whatever - but remain seated for the entire performance. Your kayak will save you but in the water you've got nothing.

Well, a grim subject indeed to begin this column.

And, on the subject of this column - if anyone would like to contribute to it then please do. You are most welcome to do so! This column began as an info line for Aussie paddling events and fixtures but has since morphed into a smorgasbord of events notices, paddling tips and some observations of mine. I've always thought that there's interest out there in sharing paddling tips and thoughts. So, come on! Pen your thoughts and pass them on to the editor!

Some Aussie Events for Your Planning Calendar:

Bittangabee Banquet

16 - 18 October 2015. This is my base camp whale-watching weekend at Bittangabee Bay in Ben Boyd National Park. Everyone brings extra gourmet food to share. Day paddles out to the whales.

VSKC AGM Weekend

7 - 8 November 2015 at Cape Patterson Victoria. The main event on the VSKC calendar. Always a great weekend. Guest speakers, trade displays, good paddling, lots of socializing and speaking "boat!"

Winky's Weekend – no date set yet but most likely early Feb 2016. My base camp, navigation, Aussie trivia, social weekend for the VSKC at Mallacoota Lakes. Sat night dinner provided – free!

NSWSKC Rock 'n Roll Weekend

11 - 14 March 2016 at Jimmy's Beach, Port Stephens. This is the premier event for the NSWSKC – in fact the premier event for Australia. They don't come any bigger than this one! A weekend of guest speakers, trade displays, training, skills etc., in a beautiful warm setting.

Keppel Sea Kayak Symposium

12 to 16 August 2016 at North Keppel Island Qld. God, this was fantastic for 2015! If you're looking to dodge winter next year, then you could do no better than paddling out to North Keppel for this one! Tropical paddling, kayak instruction, day paddles, snorkeling, island walking. Accom in beautiful cabins, ALL meals provided for 4 days! I'll write some more about this year's event for the next *Sea Canoeist* and include some photos – it was a cracker! The numbers are cut off at 50 so if you're planning to come over for it, book as soon as bookings are opened. More info from the organizers: Paddle Capricornia.

Kayak Design

Have you ever been really and truly completely satisfied with your sea kayak? Be honest now! Have you ever thought you'd like to modify this or that one day - or include

a few more bits of gear that you never quite get round to acquiring? Perhaps you've thought of making it easier to access safety gear or food or something like that!

I have to say that it's all never been quite right for me. There's always been something for me that I don't like or don't have. It's like the quest for the Holy Grail! And every time I get a new boat, the setting up starts again! Bugger!

I'm going to build a new kayak soon - and hopefully I'll get really close to my goal. So, what will my new boat have? Well, a brand new rudder system that I'm working on, a foredeck glove-box hatch, bulkhead storage for smaller, rarely used items, a new spare paddle design, better water storage for long dry area trips and probably a well-thought out tether system - not for the paddle but for me!

Kayak Tethers

I've never used a body tether system but I think I'd like to have the option of one on board. I've read of paddlers capsizing and having their kayaks blown away from them faster than they can swim. Pretty scary? You bet! If you're a kayak sailor or a kite paddler then I'd think a tether would be mandatory. I saw some Go Pro video recently of a couple of stand up paddle boarders who fell off and their boards were just end-for-ended away from them. They had paddle leashes but they let their bloody paddles go and they had long swims! But we as sea kayakers may not have the luxury of being able to swim to shore - and I think it would be pretty awful being in the water and watching your kayak disappear over the horizon. Over here in Oz, you'd be thinking of the sharks moving in as it got dark.

Aussie Sharks

My segue into the subject of sharks! They're having a 'shark summit' here in NSW this weekend. Designed I think to assuage the public's fears about sharks and convince them that the government is doing something about the recent surge in shark attacks along the NSW coast.

However it's more likely the state government wants to be seen to be doing something without actually spending any money. That's what they like to do!

There's no doubt that large schools of fish are luring sharks inshore. I recently paddled at Byron Bay on the NSW north coast where there have been several recent shark attacks on surfers. The place was packed - onshore. Despite a good surfing swell out on the bay I paddled with just one solitary surfer out with me. Just one! Reason: under my kayak was a veritable carpet of baitfish - acres and acres of them. The gannets too, in their hundreds, were dive bombing the fish everywhere. I think I would have been nervous out there on a board too!

Northern Australian Crocs

Well, I've covered sharks - seems only natural that I mention crocodiles now! There was a coroner's hearing recently in Darwin about a fellow who was taken from his boat by a saltie. It carries significance for us as sea kayakers re staying out of northern rivers and generally not dawdling about close to shore. I've always felt a vulnerability in my kayak up north while not paddling hard. I feel better and safer while moving and keeping a good lookout too.

This poor fellow was standing in his tinnie (4m. alum. dinghy), which



Saltwater croc in the Kimberly region of Western Australia.

Photo: Lesley Hadley

was tied to the river bank. He was passing up buckets of water to his wife on the higher bank. A crocodile leapt from the water and grabbed his upper arm, pulling him into the water. That was it. He disappeared.

There you go. Vigilance in crocodile territory (read: all of northern Australia) is just so important.

New Electronic Flare

There's a new electronic flare on the market! Called the 'Ocean Signal RescueME electronic Distress Flare,' it is an LED light unit about the size of a conventional pyrotechnic flare and the manufacturers claim up to 6 hours continuous use, 360° viz, waterproof to 10 metres and visible up to seven miles. It has several operational modes including strobe and constant light.

It's selling here for A\$179.00 and I think it might be a good unit for the kayak on long crossings in lieu of carrying pyrotechnic flares which of course have a use-by-date of only a couple of years. It would end up being cheaper as all you'd have to do before a trip is refresh the batteries.

No word here yet on whether these LED flares can LEGALLY be carried in lieu of pyro flares but it may only be a matter of time. Also, we haven't yet seen one 'in the flesh' so I can't comment on the brightness and viz for daylight work. We might get one for our local paddling group and do some sea tests. Watch this space!

Enjoy your paddling.

Aussie crocs warned to keep away from swimmers with underarm odour issues



DVD REVIEW

Kayaking the Aleutians

by Justine Curgenven

Review: John Kirk-Anderson

When GoPro action video cameras first hit the market, I wondered what effect they would have on the likes of Justine Curgenven, the kayaking-film maker behind the *This is the Sea* series. Strong on Point Of View (POV) action, her unique way of showing the excitement of extreme sea kayaking was suddenly available to every kid with an internet connection. Typing 'Sea Kayak POV' into You Tube yields about 11,000 results, surely a sign that Justine's genre was waning.

Her latest offering, *Kayaking the Aleutians*, proves this is not the case. Justine, a very experienced expedition paddler, who in 2008 circumnavigated the South Island with fellow Brit Barry Shaw, this time teamed up with adventurer Sarah Outen to paddle 2,500 kilometres along the Aleutian Islands chain. This chain, stretching from Russia to Alaska, separates the northern Pacific Ocean from the Bering Sea, and as the northern aspect of the Pacific Ring of Fire, is volcanic, harsh, and largely unpopulated.

Sarah is on a journey from London return, <http://www.sarahouten.com/>, travelling around the world by row boat, cycle and kayak. Justine had teamed up with her for other kayak legs, including her start from London to France via the Thames and the English Channel, in April 2011. She started the Aleutian leg after failing to make headway while rowing from Japan to America, and instead headed north, making landfall in Adak, the western-most community in the US.

From there she and Justine paddled for 101 days to Homer, the start of the Alaska Highway, where Sarah remounted her bike and continued her journey. She is currently in her

row boat, Happy Socks, in the North Atlantic Ocean heading for the UK, where she hopes to make landfall in the next few months.

This DVD covers the paddling leg, and offers two views of the story, a 55 minute film festival version and a 70 minute Directors Cut.

Showing the trip in chronological sequence, the two paddlers depart Adak facing long periods without contact with others, little hope of rescue in the event of problems, and in waters exposed to the worst that nature can summon. While the Aleutians had been home to kayaks for thousands of years, with depopulation and limited commercial interest there wasn't a lot of information available on the tide races that charge through the gaps in the island chain. This meant that the crossings between islands were undertaken with the risk of being swept far from land, which happened on a couple of occasions.

While much of the footage is POV showing the sea conditions they paddle in, there is also very strong imagery shot from Justine's kayak using handheld cameras, and lots of scenes of their life on land, when they finally made it. The skill involved in shooting this is matched by the discipline to record when tired, cold, and scared. Among the more horrendous situations they face is the times they are visited at their camps by Brown Bears, and their only defence is making noise and standing together to look larger!

Sarah also has the unfortunate experience of taking a skinny dip in a river only to have a bear arrive and check out her clothes left on the bank! This is all recorded on video, but modesty is preserved!

The two seem to get on well, and their one disagreement over a campsite is shown well, with both of them recording their perspective. Sarah is remarkable, and adversity seems only to make her smile more. Justine has lost some of her manic nature and laugh, which her company, Cackle TV, www.cackletv.com is

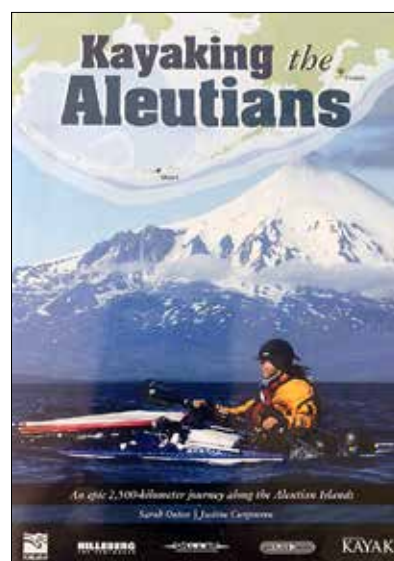
named after. Personally, I think that is great, and with this latest offering she proves again that she is one of the best extreme sea kayaking documentary-makers in the world.

The DVD also has extras which include extreme surfing in storms at Tofino, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, Canada, a great downwind paddle in storm-force winds in Wales, and paddling in the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, Canada.

The Fundy footage is fascinating. A huge tidal range, up to 17 metres, produce standing waves and tide races that challenge even the best rough-water paddlers. Christchurch kayaker, Jaime Sharp, now living in British Columbia, Canada, features doing pirouettes in a sea kayak in very serious rough water. It can't really be classed as White Water, as due to the muddy bottom of part of the bay, some of the water looks like hot chocolate and the paddlers are obviously having a great time playing.

This DVD proves that Justine knows what most testosterone-fuelled kids with a GoPro don't:

Good story telling isn't about sticking cameras in crazy positions and screaming like a maniac!



HUMOUR

Domestic Disturbance

Two New Orleans police officers responding to a domestic disturbance with shots fired arrive on scene. After discovering the wife had shot her husband for walking across her freshly mopped floor, they called their sergeant on his cell phone.

"Hello, Sarge. It looks like we have a homicide here," he reported.

"What happened?" asked the Sergeant.

"A woman has shot her husband for stepping on the floor she had just mopped."

The Sergeant nodded his head and asked, "Have you placed her under arrest?"

"No sir. The floor is still wet."

Blessed are the Cheesemakers

A group of Britons were travelling by tour bus through Holland. As they stopped at a cheese farm, a young guide led them through the process of cheese making, explaining that goat's milk was used. She showed the group a lovely hillside where mobs of goats were grazing. "These," she explained, "Are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce."

She then asked, "What do you do in England with your old goats?"

A spry old gentleman answered, "They send us on bus tours!"

Safe Sex

The mother of a 17-year-old girl was concerned that her daughter was having sex. Worried the girl might become pregnant and adversely impact on the family's status, she consulted the family doctor. The doctor told her that teenagers today were very wilful and any attempt to stop the girl would probably result in rebellion. He then told her to arrange for her daughter to be put on birth control and until then, talk to her and give her a box of condoms. Later that evening, as her daughter was preparing for a date, her mother told her about the situation and handed her a box of condoms.

The girl burst out laughing and reached over to hug her mother, saying, "Oh mum! You don't have to worry about that! I'm dating Susan!"

Out of the Mouth of a Young-un

My wife hosted a dinner party for all our friends, some of whom we hadn't seen for ages; and everyone was encouraged to bring their children along as well.

All throughout dinner my wife's best friend's four-year-old daughter stared at me as I sat opposite her. The girl could hardly eat her food for staring. Self-consciously, I checked my shirt for spots, felt my face for food, and patted my hair in place; but nothing stopped her from staring at me. I tried my best to just ignore her; but finally it was too much for me. I asked her, "Why are you staring at me?" Everyone at the table had noticed her behaviour, and the table went quiet, waiting for her response. The little girl said, "I'm just waiting to see how you drink like a fish."

The Cross Nun

A carload of Irish nuns was sitting at a traffic light in downtown Dublin, when a bunch of rowdy drunks pulled up alongside of them. "Hey, show us yer tits, ya bloody pen-guins!" shouts one of the drunks.

Quite shocked, Mother Superior turns to Sister Mary Immaculata and says, "I don't think they know who we are; show them your cross!"

Sister Mary Immaculata rolls down her window and shouts, "Piss off, ya fookin' little wankers, before I come over there and rip yer balls off!"

Sister Mary Immaculata then rolls up her window, looks back at Mother Superior, quite innocently, and asks, "Did that sound cross enough?"

New Cowboy Boots

An elderly couple, Margaret and Bert, moved to West Coast. Bert always wanted a pair of authentic cowboy boots, so, seeing some on sale, he bought them and wore them home. Walking proudly, he sauntered into the kitchen and said to his wife, "Notice anything different about me?"

Margaret looked him over, "Nope." Frustrated, Bert stormed off into the bathroom, undressed and walked back into the kitchen completely naked except for the boots. Again he asked Margaret, a little louder this time, "Notice anything different now?"

Margaret looked up and said in her best deadpan, "Bert, what's different? It's hanging down today, it was hanging down yesterday, it'll be hanging down tomorrow."

Furious, Bert yelled, "And do you know why its hanging down, Margaret?"

"Nope, Not a clue," she replied.

"It's hanging down, because it's looking at my new boots."

Without missing a beat Margaret replied, "Shoulda bought a hat, Bert - shoulda bought a hat!"

Australian Barber

An old drover walks into a barber shop at Black Stump Crossing, Northern Territories, for a shave and a haircut. He tells the barber he can't get all his whiskers off because his cheeks are wrinkled from age.

The barber gets a little wooden ball from a cup on the shelf and tells the old drover to put it inside his cheek to spread out the skin.

When he's finished, the old drover tells the barber that was the cleanest shave he'd had in years, but he wanted to know what would have happened if he had accidentally swallowed that little ball. The barber replied, "Just bring it back in a couple of days like everyone else does."

Little boy at the Nude Beach

A mother and father take their 6-year old son to a nudist beach for the first time. As the boy walks along the sand, he notices that many of the women have bigger boobs than his mother, so he goes back to ask her why. She tells her son, "The bigger they are, the sillier the lady is."

The boy, pleased with the answer, goes to play in the ocean but returns to tell his mother that many of the men have larger thingies than his dad does.

She replies, "The bigger their thingies are, the dumber the man is." Again satisfied with her answer, the boy goes back to the ocean to play. Shortly thereafter, the boy returns and promptly tells his mother, "Daddy is talking to the silliest lady on the beach, and the longer he talks, the dumber he gets."

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.

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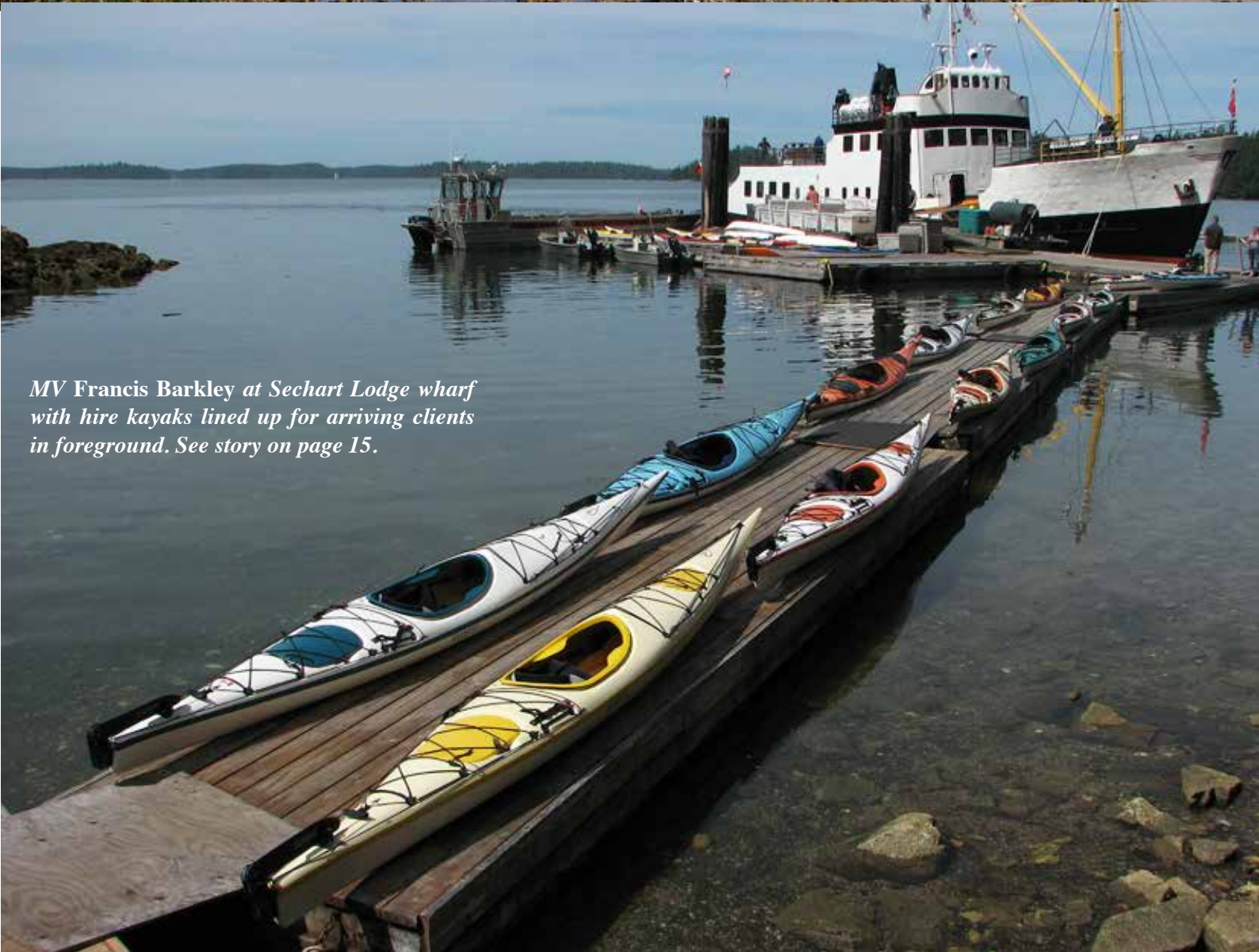
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A party preparing to leave from Willis Island camp at low tide. Several of the camps were not very low-tide friendly. This is why we took kayak wheels along. More on p.15



MV Francis Barkley at Sechart Lodge wharf with hire kayaks lined up for arriving clients in foreground. See story on page 15.

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Calm conditions, ideal for reflections, in SW Greenland. See story on page 7. Photo: Belinda Mulvany

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Current membership fees are:

- \$35 for ordinary membership
- for new members \$35
- \$40 for family or joint membership
- \$35 for overseas membership (PDF newsletter only);
- 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
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