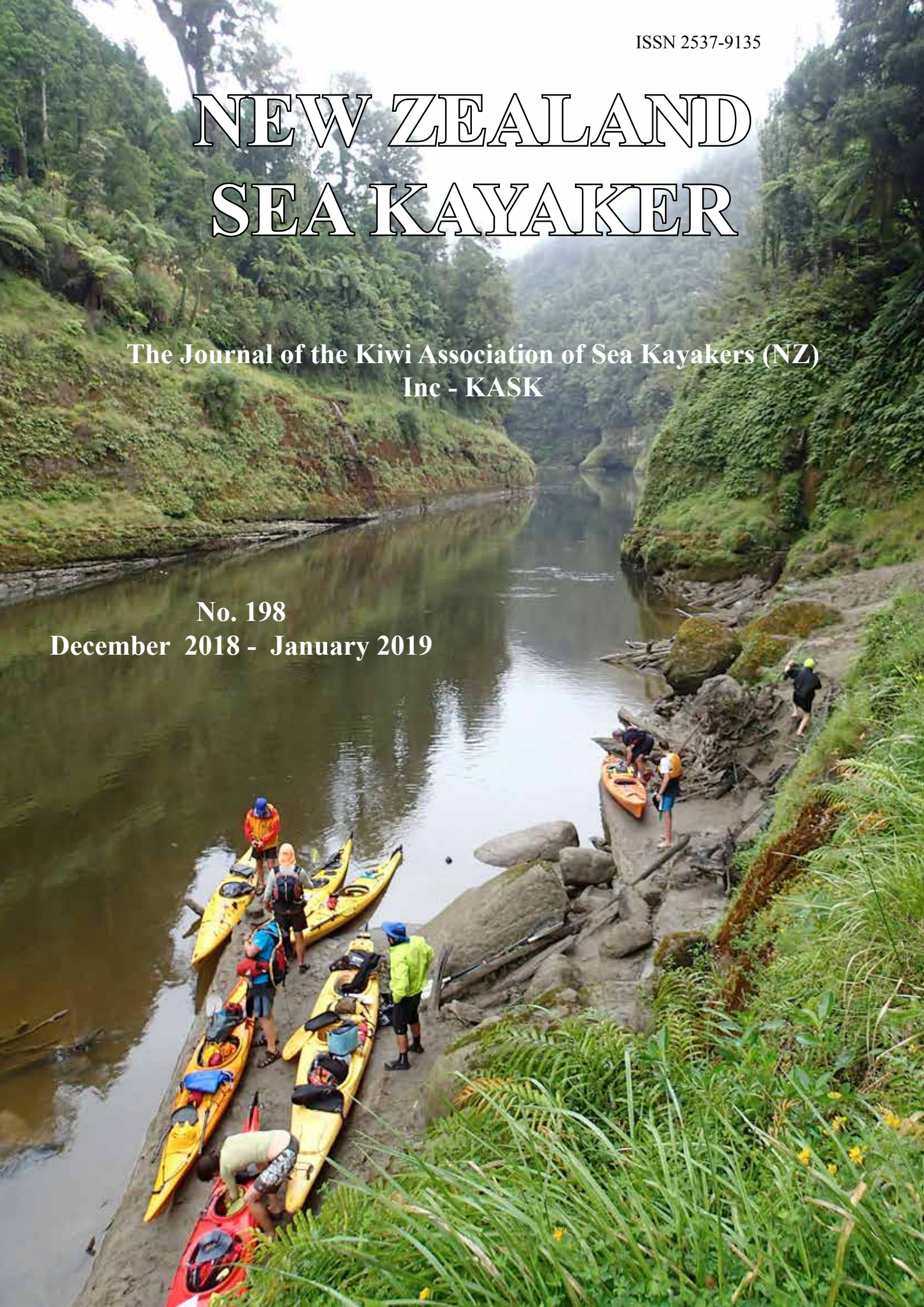


NEW ZEALAND SEA KAYAKER

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

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Thanks to all the marvellous contributors for their photos and stories

Deadline for next magazine: 22 March 2019

EDITORIAL

With my forthcoming retirement from the KASK committee and the role of magazine editor, I am desperately seeking homes for past print copies of the *New Zealand Sea Kayaker* magazine. I have unfolded copies going back into the mid 90s and can't bear the thought of taking them to our local recycler.

Following printing of each issue, I update the subject index (starts from No 35) export as a PDF file which Sandy Ferguson then loads onto our KASK website. If you would like an index copy via email, let me know.

Our KASK magazines are really a history of New Zealand sea kayaking, which brings me to the subject of how we make issue number 200 of the *New Zealand Sea Kayaker* magazine really special. If you have any bright ideas please let me know.

To date my thoughts are reproducing:

- some of the best articles
- same with photographs
- not to mention the best ever jokes
- include a summary and pics of the greatest paddling adventures since 1890
- thoughts from readers on 28 years of KASK and its publications
- produce a 48-page magazine or bigger ?

Whangamarino

John Gumbley's high water excursion into Waikato's biggest wetland is a mix of directions for an engrossing paddle but also a sad statement on the state of our wetlands, with a combination of invading species of fish and weed along with over supply of nitrogen and phosphorus from farmland. In summary John writes that his Whangamarino paddle was through a degraded but internationally important wetland.

Whanganui River Journey

The stories from both Neville Lester and Dennis Hynes, although again not sea kayaking as we know it, but they showcase a wonderful paddle. Nice to see a broad mix of ages with the group, and also to read of Dennis's comments since this was his first time paddling the river from Taumaranui to Pipiriki after after first trip back 44 years ago.

I haven't included a route map, but if you are planning this trip, the *geographx* map titled *Whanganui Journey 1:50:000 Map and River Guide* has the most detailed information available. It is on waterproof paper, maps on both sides, and does show the location of rapids, campsites, huts and pa sites. It is readily available from DoC offices or book shops.

Photos

I'm grateful to both Susan Cade and Dennis Hynes for their photos inside the covers, and Dennis again has a corker cover photo. He has a great eye for good composition. Without doubt, his cover photos have graced this magazine more than any other photographer.

Cover photo:

Double and single kayaks being loaded for another day's paddling on the gorgeous Whanganui River.

Photo: Dennis Hynes

See stories on pages 6 & 8.

Page 2 Top Left:

The Whanganui River team heading downstream in a beautiful gorge section.

Photo: Dennis Hynes

Page 2 Bottom Left:

Dennis Hynes playing beneath the Ohura River waterfall, just upstream from the Whanganui River.

Photo: Neville Lester

Overseas

On her way home from East Greenland, Northland paddler Diana Galbraith stopped in Norway for a solo paddle. Her comments re tourist traffic in the fjords and the rugged scenery remind me so much of Milford Sound.

Dave Winkworth has a book review of the latest Nigel Foster manual on sea kayaking. He is heading from NSW across to Western Australia for a few months. Dave plans to paddle the beautiful but exposed granite coastline from Augusta westwards to Esperance.

New MNZ Safety Publication

Maritime NZ and the Safer Boating Forum have produced a paddle craft guide which contains safety advice for the paddling community. Until now, this has mainly been available on our website here:

<https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/recreational/documents/paddle-craft-guide.pdf>

As we have a number of copies printed, we wanted to highlight/remind you of the existence of this publication in case you would like to distribute these via your own channels or make available at any paddle craft events in your area.

This guide is part of a suite of Safer Boating publications including the *Safer Boating Guide* and the *Prep, Check, Know Guide* which we hold in stock. If you would like to order any of these publications, then you can do this online via our publication ordering page on our website: <https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/subscribe/print-order.asp>

KASK Publications

Remember KASK has an excellent safety brochure still available; titled *A Basic Guide to Safe Sea Kayaking*, it is available from myself or Water Safety NZ. Also available, the KASK membership brochure, and

a paddling safety DVD produced in Australia. If you can distribute to your local network or club members, phone (03 7311 806) or email me please:

kayakpc@xtra.co.nz

Coming up in NZSK No 199

John Kirk-Anderson with his story of preparing for a life of paddling after replacement hip surgery. Adrian Clayton - from across 'the Ditch' - has an technical article titled 'Don't Poo Poo the Paddle Flat Rescue' and also an enticement to paddle on the scenic waterways of Sydney Harbour. Hugo Meares writes about a trip to the fjords and glaciers of southern Pagonia.

Keep safe on the water this summer and ensure other paddlecraft users do the same.

Paul Caffyn

KAYAK KALENDAR

Okains Bay Training Weekend - Banks Peninsula

When: 16-17 February 2019

The annual training weekend and get-together for CSKNet.

Most people turn up Friday night and we pack up after lunch Sunday. Sessions will include Rescues, Paddling Efficiently, Kayak Fit-out, Greenland Paddle, Equipment, etc.

For more info: phone Sandy Ferguson at: (03) 365-8232 or email Sandy: kayakamf@gmail.com



KASK Kayak Fest 2020 – on Urupukpuka Island in the Bay of Islands



President's Report January 2019 by Shaun Maclaren

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and hoping that you have managed to relax in some way on the water. Conditions so far this summer have been a bit chaotic with its wild winds, thunderstorms and flooding and then at the other end of the scale, calm sunny days with onshore afternoon breezes.

From reports around the country, there have been a few multi-day trips, some excellent rock gardening and some testing surf.

I hope that this year will be a great one for those paddlers who want to paddle in varying conditions, hone their skill level and increase their knowledge and self-confidence.

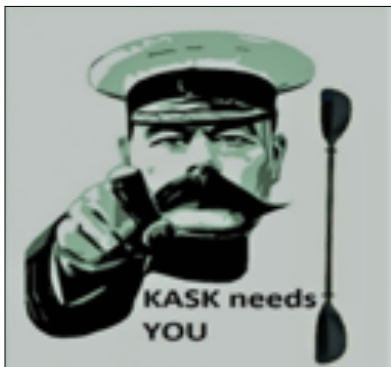
KASK Magazine

With Paul's retirement after issue number 201 at the end of July, KASK does need someone to take over the mantle of magazine editor. If nobody steps up to the plate, this may result in the magazine being held in abeyance until a dedicated editor can be found.

We are looking for someone who is self-motivated, has a passion for sea kayaking and a dedicated commitment to producing a high quality informative yet balanced publication.

For those of you who enjoy the magazine, are committed to see it survive and interested in being the editor, or an assistant, please contact me.

Shaun@kask.org.nz



Publications – KASK Banner

If you have any 'in your face' action or group instruction photos that you think convey the essence of KASK that can be used as part of their advertising banner please contact me. Photos need to be 'full resolution' or better than 500KB. 1 to 5MB is ideal.

Annual General Meeting 2019

This year's AGM will be 'online' and will be take place on Sunday 7 April 2019 at 8:00 pm.

All the AGM reports will be available a month in advance for all members via:

<https://kask.co.nz/AGM>

We welcome submissions for the AGM agenda: items as well as nominations for committee members for 2019-2020.

We currently have a fantastic team of committee members made up of Paul Caffyn, Ruth Henderson, Tim Muhundan, Sandy Ferguson, Ian McKenzie, Peter Brooks, Steve Flack and myself. Some members of the current committee – Paul and Peter have indicated that they will not be standing for re-election.

We encourage diversity along with regional representation. These are not 'junket' positions and members are expected to work on behalf of the paddling community.

It is vitally important that we have a strong cohesive team for the survival of KASK, to carry on the important work that we do with education, safety, training and growing our membership. We are looking for paddlers with fresh initiatives, energy and understanding of governance.

The main time commitment is to attend an online (Skype) meeting on the second Sunday of the month for an hour or so.

If you or someone you know would like to be a committee member, please get in touch with me via Shaun@kask.org.nz and I am happy to talk through any questions or con-

cerns in more detail before any commitment is made.

Submissions for the agenda and nominations for election will close at 8:00 pm on Friday 8 March 2019.

Nominations of those seeking election or re-election will be advertised in the AGM agenda with a photo and a short bio explaining what he or she can bring to the organisation.

KASK Kayak Fest 2020

With just over a year to go, Online Registrations will be going live on Friday 25 January. For this Kayak Fest, registration will more sophisticated than in previous years and allows you to choose options for catering and vehicle parking. There is also a provision for paddlers who are travelling from afar to bring a non-paddling partner.

If you would like to volunteer to assist in any way, please email the team at: kayakfest@kask.co.nz

The organising team along with guinea pigs will be spending the first week of February reconnoitring, proofing plans and locations.

Looking Ahead to the 2021 KASK Kayak Fest

It is planned that the Kayak Fest returns to being an annual event, but with a two-year lead in for the organising team. We want to invite readers to volunteer putting together the 2021 event in the South Island so we can diarize it by end of March 2019. If you've got great ideas for the next event and want to lead or help organize the next event, please get in touch.

We've got great templates from past events and have numerous helping hands from previous events that can assist to make it a success. We are hoping to announce the dates and destination at the AGM on 7 April – so please get in touch ASAP.

I encourage you to take advantage of the warmer conditions and sea temperatures to get on the water to refresh your paddling skill and rescues. Safe and Happy Paddling,

Shaun Maclaren

New Zealand Reports

Whanganui River 18 – 22 January 2019 by Neville Lester

see also Cherry Grove load-
ing photo on page 24

We had eight local paddlers from the New Plymouth Sea Kayak Group and two guest paddlers from other clubs, join together for a five day trip down the popular Whanganui River paddle, starting at Taumaranui and finishing at Pipiriki. A cosy manageable number of paddlers with a spread of ages from 14 to 74.

Our 14 year old Lucas Chapple, was on his first trip with the club and enjoyed sharing a double with Barry. He was very energetic and paddled strongly for the five days on the river. We also had Mike Rabe's son Mark sharing a double with dad. A big strong lad who also paddled exceptionally well, keeping Mike on his toes. We hope to see more of the two young men in the future.



*Barry and 14 year old Lucas ready to start paddling.
Photo: Neville Lester*

The trip started in brilliant sunshine at the usual put-in at Cheery Grove and after our shuttle was sorted we headed off down towards our first camp at Ohinepane (21.5 kms). A great stretch of river with continuous rapids, a fast flow and probably some of the more challenging ones to start with.

It was an interesting start for the new paddlers as the rapids had plenty of good sized wave-trains, with the odd obstacle to steer clear of. We were told by a local guide at the boat ramp that recently a group of tourists had set off with Canadian canoes and



Gary taking some air in one of the wave trains. Photo: Dennis

never made the first corner / rapid before drifting under the willows and tipping out requiring a tricky rescue by the accompanying guide!

We however arrived at the camp unscathed at approximately 4:30 pm-ish; a great camp and not too busy, with plenty of late sun to dry gear out.

Saturday was our biggest paddle of the five days, to Mangapapa camp with 46 kms to our destination. We set off on the water at 9:00 am in still warm conditions. A nice flow to assist us but we all felt happy when we saw the sign for the camp! A lovely open camp which we shared with only two others. The water pump

was broken so we had to take the lid off the tank and dip in for our supplies. We had a shower of rain during the night but by get-in time the sun had come out and we had perfect conditions again for the next leg.

Sunday was another biggish day of 33 kms to paddle to the very secluded Mangawaiiti Camp. We had this camp all to ourselves as well, as the get-out was a challenge and no other tourists ventured there. The walk up was worth it with lovely bush all around us. This is very much a summer camp as the sun disappears early. A great DoC shelter though and we enjoyed our solitude along with a happy hour.

We left that camp at 9:00 am and headed for the Bridge to Nowhere Lodge camp ground (22 kms) opposite the Tieke Kaianga camp-ground where we normally stay.



Not so easy landing on mud and carrying boats over logs



*Lunch stop. Peter Bennet, Mike and Mark, Barry and Lucas.
Photo: Neville Lester*



Two Canadian Canoes drifting down the Whanganui River. Photo: Neville Lester.

Before we arrived at this camp we had the obligatory stop at the landing for the walk to the actual Bridge to Nowhere. A great easy walk and the history of the area makes interesting reading from the DoC notice board at the bridge. We met quite a few well-dressed tourists on the walk, who had all been dropped off from jet boats. I wondered what they thought of the rough-looking mob in paddle gear and whiskers!

We had a couple of swimmers during the first three legs, but not because of their kayaking ability, but because they weren't watching where they were going! Rocks and tree stumps are sometimes very hard to pick in whitewater.

However a couple of rescues made for an interesting de-brief on the water. I'm sure we all learnt something. Both rescues were different as the first one required taking the paddler to shore as he had lost contact with his kayak which decided to go looking for some willows. After both boat and paddler were re-united we continued on our way without fear of our swimmer getting cold. A swim was what we all could of had because of the hot conditions.

The second rescue was a typical 'feet in', roll the kayak up, pump out and lets go again. Another experienced paddler in our group had the misfortune to be talking to me and lost sight of a stump sticking



Mike and Mark with half of the double's length airborne.

out of the rapid and missed the call to go right. However he executed a perfect roll and all was well.

At the Lodge camp we had an excellent campground with all the 'bells and whistles'. A great camp this one as it had hot showers, free gas cookers, huge shelters and tables everywhere and the cost was only \$15.00 per head against \$20.00 per head for the three DoC camps.

There was one sad moment at our last camp when we found a 'homeless man' sleeping in a culvert pipe at our camp. However we offered him some food and drink. He was so grateful he told us stories about his past which were also worrying and sad! He said he won a baby competition but no one believed the poor chap!



The Queen on her Throne at the Bridge to Nowhere Lodge camp. Barry, Barrie Rainsford, Susie and Gary. Photo: Neville Lester

All in all a very successful trip with perfect weather apart from a little wind and a couple of showers at night. The group were, Peter Bennett (leader) Barry Hosking (camp mother) Neville Lester (organizer), Susie Flink (nurse aid) Mike and Mark Rabe, Lucas Chaple, Barrie Rainsford (Pukekohe) Dennis Hynes (Hamilton BASK) and Garry Eaton (story teller).

The trip was a total of 145 kms and we did try different camps. I felt it worked well but there is a big choice to 'mix n match' camps to suit your

group etc. One of the best trips we do, I believe, and not too far from home. We also had a very good shuttle service supplied by *Blazing Paddles* at a very realistic cost. We highly recommend this company (Glenn@blazingpaddles.co.nz or www.blazingpaddles.co.nz)

Neville's Paddling Bio:

He has been kayaking for seven years with the New Plymouth group and started organising and leading trips two years ago. He thoroughly enjoys all aspects of kayaking including the social and comradeship side.



Neville Lester

Whanganui River - January 2019

by Dennis Hynes

It has been 44 years since I last paddled the Whanganui River from Taumarunui to Pipiriki. BASK have run a number of trips there over the last few years but there was always some reason I couldn't go.

So when Peter Bennett invited his fellow BASK paddlers to join Neville's trip with the Taranaki Kayak paddlers I jumped at the chance. You will read in Neville's account that we were an eclectic bunch with a wide range of ages and paddling abilities. I wondered how the group would get on.

I have paddled the first section from Cherry Grove, in Taumarunui, to our first camp at Ohinepane several times. We have used it as a training ground for BASK paddlers, wanting to improve their skills in moving water.

The frequent grade 2 or less rapids are ideal for practising cutting into and out of eddies, ferry gliding across the current and avoiding obstacles in moving water. All good skills to have when rock-gardening or negotiating tidal races, even if you aren't going to get into more serious white-water paddling.

The rapids are mainly smallish wave trains where the flow has been concentrated by the groynes of rocks with back eddies on the side and mostly short with flat water sections below to allow for easy pick up of

those paddlers pushing their boundaries. (only way to learn). There are numerous rocks to practice avoiding in the flat sections at lower flows, and the odd rock and tree in the rapids to cause a bit of mayhem to the unwary. This section is mainly bordered by farmland and some native bush, but the rapids distract from the heavily modified landscape.

By choosing to camp at the lesser known campsites, often with more challenging pull-outs, Neville ensured that we had most of the camps to ourselves, despite the number of hire kayaks and canoes on the river and the hordes of Te Aroha trail walkers - Mangapane rather than Whakahoro, Mangawaiiti rather than John Coull (apparently there were 78 staying at John Coull while we had Managwaiiti to ourselves) and Bridge to Nowhere Lodge campsite (opposite the DoC camp at Tieke Kainga).

This camp had the added attraction of restaurant and bar and cabins for those of us who had had enough of sleeping in tents (just make sure you book in for dinner at the lodge before the trip as meals are only cooked to order).

The river between Whakahoro and Pipiriki runs through some steep, rugged, bush clad landscape and the gorges are especially spectacular. It



Dennis Hynes on the Whanganui

pays to allow plenty of time to really appreciate the experience. Once below Ohinepane, the river progresses as a series of flat sections with a step down at a single rapid into the next flat section. This means more paddling required, especially when the wind turns into a head wind, invariably on the longest flat sections.

For the most part the rapids continue to be straightforward wave trains, but there are a few more technical rapids, which come into play at different river levels. A few whirlpools to catch the unwary and the odd rock or tree trapped in the main flow to test those who choose the wrong line and who haven't mastered the skills of avoiding obstructions in moving water - for cumbersome sea kayaks that means seeing the obstruction



The beautiful campsite at Mangapapa: although a bit of a hike with all the gear. Photo: Neville Lester

early and taking evasive action well in advance. I prefer to lift my rudder for any rapid where I may have to adjust my line. This makes my forward draw strokes more effective - the rudder only works if you are moving faster than the water. It also gives me the option of back paddling to ferry glide across the flow (without having to think which way the rudder has to go).

One rapid had a Canadian canoe jammed against the upstream face of a large rock - it looked like it had been there for some time.

It also pays to give your fellow paddlers plenty of room. We had two swimmers after one rapid, where the main flow heaped up against the cliff wall before making a right-angle turn. With three kayaks trying to negotiate the wall at the same time the inevitable happened.

With a long flat section ahead of us, we were able to dispense with our tow ropes and it became a good opportunity for us to implement our open water assisted rescue skills and both swimmers were back in their kayaks in quick time.

The Ngaporo and Autapu rapids on the last day, not far short of Pipiriki, provide for the most spectacular photo opportunities. Even our heavily loaded sea kayaks took some air.

Peter and I again used our rescue skills to help a couple of tourists, who had tipped out of their Cana-

dian canoe when it became side on to the standing waves. They had already had a number of swims during their trip but still had no idea what to do. With our help it was surprisingly easy to right the canoe, employ a few of our hand pumps, to lower the water level enough for them to scramble back in and paddle to shore.

It scared me to see the number of tourists in Canadian canoes, who were let loose on the river by hire companies, with little or no paddling or rescue skills or equipment, and no understanding of the river conditions they would be facing.

Often travelling on their own, and no means of communication if things turn to custard (there is no cell coverage). Most we talked to joked about the number of times they had capsized during their trips. All good fun and no problem - when the weather is warm and there are no trees to get hung up in.

We watched jet boats ferrying kayaks/canoes to replace those that came to grief and a number of un-manned canoes tied up to the bank, I suspect from paddlers that have bailed and been picked up by jet boat. It would be interesting to see some stats on incidents. Although I suspect not many will have been reported.

A great trip, well organised by Neville, with able on-water leadership from Peter. The group 'jelled' well and coped admirably with the long second day paddle.

New Zealand Reports

Whangamarino Wetland A high Water Excursion

by John Gumbley*

The 7,000 hectare Whangamarino wetland in the North Waikato is a Ramsar* listed wetland of international significance. Paddling through the Whangamarino is best done during winter months when water levels are high. My most recent paddle (end September) saw water levels had in recent weeks been one metre higher but I was still paddling over the top of 1.5 m diameter culvert pipes that ordinarily we would be going through.

A suggested route (Figure 1 on p.10) is to start at the Te Onetea Stream near Rangiriri. There is a carpark streamside about 500m, by the gravel road from the hotel. A boom across the stream designed to prevent alligator weed from entering the stream from the Waikato River prevents paddling up to the Waikato Expressway thence to the river. Recently a second set of booms have been placed downstream but I understand it is still possible to kayak between or over the top of the structure.

Paddling down the Te Onetea and across Lake Waikare to the lake's outlet flood control gate, located at the end of Ruahine Road, takes about an hour. The lake at the northern end is very shallow and the control gate when open is only about 40 cms above water level so portaging from the lake edge carpark over the gate bridge to access the Pungarehu Canal's left bank is required.

Paddling across Lake Waikare should not be undertaken in windy conditions due to the large fetch causing standing waves of half a metre height. Besides the water is unsafe for immersion. Blue-green algal blooms occur every year, especially in the summer, and exceed recreational guidelines. A red algal bloom is occasionally seen which is caused by a non-toxic microscopic algae.

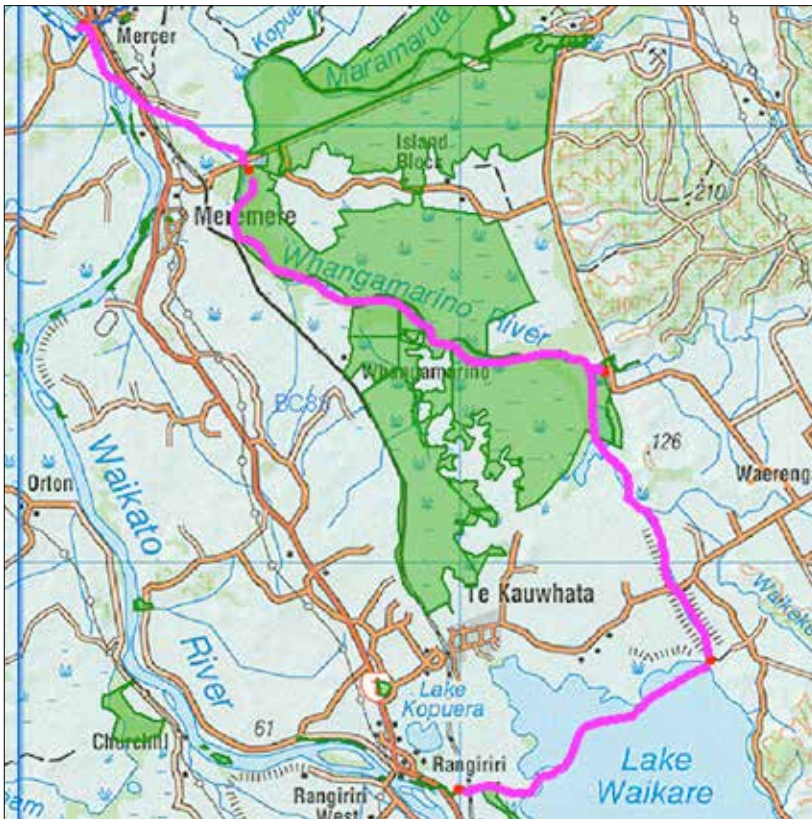


Figure 1: Map of suggested route across Lake Waikare, Whangamarino Wetland to Mercer

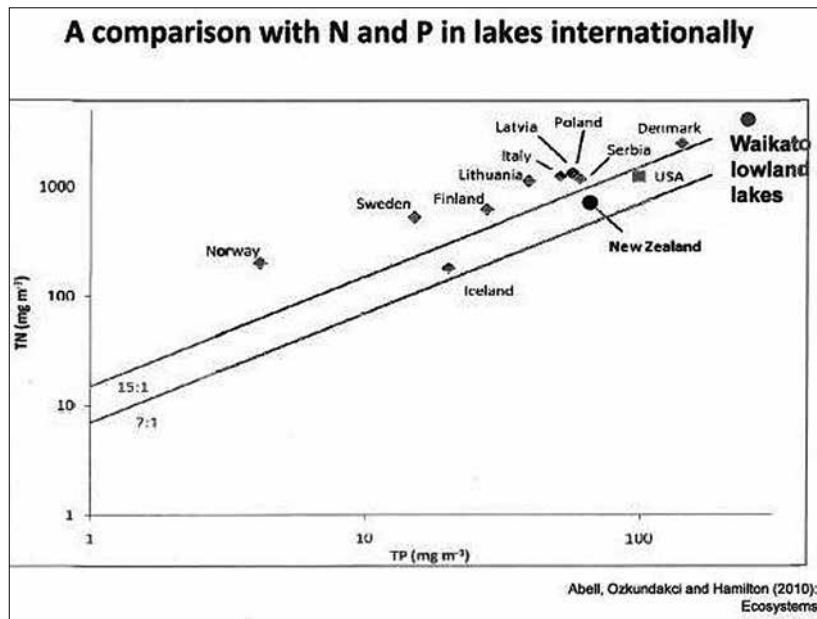


Figure 2: Graph of nutrient concentrations (Nitrogen and Phosphorous) in selected lake environments and showing the relative nutrient status of the shallow Waikato lakes.

Alligator Weed

Alligator weed, which is amongst the top 100 invasive weeds in the world, is originally from Brazil. First discovered in Northland in the 1880s this weed is both toxic to stock and highly invasive in wetlands. Waikato Regional Council (WRC) and Department of Conservation (DoC) are endeavouring to control its spread in the Waikato but it has been recorded as far south as Taumaranui. The lower Waikato River and connected shallow lakes are a primary source for Alligator weed in the region.

Lake Waikare

Lake Waikare is the largest (3,442 ha) of the Waikato Region's shallow lakes. The Waikato has 104 lakes, 60 of which are within an hour's drive from Hamilton, but the majority are shallow (< 5m depth, often only 2 metres), small and of mainly riverine (formed by river processes) or of peat origin (peat growth can result in domes being formed in which a 'dish' is formed to allow open water impoundment of rainwater with no natural outlet).

Like almost all Waikato lakes the catchment area (in this case 21,055 ha) has only 7% in native vegetation cover. Many Waikato lakes now have only 2-5% native cover in the catchment. The catchment is farmed and lowlands are intensively dairy grazed.

The lake water quality, like almost all Waikato lakes, is seriously degraded (Figure 2). The lake is hypertrophic - extremely nutrient enriched in nitrogen and phosphorous from fertilizer and animal excrement, it also has a high ecoli count (bacteria from animal excrement) and high levels of suspended inorganic sediment.

This change in water quality became very evident from the 1940s but has been exacerbated in recent decades from:

- peat drainage (dairy farmed peat-land is shrinking an average 2.5 cm height per annum (peat in native vegetation cover naturally grows 1-1.5 mms per annum)
- forming and lowering of lake outlets, natural habitat loss
- stream channelisation and the intensification of farming.

Many Waikato lakes are now devoid of lakebed vegetation with only a handful still with native lakebed vegetation dominating. With most lakes experiencing a crash in native vegetation in the 1970s they became exotic lakebed vegetation dominated but this also largely crashed in the early 2000s.

Koi Carp

The Japanese strain of European carp, was probably introduced into New Zealand with goldfish in the 1860s (photo below). European carp rank as one of the most invasive pests globally and are very difficult to control - they are classified as noxious unwanted organisms under the Biosecurity Act.

First reported wild in the lower Waikato River in the 1970 - 80s, Koi and goldfish are widespread in Auckland and north of the Karapiro hydro-dam in the Waikato River. Koi and the ubiquitous goldfish (only one lake of the 104 Waikato lakes does not have goldfish) inter-breed to produce hybrids which can also be very abundant and potentially can breed.

Using the Waikato River as a highway, koi migrate into connected lakes and wetlands to breed and with as many as 500 individuals per hectare (up to 400 kg/ha). A 5 kg koi (length 500-600 mm) can produce 80,000 eggs. The annual early No-

vember Huntly Bowhunters Club Koi Carp Classic contest results in 5-8 tonnes of koi being caught over a weekend - they make good burley for fishing.

The ecological impact of koi carp is mainly due to their being able to act as efficient mud pumps further degrading water quality and aquatic habitat for other plants and animals e.g. freshwater mussels and native fish. They can feed on zooplankton and invertebrates with their lips protruding 2 cms to suck up the soft nutrient-rich lake bed sediment to extract crustaceans.

In doing so, they flush out muddy water through their gills which not only uproots any lakebed vegetation but the turbid water prevents sunlight entering the water column preventing plant growth and leading to elevated cyanobacteria levels.



Koi carp



Warning in Mandarin



Figure 3: The Waikato Regional Council carp cage and bacterial-based digester producing fish powder for fertilizer

Lake Waikare (cont. from p.10)

Despite the presence of dominating pest weeds, pest fish and poor water quality the lake still provides important habitat for native fish such as shortfinned eels and the whitebait group of fish species. Historically 85 tonnes of eel per annum were fished from Lake Waikare but nowadays this is about 2 tonne. Lake Waikare and Whangamarino River combined sees 8-10 tonnes of eel netted. Eel fisher's nets (net poles) can be seen while paddling. Incidentally, Lake Waikare and the Whangamarino River are Crown-owned but are not administered by DoC.

Directions (continued from p.9):

At the Ruahine Road Lake Waikare outlet control gate there is safe parking and your trip could start from here, entering at the Pungarehu Canal. Near the bridge is the WRC Carp-N Neutral fish trap in which koi carp are cage trapped and fed into a processor to produce a powder rich in nitrogen and phosphorous and ideal for fertilizing restoration plantings (Figure 3).

Paddling the Pungarehu Canal into the Whangamarino wetland to the carpark and boat ramp beside Falls Road takes about an hour and is mainly through farmland for which high water levels will be beyond riparian fencing not that any is vegetated by anything other than pasture grass (Figure 4, on page 12).

Koi carp will be evident in the shallows - quite fun to glide up to a group of them and have the water 'boil' as they desperately try to back-pedal. Flow along the canal (about 20 cumecs) is not fast and slows markedly on reaching the wetland. The southern end of the wetland is often referred to as the 'ricebowl' over (low water) summer months due to the dominance of *Glyceria* - swamp grass or reed sweet grass which can be toxic to stock and highly aggressive mat-forming grass.

Willows also dominate the waterway but when paddling keep to the main water course that leads to the Whangamarino River.



Figure 4: Pungarehu Canal, formed in 1965, is part of the Lower Waikato Waipa Flood Control Scheme. Photo taken in winter - in summer the canal is only three metres wide. Photo: John Gumbley

The Whangamarino Stream is mainly willow lined and very little can be seen of the range of other highly valued ecological areas. These areas include swamp marsh, swamp fen and peat bogs that have endemic high national priority threatened plants (especially orchids) and animals (Australasian bittern, black mudfish etc) present. Paddling you will see poles with bittern sound recorders affixed (Figure 5, below).

Occasionally during the day but especially late in the afternoon you may hear the 'booming' call of bittern, especially in October. Bittern, of which only 1,000 are found in New Zealand, have reduced from 200 five years ago to less than 100 (perhaps only 45) today in the Whangamarino. This is attributed to declining water quality. An active programme of predator trapping is underway and you may see bait stations and traps.



Figure 5: Dennis Hynes paddling on the Whangamarino Stream past a Bittern sound recorder. Note the recent (muddy) high water mark on the willows. Photo: John Gumbley

Wetland Mammalian Animal Pests

Predator control over the past 4½ years has resulted in over 3,500 pests trapped - 2,400 rats (mainly Ship rats), 125 cats, 200 possums, 750 mustelids (mainly ferrets and weasels) and mice. As a result threatened wetland birds species like fernbird and spotless crane have significantly increased in numbers.

Directions continued:

After an hour of paddling the Canal, it is then two hours from Falls Road boat ramp (a good rest stop) to Island Block Road boat ramp. You will see stream-side ponds with associated plantings and maimais and huts developed by Fish and Game duck hunters.

Opening day for hunting is the first weekend in May so avoid the week or two beforehand and the month after. Island Block boat ramp could be an end-point of your trip. The car-park is generally safe - lock your car and don't leave valuables. Commercial eel fishers leave their vehicles here.

500-600 duck hunters shoot in the Whangamarino with the average hunter bagging 10 ducks in a season (May). There are 55 ponds established on DoC and Fish & Game Council land - check them out by paddling into the ponds.

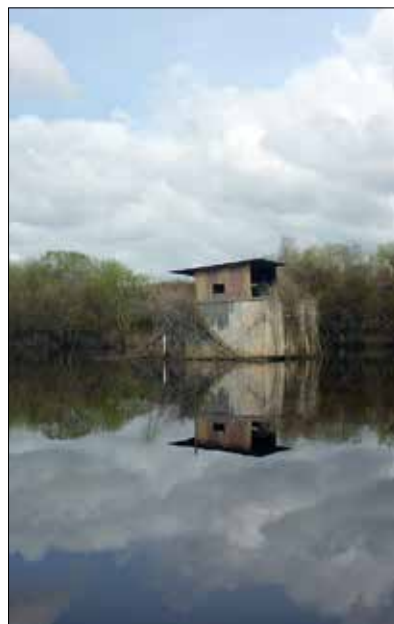


Figure 6: One of many duck huts to be found in ponds accessible by kayak from channels connected to the Whangamarino Stream.

They can be good rest spots and 'listen outs' for 'booming' bitterns in late afternoon.

Photo: John Gumbley

The Whangamarino has seen sediment accumulation rates increase 3 times since the 1970s, degrading the wetland. Apart from the wetland having a very large catchment (80,000 ha) it also receives floodwater from Lake Waikare (and the Waikato River) through the Pungarehu canal that was formed in 1965. The Flood Control scheme, managed by WRC, utilises the Whangamarino and Lake Waikare for water storage.

The control of water lowers the flood peak of the Waikato River by 40 - 60 cms reducing damage to farmland, but in doing so periodically inundates the Wetland.

Water levels can fluctuate 2.8 metres, sometimes 5 metres, and result in flooding 1.75 kms away from the Whangamarino River. The average (flood) water quality for ecological standards purposes is 'unsatisfactory' 50% of the time, 'unsatisfactory' for water quality standards 90% of the time and 'unsatisfactory' for swimming 100% of the time.

Directions continued:

From Island Block Road to Mercer boat ramp takes 45 minutes. You could at the confluence of the Whangamarino and Maramarua streams paddle up the latter for 2.5 kms to see the Archimedes screw that pumps floodwater although this may not always be working as an electric pump also operates.

There are 65 pump stations in the lower Waikato-Waipā Flood control scheme designed to manage flooding of farmland. All 120 Waikato pump stations, except probably the little used and less efficient Archimedes screw referred to above, are not 'fish-friendly'. Operating at 700 - 850 rpm, migrating eels (over 50 cm length) on the move following Spring cyclonic 'freshes', will be diced as they pass through pumps. Most other fish will incur spinal injuries or internal organ rupture.

Further, 'standing' water known as black water, that is held up for a few days in drains following cyclonic events will be so depleted in dissolved oxygen as to result in high

fish mortality. The dire situation for stream-life is exacerbated by elevated summer water temperatures and the influx of nutrients from the catchment

Directions continued:

500 m downstream of the confluence is a rock rubble weir built by DoC to maintain minimum water levels in the wetland. The weir was opened by Sir Edmund Hillary in the 1990s but you may have to portage around this at low water levels.

Immediately before entering the Waikato River are the large control gates which may be closed in which case you would need to portage around using the left bank. The gates, visible from the highway driving southward, have a gap of several metres height.

The boat ramp at Mercer is near the service station and museum. Before passing under the Mercer-Pukekawa bridge the rusting hulls of two Caesar Roose barges are evident on the left bank.

Caesar Roose purchased his first barge in 1902 for operating between Cambridge and Mercer. A man of the Waikato River he continued operating several boats through the 1930s. Regarded as an independent thinker, a man of vision and high ideals Roose remained a strong advocate of water transport as a

viable alternative to road and rail to the mid 1960s. He owned timber mills, coal mines and exported flax and timber. He funded many charities and established health camps for children.

This 30 km trip, which can be shortened to 20 - 25 kms, is an interesting and quite different paddle through a somewhat degraded but internationally important wetland.

Directions Summary:

Kayaking is best done in the late Autumn to early Spring when water levels are high. The shortened trip is not especially wind affected. Stopping points especially at very high water levels may be limited to boat ramps although in the latter part of the trip a duck hut can be a suitable rest place.

* The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971. Whangamarino is 1 of 6 New Zealand sites registered (in 1989)

* John Gumbley has worked as a geologist and ecologist investigating the shallow Waikato lakes since the 1970s.



Figure 7: Whangamarino Stream flood control gates located near the Waikato River. Photo: John Gumbley

The 'Bugger!' File

Be Prepared for the Unexpected by Diane Winter

Nelson Lakes National Park

At a Nelson Canoe Club trip planning session, it was decided that a night paddle to Sabine Hut on Lake Rotoroa was required. We already had one on the calendar but that was too far away so a second was added for the following weekend, however the weather wasn't looking that pleasant so I put it off to the following weekend. This however, didn't suit any paddlers who had been previously interested but I wasn't going to let that stop me.

Our honorary member Richard set off on Friday morning in flat conditions but not long after getting on the water, the weather changed and he ended up having a 4½ hour battle with the wind, arriving at Sabine Hut completely exhausted.

Even though I didn't have to rush with no one to meet at the carpark, I was excited to get on the road, looking forward to what would be my first solo night paddle. All the way from Nelson watching the trees as I drove, not so much as a leaf moving, it was looking good until half way between the Gowan Bridge and the lake edge where they were starting to move.

My heart sunk as the car came to a stop at the boat ramp, the entire lake was covered in whitecaps, the worst I've seen here. At a guess it was over 25 knots, this was predicted but not until Saturday morning. It was an instant decision not to paddle, even if I wasn't alone I would have pulled out.

What to do? There was no way I was going to drive home with my tail between my legs besides Richard was already at the hut. We always have a call scheduled on the VHF so he knows roughly what time we'll be

arriving and how many paddlers so that he can save bunks in the hut. I hung around until the scheduled time and although I couldn't make out what he was saying, I said I'd try in the morning which I found out later he heard clearly. As a backup I spoke to a guy who was preparing to head up the lake in a tinny and he offered to pass a message onto him. I didn't want him worried that I had capsized in the middle of the lake and been eaten by the monsters that lurk beneath the surface.

As a keen geocacher (for those that have never heard of caching, I have heard it described as 'using multi-million dollar satellites to find tupperware hidden in the bush'), I decided to go for a walk up the Porika Track and get a few caches and see what if the wind died off later. The first cache had a great view over the full length of the lake and my decision not to paddle was proven to be wise. The wind was ripping along the full length with no respite even close to the edges.

I got back to the lake just after dark and the wind had died down and was now just lapping at the shore. I would have felt safe getting on the water then but it was after 9:00 pm which would mean arriving at the hut around midnight which wouldn't make me popular with those there so instead I snuggled down on the back seat of the car for the night.

A snack while getting organised and on the water at 8:00 am in perfect conditions. I was halfway up



*Dawn on Lake Rotoroa
Photo: Diane Winter*



*Diane and Richard's kayaks
parked by the Sabine Hut*

the lake right in the middle before the sun rose over the ridge line. I have paddled the lake more times at night than during the day and I think it showed. At night I know exactly where the hut is and every trip I've recorded with my GPS is so straight forward however today I could see something at the end which I decided early on was the hut and the nearby jetty but when the water taxi passed me opposite Maori Creek heading on a totally different angle I realised that what I was looking at, was a boat anchored in front of the Sabine River mouth. Needless to say this trip route was straight until the distinct change of direction 4 kms from the hut.

Even though I made good time getting there in 2 hours 10 minutes, my original plan to go for a walk up Mt Misery on the Saturday was gone so instead we had a quiet day in the hut.

Sunday morning I was up fairly early (well for me anyway), sorted my tramping gear and paddled over to D'Urville Hut where I left my kayak tied up on the beach and hiked up to Morgan Hut for the night. A lovely five hour gentle walk alongside the river and I arrived to find five trampers already in the hut.

After a rest I decided I'd have a crack at finding a geocache that had

Monday morning I woke to find my left hand completely swollen to the point where I couldn't move my fingers. After breakfast I packed up and got back on the track to D'Urville.

By the time I reached D'Urville Hut that finger was swollen and bruising starting to show. It was calm out on the lake; but could I paddle with one hand that looked like a surgical glove about to explode and the middle finger on the other hand swollen and very tender?

The five trampers from Morgan Hut were due to get the water taxi out at 3:30 pm but had been discussing see-

*Sabine and
D'Urville
huts are at the
southern end of
Lake Rotoroa.
Diane's paddle
started and
finished at the
northern end of
the lake.*



ing if it could come earlier, as there was no sign of them, I assumed they must have done so. D'Urville and Sabine huts both have radios to contact the water taxi so I thought I would take the safe option if I could. As it turned out the trampers hadn't been picked up and I'd passed them somewhere on the track while they were trying to catch a fish so I was able to get a ride out with them (kayak and all).

Meanwhile Richard had another very rough paddle out on Monday morning, once again the wind picked

up once he was on the water and committed to paddle. Not good for someone with a bad shoulder.

The trip didn't go as planned but I think it shows how you need to be flexible with trips, never stop thinking about what is going on and be willing to change plans at a moment's notice when things change. Safety first, live to paddle another day. In spite of everything I had a great time and the antihistamine I thought was in my first aid kit has now been replaced.



The view to the south of the D'Urville River. Photo: Diane Winter

OVERSEAS REPORTS

Kayaking in Norway by Diana Galbriath

The Norwegian fjords are justly famous for their scenery, and doing a short kayaking trip while I was in the area seemed a great idea. There are guided trips available, but I wanted to cover a bit more ground, so elected to rent a kayak from *Njord*, based in Flam. They were really helpful, and also thorough and safety-conscious.

I camped in the local campground the night before departure, and was able to leave my spare gear in the *Njord* office, which is a picturesque little cabin on the banks of the fjord. Flam is the terminus of the famous Flam scenic railway; completed in 1940, it descends 863m in 20.2 kms.

There are also numerous buses and cruise ships delivering thousands of people every day, many of whom pour onto boats for fjord tours, though the village does quieten down at night.

After a comprehensive briefing, I packed the *Valley Argonaut* (plastic) kayak and paddled down the Aurlands Fjord in steady rain. After an hour or so I got to Undredal and stopped to admire the tiny church and consume an excellent waffle at the local café.

A headwind was gradually increasing, and rain continued to fall. I was glad I'd worn my dry suit rather than the wetsuits that the company provided. It was tempting to stay at Undredal and eat waffles all afternoon, but I decided to push on to the marked camp site at Nordheimsdalen. The mountains rise straight from the sea in a spectacular fashion, and disappear rapidly into low cloud.

Given the terrain, it is not surprising that landing sites are few and far between, and the ones there are usually have houses at them. The rules for freedom camping are pretty liberal in Norway, however you do have to



The Laegda Falls tumble in a series of cascades from the top of the mountains to the sea.

be at least 50 metres from any building, and not interfere with anyone's livelihood, for example by camping in the middle of their hayfield.

As I paddled along, I saw what looked like some wharf poles in the distance. These soon turned out to be a group of paddle boarders who had camped the previous night and were heading back up the fjord. It was lucky they had a tailwind, as they didn't seem to be up to much paddling.

After several hours paddling, I was a bit taken aback to arrive at the waterfall at Nordheimsdalen and find that the only landing was via a steep ladder next to a high platform. I could have got ashore, but not landed the kayak and gear on my own, so I pushed on to Buene.

I passed a farmlet at Breisnes on the way, but there didn't seem to be anywhere to camp that wouldn't have been in their way. Still, at least I knew there was somewhere I could land, if I had to backtrack. Near there I saw a reindeer and her fawn, sheltering in the trees.

Just as it was starting to become not all that enjoyable, after nearly five hours of rain and headwind, three harbour porpoises emerged from the

mist, detoured to check me out, and then carried on their way. And just before landing, I saw a seal.

At Buene there were three apparently uninhabited houses and a boat shed, near a good stream. The landing was pretty steep so I went back to the nearby headland, where there was a nice little shingle beach to land on and a good tent site on the hill.

After dinner I sat on the point with a cuppa and gazed across the fjord, feeling like the only person on the planet for a few moments. Then there was the low hum of large engines, and a huge cruise ship carrying thousands of people eased past on the far side, somewhat destroying my illusion.

The next day it had stopped raining. I spent a bit of time drying out, and walked along to the stream to get water, as there was none at the campsite. After paddling out to the point between Aurlands Fjord and Sogne Fjord, I headed back to a narrower part, looked both ways and then paddled briskly across.

As a World Heritage site, the inner fjords are really crowded with numerous water craft – cruise ships, ferries, excursion boats, runabouts, kayak flotillas etc. I tended to stick close to the shore most of the time, as the faster moving craft could be around the corner and on top of you pretty quickly. As I approached the far shore I saw an otter.

The camp site at Aknes looked appealing, with a good landing, fresh



Diana's sheltered campsite at Aknes

water and flat, grassy tent sites, but it was too early to stop, and the weather was improving, so I thought I should see the famous Naeroy Fjord in the sun. The Laegda Falls tumble in a series of cascades from the top of the mountains to the sea.

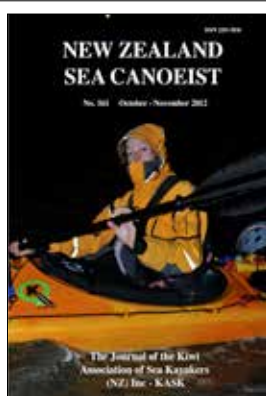
There was a possible camp site near the falls, but the landing was a bit of a scramble, and there was no accessible water there, so I paddled an hour back to Aksnes. It was an excellent site, except for the occasional tick.

It was cloudy on the third day, but mostly dry. As I paddled up Naeroy Fjord, I saw several big, guided groups of kayakers. Even in less than optimal conditions, the scenery was great. I stopped and did a walk along the shore, as I had plenty of time and didn't want to get caught up with any of the larger groups. My arrival in Gudvangen was straightforward, although a bit of excitement was provided by watching several day trip paddlers playing dodgems with car ferries and large excursion boats in the small harbour area. I unpacked in the rain and waited for my lift back to Flam.

Overall, I would recommend the area for paddling, especially if you spend more time in the quieter parts of Aurlands Fjord. I was there in mid-August, and the conditions were quite good, although somewhat damp. I really enjoyed my little solo adventure.

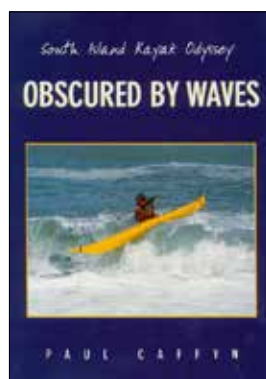


Diana's kayak at Gudvangen - the end of her solo paddling trip



Back Copies of the KASK Magazine

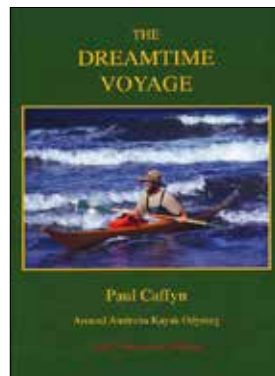
Please help the soon-to-retire-magazine editor by taking some of the unfolded superb copies off his hands. Refer to the index on the website or I'm happy to supply 6 issues at a time (one KASK year). Just some dosh for stamps!



Paul's Books

The 2nd editions of both the South Island and Aussie books are still available, including a signed and numbered casebound *Dreamtime*.

Email for details:
kayakpc@xtra.co.nz



OVERSEAS REPORTS

West Island Bits. January 2019 by David Winkworth

More on Fishing

Last issue I chatted a bit about fishing from your kayak and being careful with your hands in or close to the water etc., etc. One tip I forgot to pass on to you is to use barbless hooks. Yes, barbless hooks! In my experience the benefits far outweigh the chances of losing a good fish.

Just think - if you have the misfortune to get a hook embedded in your hand you can easily extract it! The same goes for a fish. Get the fish up and out of the water, extract the hook, stow the fish (or release it without harm) and get out of there. Easy. I've found I lose very few fish as long as I keep a tight line to the fish. Not hard to do.

To make a hook barbless, just mash the barb flat with a pair of fine pliers.



Dave's barbless hook

Islands

You know, there's something very special about islands! I just love paddling up to an island, even one I've visited before. Of course, some islands are appealing to sea kayakers but not to boaties which is just fine by me. It might be fringed with reef or doesn't offer weather protection to a moored boat. If I have an island to myself for maybe 24 hours - well - that's just heaven!

Up on our Barrier Reef I've found some beautiful islands. Plenty of reef, a few coconut trees, lovely clean beach fringing a clear lagoon. Not

much to look at if you're expecting a Club Med settlement but for a visiting sea kayaker they will do just fine.

I'm heading over to Western Australia in a couple of weeks for the WASKC annual weekend at Busselton again for this year and then down to the south coast of WA for a month or so exploring the coast. My set of detailed maps arrived the other day and didn't I have fun looking over the Recherche Archipelago islands? Hopefully I'll have some good photos for the magazine in a future issue.

NSW Sea Kayak Club R'nR

Heading over our way in March? The NSWSKC annual Rock 'n Roll Weekend will be held at Jimmy's Beach, Port Stephens from Friday 29th March to Mon 1st April. Port Stephens is a short hop north of Newcastle and the port gives access to some great islands and coastal scenery. Sure to be nice and warm too if our current weather is any guide.

Tents

After spending many nights in different designs of tent, I recently sat down and wrote out my desirable tent design items - and then went out and bought a *Hilleberg Soulo*. Not cheap but it ticks my boxes, so here are my points. I wonder if you have the same thoughts. Write them down and see what you come up with:

- integral pitch (inner goes up with the fly)
- taut pitch (no flapping panels)
- fully self supporting
- 3 pole design (third pole defines the vestibule)
- side entry
- fly extends to ground level
- good ventilation (full mesh door which can be sealed)
- good top vent

Keeping Clean

Have you ever taken washing detergent with you on sea kayaking trips? This is a serious issue, especially for paddlers in hot climates and I think this is something often overlooked by kayakers. I've found that pad-

Hilleberg Soulo tent



dling clothing and the tube of spray-skirts get quite a pong up after a few days. It's obviously bacteria, possibly looking for a break in my skin to start up a serious infection.

Andrew McAuley, in his crossing of the Gulf of Carpentaria wore a rashie and didn't take it off once on the multi-day crossing. When he reached Nhulunbuy on the NW side of the gulf he was in a really bad way. His whole torso was inflamed with skin infections.

So, what to do about that? I take a small bottle of washing concentrate and soak my paddling clothing and sprayskirt every few days in seawater in a collapsible bucket. Problem solved - and - I smell nice!

South Australia's Sea Kayaking Laws

We have to watch out for governments. We really do. I was recently looking through my notes and came across the SA proposed legislation of about 10 years ago.

Their legislation provided for sea paddlers wanting to go more than 2 kms off the coast to apply to the government for permission to do so. Can you imagine that?

I think it may have been aimed at paddlers attempting to paddle Backstairs Passage to Kangaroo Island but intentionally or not it did take in the whole state coastline. I sent in a heap of paddling applications and some letters and heard nothing. Representations from SA sea kayakers also may have made the government realize that they were going to have a war on their hands.

So, the government proposals were shelved thank goodness - but what if they had the resolve to push on with it? Other state governments may have thought it a good idea and had a go themselves...and then maybe - just maybe - New Zealand might have taken it on to tame those pesky sea kayakers who get in the way of power boaters!

Be vigilant folks! Stay with KASK and support the work your elected executive does. You just never know what's around the corner!

Surfing

Is what we do really surfing? Or are we just getting in through it and out through it? Whatever, it's an important part of sea kayaking and often the most intimidating for new paddlers.

I'm planning to write a surfing series for the magazine soon but I thought I'd leave you with a few tips that have served me well in the surf. They're ones which I often pass on to paddlers too. Here goes:

- catching a wave in to the beach... get on it early and sprint right down the front of it. Catching a wave late is asking for a forward endo!

- you might hear the wave breaking behind you. That's good! Now, choose a direction you want to go, left or right and drag your paddle to initiate the turn in your chosen direction. Dictate to the wave what you want! Do it!

- if you let the wave turn you, you may find yourself going in the wrong direction with your paddle on the downwave side of your boat. An ungraceful capsizes is assured.

- best practice in surf? Find a good long beach. Put your helmet on because you'll be in shallow water for this and you don't want a conk on the head!

Get all the stuff off your deck, launch into the surf and turn left or right, going out no more than 20 metres. That's important! Brace in all the small waves all the way up the beach and then turn around and do the same on the other side on the



Clear evidence of salt water corrosion when stainless steel bolts were used to attach aluminium footrests into a kayak.

way back. This is the best bracing practice I know of.

Corrosion

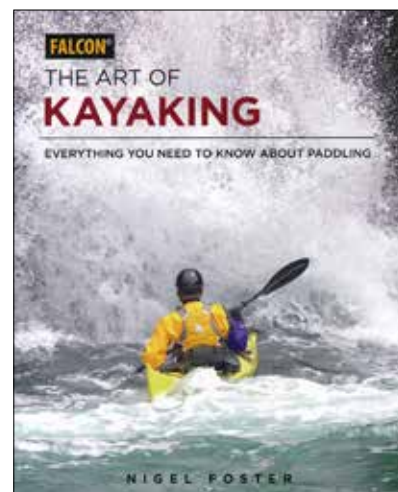
Have a look at the corrosion photo! They're garden variety aluminium footrest tracks which were secured to the hull of a kayak I worked on recently with stainless screws. Aluminium and stainless steel do not mix well in the marine environment - less so in warmer waters too. Best to go all stainless or if you really must have them together, use a jointing paste to insulate the surfaces. You have been warned!

Enjoy your paddling.
Dave



'Tired' of carrying kayaks to the sea, Dave and his mate are experimenting with a new rugged trolley set up, that should work really wet in soft mud and sand.

BOOK REVIEW



Title: *The Art of Kayaking*
Subtitle: *Everything You Need to Know About Paddling*

Author: Nigel Foster

Published: 2017

Publisher: Falcon Guides

Contents: 328 pp, 400 colour half tones

Cover: softcover

Size: 189 x 242 x 19 mm; 785 g

Price: NZ\$ \$37.56

ISBN: 978-1-4930-2570-1

Availability: UK Book Depository

Review: David Winkworth

When I first saw this book on the table at the 12 Mile, it was the cover subtitle that caught my eye: 'Everything you need to know about paddling'.

Really? Everything? Well OK then.

That really IS a broad statement and, being a Monty Python fan, I was immediately reminded of the Python's 'How to do it' sketch, with polo-necked, jumper-clad John Cleese enthusiastically telling teenagers how to split the atom, become a gynaecologist and play the flute.

Could Nigel Foster show me everything I need to know about paddling in 306 pages?

Foster certainly has been around paddling for a long time and has done many things including big paddling trips, written several books, travelled the world instructing in kayaking and manufactured a range of kayaks. That's the potted version.

His bio at the back of the book is much more comprehensive. Foster is surely qualified to write this book.

The book – a softcover - is printed on quality stock and all photos and diagrams are clear and in colour. Many of the photos I've seen before in his previous books but no problem with that if they serve a purpose. Captions are clear too, and I especially liked the key point boxes in a contrasting colour in the 'Skills' sections.

The book is logically laid out, starting with a 'Glossary' section and a brief 'Equipment Basics' section. Good to get that out of the way for newer paddlers who may often refer back to those sections.

Foster then moves on to chapters one, two and three of 'Flatwater Skills' at 15, 44 and 28 pages respectively. Kayak handling is Nigel Foster's passion and it shows in chapters one and two with all the boat control strokes you could ever want. Draw stroke, sideslip, S turn - they're all there with nicely detailed key point boxes.

Chapter 3 of 'Flatwater Skills' covers rolling, rolling in wind, re-entry techniques, the various forms of towing and more.

A curiously named 'Dry Skills Foundation' chapter follows and at 50 pages long, it's packed full of quality information for paddlers - the stuff you need to know before venturing out on a long trip. Chart reading, compasses, navigation, tides, currents and weather - it's all covered here. Planning for open crossings is covered in this chapter. Good to see that in there. Foster has done a few so he's well qualified to write about that.

I have to say that Foster has nicely divided this book. The 'Dry Skills' section gives way to a neat chapter on waves and sea theory. Tide races, overfalls and wave types are all covered here. The detail is not exhaustive - it can't be in a single book but any paddler planning to venture over the horizon would most certainly read other paddling texts which offer more detail on particular sections of

this wonderful pursuit we call paddling.

Continuing this logical progression, I just mentioned, Foster takes the paddler onto open waters in a chapter called 'Applying Skills'. Winds (the curse of the paddling class according to one Paul Caffyn), are well detailed as are rock gardens and the skills needed to negotiate them. Surf and dealing with currents, sailing, night paddling, camping tips - they're all here in this chapter of 62 pages. Good stuff.

Foster then devotes a full 42 pages to an 'Equipment Detailed' chapter. This includes how to choose a kayak for your particular needs and the features of the boats that might suit you - you know - end grabs, hatch types. Wow, he even mentions care of hatch lids and the use of rubber protectants! Detailed indeed. How to transport a kayak and kayak repairs are there too as is lengthy discussions on paddle types and paddling clothing.

Foster finishes with a chapter called 'Skills Breakdown'. He concedes that this is intended for instructors but many would benefit from this I'm sure. I enjoyed the approach he uses.

An expanded glossary follows. Not sure what a dihedral blade is? It's in there. Good to see that section included.

Skimming through the index, I was looking for a mention of a Derek Hutchinson or a David Burch or a Caffyn. Nope, not there. Silly me - this is an instructional book and Foster covers all his chosen topics well without reference to any well-known paddlers.

Other Books by Nigel

Nigel Foster's other books published by Globe Pequot books include:

- *Nigel Foster's Sea Kayaking*, (1997)
- *Nigel Foster's Surf Kayaking* (1998)
- *Encounters from a Kayak* (2012). This is a collection of paddling stories which first appeared in various North American sea kayaking magazines.

His *Stepping Stones of Ungava and Labrador*, first published in 2010 by Outskirts Press as a hardcover edition, was republished in a softcover format in 2016 by Falcon Guide. Both books, *Stepping Stones...* and *Encounters...*, have been reviewed in the KASK magazine.



So, who would want this book and does it truly tell us everything we need to know about paddling?

I see this book as being ideal for someone new to paddling or someone making noises to his or her spouse about getting into paddling. What a great way to get lots of knowledge in one compact volume! It would certainly remain a valued reference book for the paddle stroke sections.

I would've liked to see a list of books recommended for further reading on the various subjects within the broad scope of paddling but that might be just nitpicking a bit. However, there are books available for those paddlers that really want to expand their knowledge.

Now, everything we want to know in the book? Not quite but within the limits I think Foster has done a pretty good job.

And playing the flute? Well you blow in there and move your finger up and down here. Easy.

HUMOUR

A Heart Attack?

A blonde lass arrives home from work early and hears strange noises coming from the bedroom. She rushes upstairs only to find her husband naked lying on the bed, sweating and panting heavily.

"What's up?" she asks.

"I think I'm having a heart attack," cried the husband.

The blonde rushes downstairs to grab the phone, but just as she's dialling 111, her four-year-old son arrives and says, "Mummy, mummy, Auntie Shirley is hiding in the wardrobe, and she has got no clothes on!" The blonde slams the phone down and storms back upstairs into the bedroom right past her husband, rips open the wardrobe door and sure enough, there is her sister, totally naked and cowering inside.

"You rotten cow," she screams. "My husband's having a heart attack, and you're running around naked, and playing hide and seek with the kids!"

Power Outage

We had a power outage here this morning and my PC, laptop, TV, DVD, iPad and my new surround sound music system were all shut down.

Then I discovered that my iPhone battery was flat.

To top it off, it was snowing and icy so I couldn't go for a walk, bike or run.

The garage door opener needs electricity, so I couldn't go anywhere in the car.

I went into the kitchen to make coffee and then remembered that this also needed power, so I sat and talked with my wife for a few hours. She seems like a quite nice person.

Plea for Sex

One night a young bloke takes his new girlfriend home. As they kiss each other goodnight at the front door, the bloke starts feeling a little amorous. With an air of confidence, he leans with his hand against the wall and smiling, he says to her, "Honey, would you have sex with me?"

Horried, she replies, "Are you mad? My parents will see us!"

"Oh come on! Who's gonna see us at this hour?" he asks.

"No, please. Can you imagine if we get caught?"

"Oh come on! There's nobody around, they're all sleeping!"

"No way. It's just too risky!"

"Oh please, please. I love you so much!"

"No, no, and no. I love you too, but I just can't!"

"Oh yes you can. Please?"

"No, no. I just can't!"

"I'm begging you!"

Out of the blue, the light on the stairs goes on, the front door opens and the girl's older sister emerges in her pyjamas, hair dishevelled, and in a sleepy voice, she says, "Dad says to go ahead and have sex with him, or I can do it, or if need be, mom says she can come down herself and do it, but for God's sake, tell him to take his hand off the intercom!"

Sleep Remedy?

A doctor who had been seeing an 80-year-old woman for most of her life, finally retired.

At her next checkup, the new doctor told her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her. As the doctor was looking through these his eyes grew wide as he realized Grandma had a prescription for birth control pills.

"Mrs. Smith, do you realize these are birth control pills?"

"Yes, they help me sleep at night."

"Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely nothing in these that could possibly help you sleep!"

She reached out and patted the young doctor's knee and said, "Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16-year-old Granddaughter drinks. And believe me it definitely helps me sleep at night."

The Canny Scots

A Greek and a Scotsman were sitting in a Starbucks cafe discussing which of their countries had a superior culture.

Over triple lattes the Greek bloke says, "Well we Greeks built the Parthenon," and arched his eyebrows.

The Scotsman replies, "Well, it was the Scots that discovered the Summer and Winter Solstices."

The Greek retorts, "We Greeks gave birth to advanced mathematics."

The Scotsman, nodding in agreement says, "Scots were the ones who built the first timepieces and calendars."

And so on until the Greek comes up with what he thinks will end the discussion.

With a flourish of finality he states, "The Greeks were the ones who invented sex!"

The Scotsman replies, "Aye, that is true, but it was we Scots who introduced it to women!"

A Miraculous Save

Northern Territory News

Woman saves herself in Crocodile attack using a small walking stick.

This is a story of self-control and marksmanship by a brave, cool-headed woman with a walking stick against a fierce predator. Her story:

'While out walking along the edge of a creek just outside of our house in Darwin, with my soon to be ex-husband discussing our property settlement, kids and other divorce issues, we were surprised by a huge five metre crocodile which suddenly lurched from the murky water and began charging at us very fast, with its huge gaping jaws wide open.

The croc must have been protecting her young and her home because she was extremely aggressive.

If I had not had my little \$5 Reject Shop walking stick with me, I would not be here today!

Just one hard whack to my estranged husband's knee cap was all it took.

The 'Croc got him easily and I was able to escape by just walking away at a brisk pace.

The amount I saved in lawyer's fees was really incredible and I got the lot!'

Dyslexic Upbringing

Growing up with a dyslexic father had its advantages. Whenever he caught me swearing, he used to wash my mouth out with soup.

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 magazine.

New Zealand Sea Kayaker is published bimonthly as the official magazine of the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (NZ) 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 to:

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KASK Annual Sub

Membership is now \$40 for individual, family and overseas renewals.

New members can join through the following link:
<http://www.kask.org.nz/membership/>

Existing members can renew by payment of direct credit into account:
03 1706 0010205 00

Include your name and KASK membership number as reference or follow the renewal instructions sent by email on 10 July 2018.

For correspondence, queries or advising change of address to:

Karen Grant
KASK Administrator
PO Box 23, Runanga 7841
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or email Karen at:
admin@kask.co.nz

4th Ed. KASK HANDBOOK OUT OF PRINT

A 5th edition of the KASK Handbook is planned. It is a mammoth compilation on all aspects of sea kayaking in New Zealand, by many of the most experienced paddlers in the Universe.

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New Zealand Search & Rescue

www.nzsar.govt.nz
www.adventuresmart.org.nz
www.beacons.org.nz

Maritime New Zealand

www.maritimenz.govt.nz

KASK Website
kask.org.nz

Photos on opposite page:

Top right:

Jane Furkert paddling on a beautiful, mirrored reflection on Lake Te Anau

Photo: Susan Cade

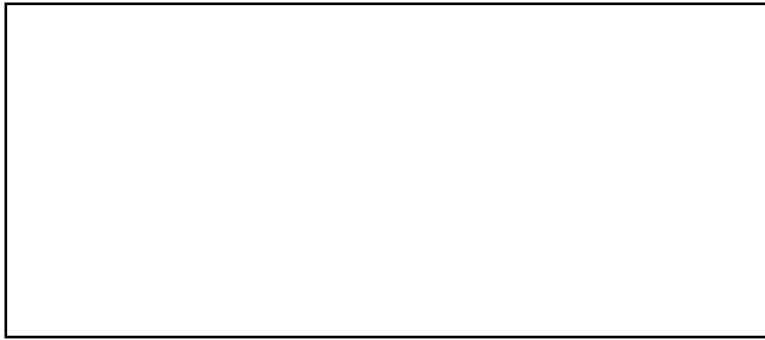
Bottom right:

A lunch stop for Susan Cade and Jane Furkert on North Arm of Lake Manapouri, near the mouth of Freeman Burn.

Photo: Susan Cade



MAILED TO



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



*Such a familiar sight at the start of a paddling trip, how do I get all this 'stuff' into my kayak?
Neville Lester's photo shows the start of a Whanganui River paddle, with packing at Cherry Grove. See story on p.6*

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KASK MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Current membership fees are:

- \$40 for ordinary membership, new members, family or joint membership
- \$40 for overseas membership (PDF newsletter only)
- KASK membership runs from 1 August to 31 July the following year
- membership renewal notices are emailed with two reminders also sent
- 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, thus receiving a 14 month membership

For new members please join through the following link:

<https://kask.co.nz/join>