

# THE SEA CANOEIST NEWSLETTER

Issue 74

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## EDITORIAL

Two president reports this time, one from yours truly who retired moderately gracefully at the KASK AGM, and one from the new president, Phil Handford. The KASK 10th Anniversary Forum, held at the too cold for nudists leisure park at Mapua, was one of the best ever, and I have included a report plus photos. Rob Tipa's trip

## From the New President

A president's brief will be a regular column in the Newsletter. This is to keep members up to date with what is happening behind the scenes.

Paul Caffyn will continue to be editor of the Sea Canoeist Newsletter and will provide his editorial flavour. To keep up the high standard, he does need members' input to articles, reports, ideas etc. that will interest other paddlers - so please contribute your little bit.

The Mapua forum 1998 was one of the most enjoyable yet and a special thanks to the Nelson team who put in many hours to make the forum such a great success. Max Grant and the Ruahine White Water Club sea kayakers have agreed to host the 1999 forum in Napier.

At the Mapua AGM, Paul Caffyn stepped down as President after six years as our inaugural president. Life membership was bestowed on him for his contribution to KASK and to sea kayaking. Paul is still very much a part of the backbone of KASK and active in the Newsletter and KASK sea kayaking handbook.

The new committee elected comprises:

President : Phil Handford

Secretary: Peter Sullivan

Treasurer: Helen Woodward

Committee: Conrad Edwards, Grant

Rochfort, Max Grant, Glyn

Dickson and Alvin Johnston (AJ).

A successful committee meeting was

held after the forum. The outcome was some changes in responsibilities and initiatives to complete in 1998.

1. Newsletter Editor - Paul, Mail out

of Newsletter - Dave Herrington

2. Handbook - mail orders Helen

3. Promotional brochure development - Max Grant and Phil

Handford

4. Promotion of Handbook - Grant

Rochfort & Phil Handford

5. Water Safety Council application

and liaison - Phil Handford

6. NZ Canoe Federation - Max

7. Environment and access issues

- AJ (Alvin Johnston)

8. Review of KASK Constitution

- Peter Sullivan

9. KASK Web site - review costs

- Conrad Edwards

## Developments to date:

Water Safety Council (WSCNZ) - I had a successful visit to WSCNZ on 20 April. Our membership application will be considered in September. The key outcome of this will be greater support in safety promotion. WSCNZ have already agreed to advertise KASK and the Handbook on their web site ([www.watersafety.org.nz](http://www.watersafety.org.nz)).

Web site design - any ideas would be most welcome through to me on e-mail or in letters to the editor. Any comments on these two questions would be greatly appreciated: 1. Who is a KASK web site aimed at? 2. What are we trying to achieve by having a web site? Have a look at [www.mountainbike.org.nz](http://www.mountainbike.org.nz). This is run by The Kennett Bros. Apparently the most successful bits are, the discussion forms, buy and sell, events,

## HUMOUR

Received from Auckland paddler Matt Watson. Thought you might like this one that came off a mail net sailing group from the US.

### **Subject: radio conversation - DIVERT YOUR COURSE**

This is the transcript of an ACTUAL radio conversation of a US naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October 1995. Radio conversation released by the Chief of Naval Operations 10-10-95:

Americans: 'Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.'

Canadians: 'Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid collision.'

Americans: 'This is the Captain of a US Navy Ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.'

Canadians: 'No...I say again, you divert YOUR course.'

Americans: 'THIS IS THE AIR-CRAFT CARRIER USS LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS, AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH, THAT'S ONE FIVE DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER-MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.'

Canadians: 'This is a lighthouse .... your call.'

### **20th CENTURY INUIT PADDLES**

#### **From: Eddie van den Hurk**

Now this is progress for you .One is never to old to learn from Inuits.

'Actually I have clear up the record here. Most Inuit kayakers today use paddles made from cast off hockey

sticks. When asked why they use hockey sticks instead of carving a paddle from a piece of drift wood they laugh and reply that the only reason their ancestors carved paddles from driftwood was because they didn't have any old hockey sticks. A top quality carbon fibre hockey stick paddle is much prized by Inuit hunters.

Cheers,  
John Winters'

### **Overheard on the Saturday morning Brian Edwards radio programme:**

Question: Why are boats, yachts and vessels always referred to as she?  
Answer: When vessels enters a port or harbour, they always head for the buoys!

### **Letters/Email to the Editor from Vincent Maire**

Hi Paul, I am now on line at Maire. Family@xtra.co.nz The attached article from the last newsletter may be of interest to KASK folk. I will endeavour to get you more stuff in the future.

### **Cottage At Hooks Bay**

Recently Justin Sanson Beattie, and Matthew Grant spent a weekend circumnavigating Waiheke Island. They report that a hut has been built on the northern end of Hooks Bay and appears to be available for anyone wishing to spend a night. The hut has shutters instead of windows, sleeps 10 and has a small kitchen area. Justin reports that there didn't seem to be any fresh water nearby and nor could he locate a toilet. The good news is that the hut has a sign saying it is available for use providing it is left in good condition and it also contains a log book. Photographs of the young people who erected the hut adorn the walls but there is no contact telephone number or name of an owner. To my knowledge the land is owned by John Spencer so it is likely a local initiative done with his approval.

This is an important and much welcome addition to island stop-over points. Hooks Bay is the ideal first

night stop-over for a circumnavigation of Waiheke Island. It is also a first night stop-over for a trip to Coromandel. The paddle from Thumb Point to Onetangi passes through some wonderful sea kayaking coastline so the hut is bound to become a popular destination for sea kayakers. If you want more information, contact Justin on (09) 278-8090

### **Aussie Sea Kayak Company**

A brochure and letter from Rod Withyman and Natalie Stephenson, who have established a sea kayak operation based at Mooloolaba on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Local tours plus longer duration trips to the Whitsunday and Fraser Island area.

For more brochures or more information:  
Ph/Fax; 617 5477 5335  
or write to PO Box 1834  
Sunshine Plaza, 4558  
Qld. Australia.

### **From Ray Forsyth**

A brochure on a kayak re-entry aid, called a Backup. It is similar in dimensions to a small fire extinguisher, and attached to the deck forward of a kayak cockpit. It features easy one grab operation, immediate inflation, over 80 pounds of buoyancy, straps to any kayak, compact, reusable with new 68g CO2 cartridge, and can also be used as a re-entry aid.

The photographs show a paddler capsizing, the backup handle is located and pulled, the CO2 cartridge inflates a large air bag, which is then used to lean on for support and gain the upright position. Photos show a double being righted with two Backups. Another photo shows the inflated bag being used for a paddle float rescue.

Cost is US\$110, with additional cartridges at US\$10.  
Contact address is:  
Roll-Aid Safety Inc  
PO Box 72005, Vancouver  
Canada. V6R 4P2.

## RENTAL EPIRBs

Chris Gulley, of Auckland Wilderness Kayaking, has advised he is considering purchasing a small EPIRB, with a view to renting it to sea kayakers. The model is a KT1 Mini Sat-Alert RB2, and rent would be around \$2.25 per day.

Chris has requested feedback, with regard to rental demand of such an item. Contact Chris at:

PO Box 56 500, Dominion Rd,  
Auckland. Ph/Fax: 09 630 7768.  
email: chris@nzkayak.co.nz

## 'PADDLES PAST'

### Journal of the Canoe and Kayak Historic Association'

Tony Ford, a British paddler who resides in Germany, sent a copy of Newsletter 24 of the above association. The newsletter is A4 size with a plastic comb binding (like the KASK Handbook), and No.24 includes articles on:

- two Greenland kayaks in the Ethnographic Museum, Stockholm,
- the straight stemmed PBK by Percy Blandford & Practical Canoeing Chapt. 3 by Tiphys

Membership of The Historic Canoe and Kayak Association is 15 pounds for members living outside the UK. The contact address is:

Tony Ford, Am Kurpark 4  
37444 St Andreasberg, Germany.  
Ph/Fax: 0049 5582 619

An epilogue in the Journal has a sourced passage relating to old Inuit paddlers: 'According to Danish explorer Peter Freuchen, who lived with the Polar Inuit at Thule for many years, an old Inuk, before he became too infirm, would call for a feast of prime mattak for his family and friends in order that they might be able to laugh and talk, and share once more the stories from times past. The sharing over, he would walk quietly with them to the shoreline or the edge of the ice, and taking leave of his family and friends, he would ask his wife or eldest son to help him into his kayak. This done, he would paddle proudly out to sea until he was quite certain that he was alone and unseen, and with a determined thrust of his paddle, capsize his kayak for

## TRIP REPORTS

### PORT PEGASUS STEWART ISLAND

by Rob Tipa

Ghosting out into the South Arm of Port Pegasus, the water was an ominous oily calm.

A south-westerly squall roared through the bush above like a runaway freight train and chased five kayaks out of Disappointment Cove. Hail stones raised a spectacular light show against the low sun as water droplets stood up, momentarily frozen in time, like millions, of diamonds mounted on silver stems.

Away to the north-west, the late autumn sun's rays peeped through the cloud, blindly bouncing off the wet granite faces of the mystical Gog and Magog, fairytale mountain peaks shining like polished glass. Then they were gone, swallowed up by the murk.

Those few precious images felt like moments shared with the master navigator himself, Lieutenant James Cook who wrote in his log of the *HMS Endeavour* on March 9, 1770:

'This land is of moderate height and has a very barren aspect; not a tree to be seen upon it, only a few small shrubs. There were several white patches on which the sun's rays reflected very strongly, which I take to be a kind of marble such as we have seen in many places of this country, particularly to the northward.'

Significantly, this was the turning point in Cook's exploration of the South Pacific, because he finally disproved the popular Great Southern Continent theory. At sunset on that autumn day he rounded the southern tip of Stewart Island which he named South Cape.

Two hundred and twenty seven years later, the southern tip of Stewart Island looks exactly the same as what Cook saw. Port Pegasus is the last refuge for mariners heading south to the subantarctic islands. Sealers, whalers, shipbuilders, miners and

fishermen have come and gone, all beaten eventually by its isolation and uncompromising gales straight off the Southern Ocean.

Today, there are no permanent residents and the only obvious sign of human habitation is a derelict house, a crumbling concrete wharf and a rusted water turbine once used to generate electricity for a fish freezer. Stewart Island fishermen shelter here from the frequent gales of the Roaring 40's and the only other visitors are yachtsmen, trampers and hunter.

You have to be keen to get there, at least three hours by fast catamaran from Bluff - an hour to cross Foveaux Strait then another two hours down the rock-strewn east coast of Stewart Island.

Once out of the shelter of land south of Lords River, our charter boat was exposed to big Southern Ocean swells and a 30 knot head wind. We punched into three to four metre breaking seas and many on board wished they were somewhere else. "You should have seen it on Saturday", said one laconic crew man. "It was really rough".

Lords River passage was a religious experience, even for seasoned white-water kayakers. All aboard gave quiet thanks for the skill of the skipper, who expertly guided the vessel through that monstrous washing machine of steep breaking seas, white water and hungry rocks on either side.

An hour or so later the catamaran roared through Whale Passage, one of the three navigable entrances into Port Pegasus, through the sheltered waters of North Arm to Observation Cove, where we unloaded 14 odd kayaks and a mountain of gear. It was mid-afternoon and our sub-group of five had about three hours of daylight left to find a campsite, so we quickly packed our kayaks and headed south.

We hugged the shore to stay out of the wind, cutting across Islet Cove to Reefer Cove, which had a good landing beach and campsite. Unfortunately, a party of hunters was ensconced with all the comforts of home, including electric light from a generator

thumping away - hardly our idea of going bush

We paddled up into Seal Creek but we could not find enough flat land to pitch our tents. Back in the boats, we paddled along the shore of Islet Cove, searching the few beaches for possible campsites.

Behind Dryad Island, we found a good sandy beach subsequently christened Chimney Cove, with excellent tent sites up in the bush. When the wind gathered strength over the next few days, we found we were well sheltered and ended up using this site as our base to explore the whole of South Arm. The only thing missing was fresh water, which we had to transport by kayak from a stream in Shipbuilders Cove.

For the next three days we explored every nook and cranny of South Arm. There were few places to land safely and we often had to keep paddling for several hours without a break. Camp sites were few and far between, so we were grateful we had set up camp on one of the few sandy beaches in South Arm.

We were tailed for several hours around Evening and Shipbuilders Coves by a stropky seal playing tag. He charged us a couple of times, teeth bared, then struck my stainless steel rudder with enough force to really rock the boat.

We quietly paddled out of his territory as he produced some spontaneous bodied bellyflops alongside. The idea of a fully grown seal landing on a 4mm plywood deck did not bear thinking about. At least we would have had no worries finding kindling to start a fire.

In sheltered coves we caught glimpses of the ghostly white herons (katuku) from their lofty perches on the bush edge.

On the third day we paddled four kilometres south to Disappointment Cove, which yachties describe as the safest all-weather anchorage in Port Pegasus. We beached the boats on a rocky stream mouth and climbed

over a low saddle to a wide sandy beach at Broad Bay, just several kilometres from the southern tip of Stewart Island.

The sun appeared briefly but there were no takers for a polar plunge on probably the southern-most beach in New Zealand. We settled for a paddle instead, grateful for the layer of polypropylene under wetsuits.

Back in the kayaks, we paddled five kilometres along the southern shore of South Arm to Sylvan Cove, but could find nowhere to land for a leak and lunch (in that order) without damaging boats on a windy and rocky lee shore.

The south-westerly was a constant companion in South Arm, varying in strength from a gentle 10 knots to gale force at over 40 knots, although we avoided open water in those conditions. The wind tunnelled out of Shipbuilders and Sylvan coves in the south-western corner of South Arm with some ferocity.

On the fourth day it was blowing half a gale, which restricted our plans, but we were still able to paddle by hugging the bush-clad cliffs and using the lee side of islands to claw our way around the shore. We tucked in behind headlands and islets to wait for the worst squalls to blow over, then paddled hard to cross open water before the next squall hit.

We hauled the kayaks on to a rock shelf of a stream flowing into Shipbuilders Cove and scrambled up through the bush an to an exposed granite ridge leading up to the 230 metre high Bald Cone. The faces of the two geologists I was with lit up as they set foot on solid granite. They were in their element. Just short of the peak, the weather closed in from the south and we tucked in under a rock for shelter, waiting for a break. There was none. Above the thin veneer of bush hugging the shoreline of Shipbuilders Cove, the tops were boney, windswept and desolate. It looked and felt like a subantarctic island. Williwaws whipped spray off the tops of waves on the cove below, indicating gusts of over 40 knots.

There was no real point in climbing the peak in those conditions, although we found out later that two other groups of kayakers made it to the summit from Waterfall Cove on the south side that morning.

We headed back to the boats before conditions got any worse. Thankfully we had a tailwind back to the camp site. Through the worst gusts, it was safer not to paddle at all. With the paddle firmly braced against the rim of the cockpit the blades alone caught enough wind for an exciting ride at hull speed, surfing down the backs of waves.

We had seen as much as possible of South Arm in the conditions, so we packed up camp on the fourth day and headed through Pegasus Passage into North Arm.

Red Beach and Bulling Bay both had good sandy beaches and plenty of room to camp. With a tailwind, we crossed Albion Inlet and rounded Cape Horn in name, at least a notch on the belt for any sea kayaker.

A crumbled concrete wharf at the Settlement was the first sign of civilisation we had seen in four days and up on the hillside behind was a derelict house that had slipped off its piles and had a wall missing.

The water looked like cold tea and the temperature dropped several degrees as we paddled into the northern corner of North Arm. But it was worth it for the view of the spectacular Belltopper Falls, where Pegasus Creek cascades over two circular rock rims shaped like a giant tophat.

'The spray off the waterfall was too chilling to hang around so we turned tail and paddled back the way we had come, happy we had achieved out to do - paddle the length of Port Pegasus.

Back in Bulling Bay, we pitched the tents under a canopy of regenerating rimu, dined on fresh trumpeter and spent another stormy night huddled around a fire, sharing tall stories of paddling in the tropics. The wind howled overhead, but the bush along

the shores of North Arm gave much better shelter than the wind-blasted South Arm.

Next morning it was time to go, so we paddled a few kilometres back to Observation Cove to catch the catamaran for the return trip to Bluff. Conditions were marginal outside, with the wind gusting to 50 knots, a real thrill for armchair surfers.

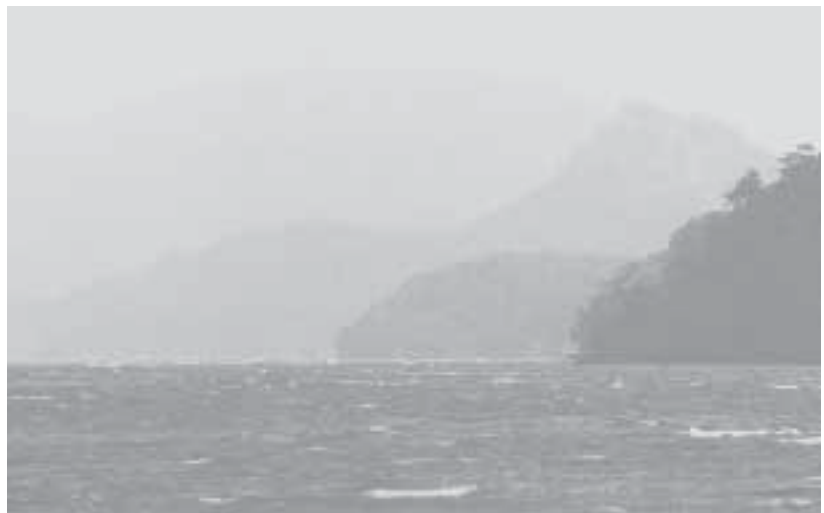
Although Port Pegasus is not a huge expanse of water (only 16 kilometres from end to end), we wished we had more time to explore its intricate waterways properly. Down here in the Roaring 40's, you can always blame the weather, wild enough to preserve some of this magnificent southern port's mysteries - until next time.

#### Rob Tipa

Editors Note: This article first appeared in Issue 86 of 'New Zealand Adventure' magazine. A small photograph at the top of p. 48 drew my attention to Rob's article. Although only a small pic, it shows an awesome sea in Lords River passage with a caption noting the passage 'in a 50 knot southerly was a religious experience - like entering a monstrous washing machine with breaking seas, white water and hungry rocks on either side.'



Dunedin kayakers, (from left) Steve White, Gordon Douglas, Steve Cox and Yvonne Cook, on the beach at Broad Bay, probably the southernmost beach in New Zealand at 47° south.



South Arm, Port Pegasus. Bald Cove of the right.



Steve Cox improvised a jury rig groundsheet to sail down South Arm of Port Pegasus; May 1997.

## KASK 10th Anniversary Forum Easter 1998 Mapua

The Easter KASK Forum at Mapua was one of the best ever. It was stamped with all the hallmarks of that make a great sea kayaking weekend; a blend of interesting workshops and practical on the water sessions, good tucker, the overnight paddle and camp, superb venue, efficient organization and great people. The weather was stunning - picture postcard calm seas and warm sunny weather for the four days.

This forum was held back at Mapua where Graham Egarr organized the very first gathering of sea kayakers from throughout New Zealand back in 1989, and it was recognized as a special 10th anniversary forum. Jan Egarr, with her three kids, Tristan, Catherine and Joshua joined the fleet of boats setting out from Mapua for the paddle out to the overnight camp at Kina Peninsula.

Mapua is a campground/leisure park which fronts both Tasman Bay and the Mapua Estuary. Cabins and camping areas lie beneath tall stands of pine trees. Although some two hours drive from the Picton ferry terminal, bus transport brought North Island paddlers and kayaks to the venue late on the Thursday night. Most paddlers camped in an area set aside for KASK, while paddlers with young kids rented cabins. Slide shows and formal lectures were held in a cosy hall, with practical session held on the flooding tide in Mapua Estuary.

The Thursday night programme commenced after registration with a video of a Nelson team paddling the glorious tropical waters around Hinchinbrook Island, that was filmed and edited by Bevan Walker.

All Friday was taken up with workshops and on the water sessions. One of the highlights was an innovative navigation orienteering workshop hosted by Alex Date. Ken Parlane,

from the Ruahine Whitewater Club, sent the following comments:

'Anyone who has been to a sea kayaking forum has no doubt taken part in a navigation workshop. I had been to two previous workshops, but I figured a refresher would not be wasted. In typical fashion, John and myself arrived after class had commenced (result of 9pm ferry sailing and 3am to bed, and definitely nothing to do with disorganization) and we were soon in class and seated. First impression was accurate. Alex's ability to get information through was very good with constant questioning on the previous subject matter.

The real icing on the cake of an excellent theory session was the on the water practical. Alex and her team (Bevan Walker and Alvin Johnston) had set up an orienteering course with true or magnetic bearings and obscure clues (keep your hooks and slices to starboard - golf course to right hand side) which took us on a 1.5 to 2 hours trip in the tidal waters of the Mapua Estuary and cruising back via the swamp of death. It was an excellent exercise using 'hands on' to practice navigation skills.

Congratulations folks on an excellent exercise that is sure to be duplicated'.

The afternoon sessions included:  
kayak packing  
photography  
radio etiquette & VHF radios  
fibreglass repairs  
fishing from a kayak.

Following the afternoon smoko, Brian Tear, who is an education officer with the Nelson Coastguard, conducted a session on the safe use and visibility of flares. Paddlers adjourned to the beach for a run through safety procedures, and liaised with Bevan Walker via radio for firing of flares from his kayak approximately one kilometre offshore. The red pinpoint flare and parachute flare were certainly the most visible to the watchers on shore when fired from the kayak.

Then paddlers were invited to fire off time expired flares from the beach. The vivid orange smoke flares and para-

chute flares were indeed spectacular. Paddlers firing flares were given firm instruction from Brian to point them out to sea, as with the dry weather, there was an immediate fire danger of any of the pyrotechnics landing in the leisure park. What followed was one of the most dramatic moments of the weekend.

John Dobbie, a local commercial sea kayak manufacturer, took up the opportunity to fire off a parachute flare. These when triggered leave a fine smoke trail up for 100+m before the red pin point flare is ignited and this floats down suspended by a small parachute. Although John was pointing his flare to seawards, the flare's trajectory described a sharp 90° turn to hiss overhead the watchers towards the Mapua Leisure Park, where it disappeared out of sight. Naturally Brian Tear was concerned as to where the flare had landed, and two of us set off along the beach to check. By a moored pontoon in the estuary, an ashen-faced Max Grant (the North Island manufacturer of Quality Kayaks, and competitor of John's) was recovering from the shock of the noise of a flare exploding immediately overhead. Although obviously untrue, rumour has it that John had substituted the pyrotechnic section of the parachute flare with a small heating seeking missile designed to remove his main North Island commercial competitor.

After the KASK AGM and dinner, slide shows were presented, the first by Paul Caffyn and Conrad Edwards of their trip around New Caledonia and the second by Kevin Killilea of a solo trip along a section of the West Coast of Greenland. Kevin's photos of the ice and rugged coastal scenery were stunning and one of the highlights of the weekend.

Saturday morning sessions include a repeat of Alex's navigation/orienteering, plus:  
the King Island kayak survey trip and expedition planning destinations/places to go  
gadgets and gizmos  
weather  
paddling skills  
rescues

After lunch, and following a trip briefing, paddlers set off in pods for the overnight camp at Kina Peninsula. Radio communication from mobiles on shore and sets with pod leaders led to everyone assembling at the Kina campsite which by dusk was dotted with a myriad of colourful tents. A trailer portable loo has been brought on site plus a keg of beer for thirsty paddlers. It was a marvellous evening, and paddlers adjourned to the beach after gourmet dinner to sit around a roaring bonfire. Kevin Killilea introduced many paddlers to a tot of Danish firewater, consumed apparently by drillers on the Greenland icecap to ward off the cold, but by the taste it could well be an alternative high temperature stove fuel. Late evening, a full moon emerged through the clouds to set a magnificent moonlight view of Tasman Bay, and as the flood tide slowly began to turn the glowing coals into steam, paddlers departed for their tents.

A forum debrief was held on the beach prior to paddlers departing for Mapua. Positive comments re the Nelson organization team included:  
the large dunking bin of freshwater for washing gear  
the drying line strung through the campsite at Mapua  
the keg of beer.

To mark the special 10th Anniversary Forum, John Dobbie had built two mounted paddle blades on wooden bases. One was then presented to Max Grant for 'better than average' services to sea kayaking, and the second to Conrad Edwards for 'better than average' contributions to 'The Sea Canoeist' Newsletter.

The pods then prepared to paddle back to Mapua on a glassy sea. Max Grant, still with nerves shattered after the previous afternoon's close encounter with the flare, emerged from the bushes with a larger than life inflatable penguin which he attached to the rear of his cockpit. Although Max's new kayak is termed a 'Penguin' model, the penguin towered over Max seated in the cockpit. It may have been protection for another heat seeking missile or merely a super duper paddle float rescue device.

On the leisurely paddle back to Mapua, Bevan Walker caught a second large kawhai fish on a lure trailed behind his double, and we indulged in a glorious swim from the rafted together kayaks.

The forum finished Sunday night with a BBQ, and rounded off a great weekend.

The Nelson organizing committee of John Dobbie, Alex Date, Alvin Johnston (AJ), Karen Clark, Marty Clark and Bevan Walker achieved a marvellous effort co-ordinating transport, catering and speakers. How on earth they sorted the wonderful weather is beyond me. Thanks to the committee members, all the workshop presenters and speakers, and the paddlers attending for making the 10th Anniversary KASK Forum such a success, one of the best ever forums.

Paul Caffyn



Bevan Walker with a practical session at the Forum on fishing from a kayak.

Max Grant at the overnight camp at Kina Peninsula, with his extra large paddle float device.



## KASK AGM April 1998 President's Report -1997/1998

### KASK Forums

Last year's 1997 Forum at Worsler Bay, Wellington was a great success with 110 paddlers attending, in particular the overnight paddle which took paddlers via Soames Island to a beach campsite on the Petone foreshore for a convivial night around bonfires. Some of the overseas paddlers (from Nelson actually) organized a pizza delivery to the beach. Although Wellington lived up to its reputation of the windiest city in New Zealand, paddlers were not daunted by the strong winds. The blend of formal lectures plus the overnighter again proved a very successful combination. Max Grant, Libby O'Connor and the very able team from the Ruahine Whitewater Club undertook the organization of the superbly run '97 forum.

The 1998 Mapua KASK Forum is a special one, as it is the 10th Anniversary of when Graham Egarr initiated the very first forum at Mapua in 1989.

The task of organizing the KASK Forums is an onerous one; time consuming and requiring a dedicated team of paddlers willing to take on the role. KASK, in previous years, has alternated Forums between the North and South islands. KASK has tried both the Anzac Day holiday weekend and Easter to make the travelling times a little easier.

I recently attended the Canterbury Sea Kayaking Network mini-forum at Okains Bay, Banks Peninsula, and on the drive out to the bay, pondered the idea of alternating the KASK Forums in the South Island with Coastbusters in the following year. Instead of an annual Forum, a sea kayak meet or social gathering of paddlers could be held in alternate years instead of a South Island Forum. This would take the pressure both off KASK and Coastbusters to organize an annuals forum/symposium.

### 'The Sea Canoeist' Newsletter

The newsletter is still involved with 10 overseas contra exchanges, with contra publication rights. This allows for excellent two-way dissemination of information world-wide. My thanks to Peter and Diane Sullivan for copying and distribution, Phil Handford for producing the labels, and the very nearly extinct regular contributors. The editor is reliant on articles fed in by New Zealand paddlers, of trip reports, product reviews, book reviews and instructional articles. If you have undertaken trips worthy of reporting in the newsletter and failed to provide an article in the past year, consider yourself in the 1997 KASK Hall of Shame. In 1998, please put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and compile an article.

### KASK Handbook

The second printing of the KASK Handbook, which was improved with artwork by Nicola Johnson, is now out of print. Peter Sullivan undertook the time consuming mission of promoting and distributing the handbook. The response from kayak manufacturers and retailers was generally poor, with notable exceptions. I had always hoped that each new kayak, or second hand boat, was sold complete with a KASK Handbook. Peter Sullivan sent out gratis copies of the first edition to all the main retailers and manufacturers. The tardy response from some retailers and manufacturers, suggests that there are many outfits not concerned with the safety of new paddlers, but only in the dollars to be made with kayak sales. All the rental and guiding outfits in New Zealand should have the Handbook on display and available for sale.

Over the past four months, I have reformatted a second edition of the handbook. It now includes additional chapters on Navigation, Paddling Literature, Stewart Island, Listings of Rental and Kayaking Companies and boats currently available in New Zealand. Pertinent information particularly on weather forecasts has been updated. Fifty copies have been produced for a launching at this forum. There are a few spelling mistakes which slipped by the editor but these

will be amended in time for the next print run. Photographs and Nicola's artwork have been added to round off a superb compilation by the best sea kayakers in the world. The KASK Handbook is a something that all KASK paddlers should be proud of.

However there is no point in having a superb handbook unless it is widely known, widely promoted, available and owned by every sea kayaker in New Zealand. In the 1998/99 year, KASK needs to adopt an aggressive marketing approach in tackling those tardy retailers and manufacturers that have failed to buy the handbook in the past. Regular order/reminder forms should be sent out on a quarterly basis.

The availability of the LRB needs to be known in all the high schools, polytechs and other institutions that are currently running sea kayaking courses. And a request will be made to the New Zealand Water Safety Council that its availability is widely promoted through the NZWSC newsletter. SKOANZ should take an active role also in publicizing and promoting the LRB both with clients and instructors and guides.

The Handbook will be upgraded when print runs are sold out and when material becomes out of date. Additional chapters are sought, plus amendments or changes to material already in the handbook.

I would like to see a copy of the 2nd. edition supplied gratis to all new paddlers joining KASK, and also a copy supplied gratis to all existing KASK members who join for the 98/99 financial year, however this appears to be a decision to be made by the new committee.

### Expedition/Trip Database

At the '98 Coastbusters Symposium, the concept of creating a New Zealand database on trips and expeditions was discussed. After our September 1997 trip around New Caledonia, I sought information on the net (through Sandy Ferguson) if there was a database of trips and expeditions anywhere in the world. It would appear there isn't.



An integral part of a successful expedition is planning and preparation. I find the more thorough the planning and preparation, the more enjoyable and less stressful an expedition is. In planning a trip to a new area, it would make the task of planning and preparation a lot easier if a database could be accessed with relevant information on the area and contacts for more information.

In 1997, Kiwi paddlers were abroad in Turkey, Alaska, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and Northern Queensland, all with very successful expeditions achieved. There is a vast wealth of knowledge largely untapped in New Zealand, of paddlers who have journeyed to remote corners of New Zealand and the world. That knowledge needs to be compiled into a database that will be easily accessible to future trip/expedition paddlers.

The logical place to start would seem to be New Zealand, with compilation of a chronological database of trips in various areas, Northland, Fiordland etc., with contact address and phone numbers included. Then a separate chronological database of overseas Kiwi Expeditions.

Debbie Dunsford from Auckland has kindly offered to tackle the role of initial database compiler. The next move from KASK is to define what constitutes a trip/expedition worthy of inclusion in the database (duration or distance etc.), then flick up a form on a computer and send this out with a KASK newsletter. The information could then be assembled as hard copy initially and ultimately on a floppy disc.

The concept of a KASK worldwide database of expeditions and trips would certainly be a marketable item as a floppy disc or available via email. And the use of cybermail would certainly help with compilation of such a database.

### **Incident/Accident Database**

In discussion with Chris Gulley and Jonathan Iles at Coastbusters, we decided there was a need for a database to be compiled of all sea kayaking

incidents, accidents and fatalities in New Zealand. Particularly from the lessons that could be learned from each accident etc.

As most incidents are decidedly embarrassing, KASK needs an aggressive/inquisitive paddler who can act as compiler for incidents, accidents and fatalities in New Zealand waters, with focus on lessons learned from each incident. The American 'Sea Kayaker' magazine has run some excellent articles on incidents compiled by Matt Broze and George Gronseth and the results were compiled in a book recently.

Two recent rescues of paddlers have involved commercial rental or guiding outfits, both in Wellington Harbour and Abel Tasman National Park. The problems that led to both incidents need to be noted with lessons learned publicized through both the SKOANZ and KASK newsletters.

### **KASK Application to join NZ Water Safety Council**

In November 1996 I sought information from NZWSC with respect to KASK joining the council. Information was also sought by Peter Sullivan and Glyn Dickson on joining Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC) and the New Canoeing Federation (NZCF). At the 1997 KASK AGM, we decided to join the NZWSC, and an application was sent before June 1997. Since then the application has not been sanctioned.

As of 8 April 1998, when I telephoned Alan Muir, who is Executive Director of NZWSC, the KASK application is still pending. Criteria for membership are met, according to Alan, however planned changes to the council constitution relate to membership; this seems to mean there is doubt as to who should represent sea kayakers on the council, SKOANZ, or NZOIA or KASK.

A copy of the first edition of the KASK Handbook (LRB) was sent to Alan Muir to show that KASK is taking a leading role in the promotion of safe sea kayaking in New Zealand. I included a request for avenues for

funding of the printing of LRB but was informed that no sources of funding were available.

In the phone conversation of 8 April 1998, I again requested funding for printing of the 2nd. edition of the LRB but was told there was no funding sources available. I then requested promotion and publicity for the LRB in the NZWSC newsletter. This was agreed to, plus a possible listing on a resource listing that the NZWSC produces. This is an alternative to KASK mailing all the polytechs and high schools in NZ to advise that the LRB is available.

The delay in the process of sanctioning the KASK membership has now dragged on for 12 months and there is a further delay until the next NZWSC board meeting in September 1998. As KASK has taken on a pivotal role with promotion of safe sea kayaking in New Zealand, it is untenable that the KASK membership of NZWSC is still pending. It is high time that KASK penned a letter to the minister of the department that funds NZWSC and requests some action regarding the KASK application.

### **Conservation**

Of growing concern is the demands increasingly placed on facilities and campsites in areas such as Abel Tasman National Park and the Bay of Islands by the growth of commercial sea kayak outfits. There are now some 10 outfits offering kayak trips to the Abel National Park, and at times I understand it is difficult to find a tent site at the established camp sites. This overcrowding is diminishing the wilderness experience for not only paying clients but also the Kiwi paddlers. If the Department of Conservation is only interested in dollars from guiding concessions and not on overuse of facilities, it is time that KASK instigated correspondence with both SKOANZ and DOC and try and remedy the situation.

### **KASK's Role in the Future**

The 'Sea Canoeist Newsletter' was instigated by Graham Egarr in 1988 as an informal network newsletter to keep widely dispersed New Zealand

paddlers in touch. With the burgeoning growth of both commercial guiding/rental and real bloke/blokes paddlers in New Zealand, KASK was formed as an incorporated society with the aim of promoting and publicizing safe sea kayaking. The newsletter, annual forums and production of the LRB have developed and maintained that aim, but KASK in future years needs to be more aggressive in its role of promoting and publicizing safe sea kayaking.

Each sea kayak sold in New Zealand, new or second-hand, should have a pamphlet or A4 sheet extolling the virtues of joining KASK, and all retail suppliers should have a colour wall brochure promoting the role of KASK, and the benefits of joining KASK. Where local sea kayak mini-forums or network forums are held, KASK should consider funding travel of its expert instructors and lecturers to these. There is a vast wealth of knowledge relating to all facets of sea kayaking in New Zealand, and that wealth should be utilized.

### In Retrospect

In 1991, the first plenipotentiary meeting of KASK was held in the bathroom of Graham Egarr's house at Mapua. This was after an unsatisfactory discourse with an NZCA sea kayaking commodore who attended the 1991 Mapua Forum. Graham, who was reclining in his bath and trying to ease the pain of a cancerous growth around his spine, had decided that NZASK (New Zealand Association of Sea Kayakers) was to be formed and asked if I would be president, on the condition that I would keep my mouth shut. Graham's concept was that as an incorporated society, NZASK would join the NZWSC and then gain funding for both publications and videos promoting safe sea kayaking. I thought that KASK had a nicer connotation and rolled off the tongue easier than NZASK, and that was the start. Unfortunately Graham died in September that year and I have not kept my mouth shut ever since.

Graham's untimely death was a sad loss to all New Zealand paddlers. He had a pivotal role with conservation

of our rivers and promotion of safe paddling.

KASK has carried on with what Graham had intended, the promotion of safe sea kayaking, albeit a little slower than perhaps he intended, but we have continued with the annual forums and newsletter, and KASK collectively produced the mother of all sea kayak handbooks.

KASK has kept the relevant government authorities (NZWSC and Maritime Safety Council) informed of its production of the LRB (gratis copies) but had no success with funding for publication of the LRB.

After seven years as el presidente, your omnipotence or Chief Guru, as some unkindly have written to me, it is time for a change of leadership.

Lastly my thanks to last year's committee. My special thanks to Phil Handford who was nailed the financial side of KASK and is thus keeping us sweet with IRD. And my special thanks to our esteemed secretary, Peter Sullivan who has kept me in check (most of the time). Peter has been a most efficient record keeper and also sounding board for some of my cunning plans.

Finally my best wishes to the new committee for 98/99.

P. Caffyn  
8 April 1997

**LITTLE RED BOOK 2**  
or better known as  
**THE KASK HANDBOOK 2nd.**  
**Edition.**

The LRB2 is now available from Helen Woodward, 82 Hutcheson St, Blenheim Phone: 03 578 5429  
E mail - h.woodward@xtra.co.nz

**COSTS:**

New KASK members: 1 free LRB2  
Current members: \$10 + \$1 p & p  
Non members: \$18 + \$1 p & p  
Make cheques out to KASK (NZ) Inc.  
KASK badges \$15 + \$1 p&p

Trade Enquiries; please contact Helen Woodward.

## In the MailBox

### 'SEA KAYAKER'

If you haven't seen the June 1998 Issue of 'Sea Kayaker' Vol.15 No.2, pick up one from your local sea kayak shop. It contains a cracker article by Wellington paddler Malcolm Gunn on a 1996 trip to Tierra del Fuego. The photos are excellent and those paddlers who heard Malcolm slide show at the KASK Forums can be reassured that Malcolm's entertaining way with words and terrible humour transpose as well into written text. An article by Malcolm appeared in 'The Sea Canoeist' Newsletter No.62, but the 'Sea Kayaker' article is more detailed and includes a map of the area paddled.

I recall Malcolm with his slide show introducing the three other members of the team, and describing three of the paddlers going home to pack for the expedition, whereas Brent Harrison, who is the proprietor of an outdoor equipment shop, went to work. Well the descriptions of himself and his paddling companions in the 'Sea Kayaker' magazine have been expanded somewhat in a:

'meet the gang:

Brent Harrison, an outdoor equipment retailer, mountain running marathoner and general scapegoat. He has owned more kayaks than a medium sized Inuit village. He thinks *gaspacho* is a South American cowboy, and can order coffee in Spanish.

Peter Lenihan is an architect and, therefore, not to be trusted with any building materials. He thinks a can opener is a creative kitchen utensil.

Peter Gates is a computer systems manager. He is fluent in Spanish, and therefore quite useful. A trapper, climber and pilot, he can make pancakes if closely supervised.

I am a computer systems manager, a marathoner and mountain biker. My ambition is to beat Brent in a marathon. I was the executive chef of the expedition.'

If you aspire to write good sea kayaking trips reports, buy this issue of 'Sea Kayaker' and have a good squiz at Malcolm's article.

Other feature articles in the same issue include:

'Return to the Ooglit Islands', a revisit to the barren coast of Canada's Northwest Territories and 'Pictured Rocks National Landshore' which is part of Lake Superior.

### 'FOLDING KAYAKER'

The November/December 1997 Vol.7 No.6 newsletter contains a five page, seven year comprehensive index for the all the newsletters to date. If anyone would like a copy of the index, send me a book of 40 cent stamps to cover mail and photocopying cost.

Back issue of 'Folding Kayaker' are also available from the editor Ralph. 'Single copies are US\$5 apiece. Order 10 to 20 back issues at one time and they are US\$4 apiece. If you are a glutton for punishment and want all of the back issues, you can have them for US\$110, which turns out to be around US\$2.50 to 3.00 apiece. A warning: quite a few of the back issues are photocopied as I ran out of the original run.'

Contact address:

Ralph Diaz, Publisher  
Folding Kayaker Inc.  
PO Box 0754, New York  
NY 10024, USA  
email: rdiaz@ix.netcom.com

## Back Issues 'The Sea Canoeist Newsletter'

I now have a box of past issues of the newsletter, with limited numbers of No.50, 52, 54, 55, 56 & 57, and upwards of 10 copies per issue from No.58 to No.73 (the last issue).

To order, list the issues would like, include a \$2 book of 40 cent stamps per two issues requested, and post me a folded self-addressed A4 envelope with 80 cent stamp for mailing to: P. Caffyn, RD 1, Runanga, West Coast.

## In the Newspapers

From the 'Christchurch Press'  
20/01/98

### Girl hooks the big one a jet skier

A eight-year-old Whangarei girl caught more than she bargained for when her borrowed fishing rod hooked a jet-ski at Whananaki North, 42kms north-east of Whangarei. In a scene reminiscent of an advertisement of Instant Kiwi, the unsuspecting jet-skier whizzed under the footbridge where Kelly Wilson, of Tamo, was dangling a line. Family friend Trevor Thompson, who owned the rod, said the strike took everybody by surprise.

"a guy came through on his jet-ski and she actually got him. The rod bent right over and she was hanging on for dear life." The jet-ski was hauled up and tipped over, tossing the rider into the water. "He wasn't impressed.... he came out on his jet-ski and said a few things. It was his fault. He shouldn't have been zooming around there," Mr Thompson said.

shop/contacts/networks.

Phil Handford 10 May 98

## KASK ADDRESSES

Helen Woodward for all subs and purchases of handbooks & badges

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**KASK President**

104 Lake Road, Frankton  
Hamilton

## KASK SUBS DUE

Subscriptions for the 1998/99 financial year are due on 31 March 1998.

Please send \$20 cheque made out to KASK (NZ) Inc. or folding stuff to:  
Helen Woodward

**KASK Treasurer**  
82 Hutcheson St  
Blenheim.

If you do not receive newsletter No.

75, your KASK sub. is overdue. This current n/l (No. 74) will be the last on the 97/98 KASK subscription. If you do not have the KASK sub. invoice that was mailed out with n/l No. 74, please include address, phone & fax number, plus email address.

## SEA KAYAKING NETWORK CONTACT ADDRESSES

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Canterbury Sea Kayak Network  
Andy & Deirdre Sheppard  
Ph: (03) 342 7929

Sea Kayak Operators Assoc. of NZ  
PO Box 56 500  
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Bay of Plenty Sea Kayak Network  
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Jean Kirkham  
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Wellington Sea Kayak Network  
Gill Johnston  
Fax: (04) 471 0333  
email: gill.johnston@ecnz.co.nz  
Meetings: First Thursday of every second month at Bivouac,  
The Terrace, Wellington

Auckland Canoe Club  
PO Box 3523, Auckland.  
Newsletter Editor: Julia Thorn  
Ph: 09 575 3099

Deadline for material for n/l No. 75: **Late July.** No. 75 newsletter will be a wee bit late, due to an impending SOPM, a serious overseas paddling mission.



If undelivered, please return to: Peter Sullivan, 7 Monowai Cresc. North New Brighton, Christchurch..  
SUBSCRIPTIONS (98/99): \$20 due 31 March 1998