

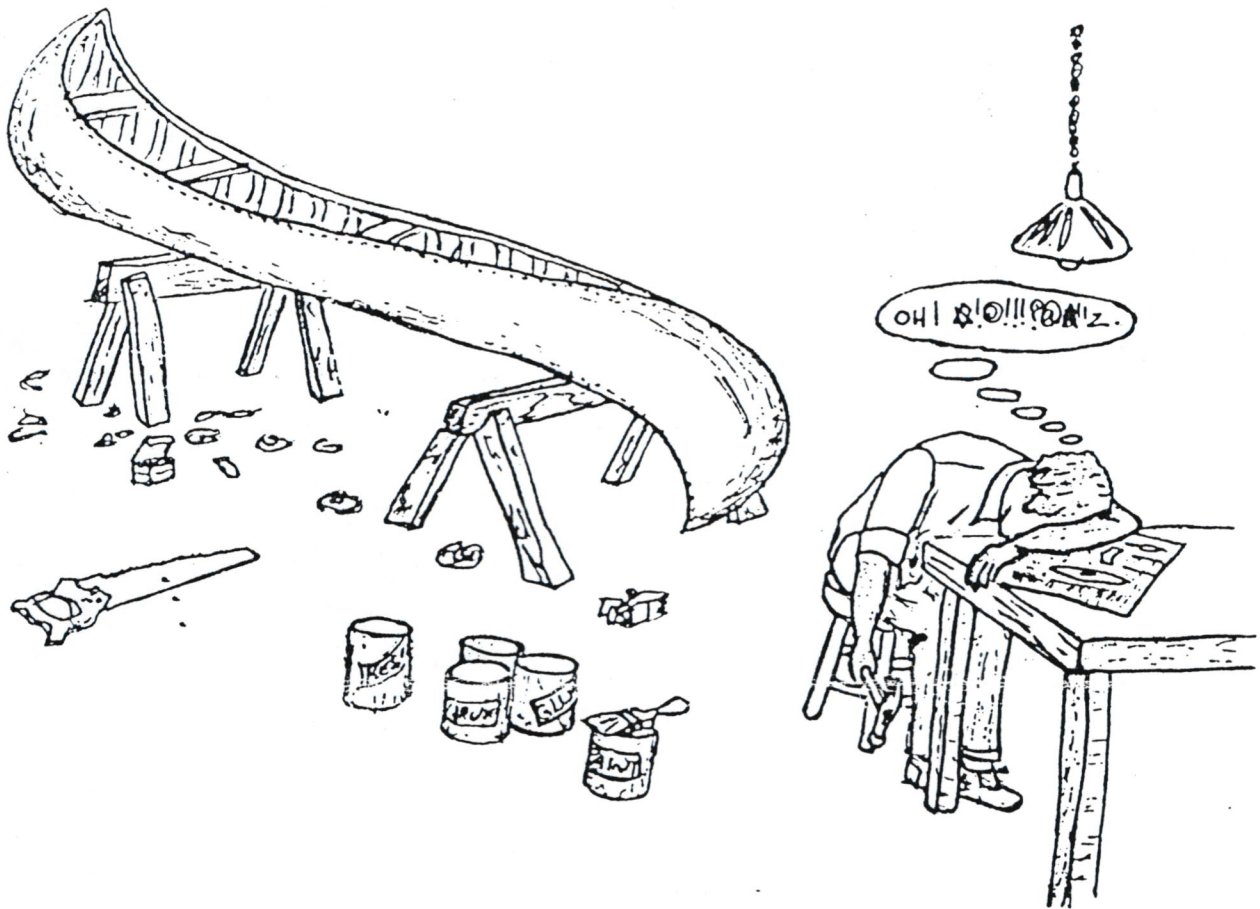
# NSW SEA KAYAKER

Newsletter of the NSW Sea Kayak Club Inc.

P.O. Box A1045 Sydney South, NSW 2000

Number 1

December, 1989.



A well known but unnamed club member depicted after an extremely long building session in preparation for the January long weekend trip.

## INAUGURAL COMMITTEE, 1989/1990

President	Perc Carter.....(02)	523 6157
Vice President	Ken McDonald.....(02)	520 5349
Secretary	Ray Abrahall.....(02)	528 9091
Treasurer	Shirley Abrahall...(02)	528 9091
Trip Programmer	John Slattery.....(042)	261 833 (BH)
Editor	John Bamberry.....(02)	955 8212
Social Convenor	Peter Ingleby.....(02)	32 2069
Editorial Committee	Ken McDonald	
	Michael Richardson.(02)	907 9766 (BH)
Programme Committee	Ken McDonald	
	Michael Richardson.	

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### DISCLAIMER

None of the office bearers or any of the Executive Committee or a trip leader or any other member of the club shall be legally responsible in the event of any person dying or suffering injury or loss while engaged in any activities of the Club, and no action shall lie against any one or more of them, nor against the Club funds or property on account of the negligence or otherwise of any one or more of them.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After a long time at the boat builders, the New South Wales Sea Kayak Club Incorporated has finally been launched.

Ray and Shirley Abrahall are to be congratulated for the drive and enthusiasm they displayed in getting the Club started. Similarly, Gary and Wade Burnham of Canoe Specialists at Beecroft, together with Ron Murray and Jill Boulton of Canoe and Camping at Gladesville and Kogarah helped out by making their premises available for our inaugural meetings.

John Slattery of Canoe World at Wollongong has travelled to every meeting and provided advice and encouragement as has Michael Richardson of Q Craft at Manly Vale. We are fortunate indeed to have the support of these leaders in the industry.

At the time of writing, we have twenty financial and many more paddlers have expressed interest in joining. A membership application form is enclosed for your convenience if you have not already joined.

For our club to be successful, your committee believes that

the club must offer a wide variety of trips, ranging from the easy picnic style to fully fledged expeditions and everything in between. By offering this wide range of trips, the club will make a positive contribution to the paddling skills and expertise of the members.

In May, 1989, Ray Abrahall conducted a survey of prospective members to determine their preferences for future activities. The message came back loud and clear, meetings to be kept to a minimum, trips and activities to be at the maximum. Your Committee will ensure that this is the case and we intend to operate with a minimum of fuss.

Our Incorporated status requires that the Committee shall meet at least three times annually and it is our intention to adhere to this formal requirement, with general meetings to be conducted, where possible, during club trips. In this way we won't get bogged down with administration and waffle.

In the fullness of time, I am sure that the New South Wales Sea Kayak Club Inc. will develop into a popular and respected authority on sea kayaking with the same status as the Advanced Sea Kayak Club on the Isle of Wight or the Tasmanian Sea Canoeing Club of Hobart.

The trip program for the next two months contains plenty for everyone. If you want to lead a trip, please contact John Slattery, our Trip Programmer and discuss your ideas with him.

This is the Club's first magazine. We hope to issue every two months, depending on the availability of material. Success or otherwise will depend on your contributions. Help our Editor, John Bamberry, and his editorial committee by providing your ideas on layout, content, covers etc. All assistance and comment will be gratefully received.

Hand written contributions are welcome, but if it is at all possible, typewritten copy or computer disk would be appreciated.

We can accommodate most formats on either 5 1/4 or 3 1/2 disks, 360kb to 2 mb, using MS-Dos or IBM-DOS. Please write text to disk in ASCII format. A hard copy for checking and as a fail safe would also be appreciated. Disks will be returned as soon as they have been copied.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish all members, families and friends of the Club a happy Christmas and a prosperous paddling New Year!

-Perc Carter



## TRIP REPORTS

BALMORAL BEACH-SYDNEY HARBOUR-FAIRY BOWER, 17TH  
SEPTEMBER, 1989.

We met at Balmoral Beach, Mosman for a late leisurely Sunday morning start. Eight people and seven boats assembled. Mic Longhurst and Michelle Vandervord brought their Catcan, Anthony McCarthy, Perc Carter and Bruce Lee (Greenlanders), John Bamberry (Puffin), Peter Ingleby (Estuary) and Michael Richardson (Chinook). The Catcan drew much attention during the day - quite an unusual boat!

At 9:30 am, the weather was fine and seas calm, so it was a perfect opportunity to paddle across to Grotto Point and follow close under Dobroyd Head and Crater Cove. Seas are usually quite unpleasant in this area. Crossing ferry lanes to Store Beach was interesting. Seven boats at 5 metres each can present a 35 metre obstacle to hydrofoils. Line abreast seemed prudent!

The gentle nor'easter tempted us out of the heads to travel up to Fairy Bower (southern end of Manly) for lunch. Poo is certainly a problem. The sea off North Head is none too pleasant with offshore winds. Surprisingly, we found a large, lone seal in amongst it, seemingly quite relaxed and friendly.

The leisurely rate for the morning saw us cover the 10 km Balmoral to Fairy Bower in 1 hour, 45 minutes. The return route took us wide to skirt the worst of the pollution before running down to South Head and turning down the Harbour to Obelisk Beach. Here we split up - Perc and Peter headed back to Rose Bay, the others to Balmoral.

Try as he might, Peter's fishing was fruitless. Michael, however, made the mistake of paddling close under the stern of a yacht and got snagged on a troll-line - very nearly got caught too!

Thanks to those who came - a very enjoyable day!

- Michael Richardson

GUNNAMATTA BAY-JIBBON BEACH. 24 SEPTEMBER 1989.

9:30 am on 24 September, 1989 at the boat ramp in Gunnamatta Bay behind the Cronulla railway station saw 12 individuals on hand for the Club's second official trip. The collection of boats would have done any shop proud and the presence of three doubles made for some interesting comparisons.

Those present were:

Peter Ingleby	Estuary
Ray Abrahall	Tasman
Shirley Abrahall	Tasman
Ken and Barbara McDonald	Dolphin II (double)
Mic Longhurst and Michelle Vandervord	Catcan II (double)
Des Carter and Gwen Chance	Tasman Twin (double)
Alan Smith	Greenlander II
Perc Carter	Greenlander II
John Bamberry	Puffin

With a gentle breeze blowing in from the northeast, the group set off past the State Fisheries installation at Hungry Point on the southern end of Gunnamatta Bay and paddled north past Shark Island and Cronulla Beach, landing a leisurely two hours later at Boat Harbour at the northern end of Bate Bay. Some large rollers were breaking on the Merries Reef but the landing place was well protected from the surf and no problems were encountered.

Morning tea had just commenced when a large pod of dolphins began to frolic off the beach. Most of our group put to sea and were soon surrounded by jumping, diving and speeding dolphins. What a show they put on (the dolphins that is)!

Mic and Michelle missed the show courtesy of some yobbo who had left a broken bottle hidden in the sand. Mic tested its sharpness with a big toe and provided Michelle with an opportunity to use their first-aid kit.

After the pod had retreated out to sea, the group paddled along the western side of the Merries and across to Jibbon Beach for lunch. Quite a variety of pleasure craft were anchored at Jibbon and a number of nudists sunbaked (so we were informed) just out of our line of sight. A visit from the floating ice cream parlour provided us with extra nourishment for the paddle back down Gunnamatta Bay which can be quite a bore.

The day's pleasant temperatures, glassy rollers, variety of boats and great company made for a most pleasant outing which concluded at the boat ramp about 2:45 pm.

Observations were made during the paddle that we allowed ourselves to become too spread out, OK in good weather but dangerous in bad conditions. Also we didn't take the opportunity to raft up, pass around the eats and make floating conversation. Conditions were perfect for it, so next time, maybe?

All boats were well equipped with life lines, tow lines and all paddlers wore PFDs. Total distance travelled was about 12 nautical miles. Just nice.

- Perc Carter



PALM BEACH TO LITTLE BEACH, 25TH AND 26TH NOVEMBER 1989.

9 am, Saturday, 25 November, 1989, standing on the beach near the Aquatic Air terminal at Palm Beach with cloudy skies, calm seas and a slight southerly breeze, tending north easterly, all seemed perfect for the Club's trip to Little Beach in the Bouddi National Park.

Little Beach is situated about 14 km north from Palm Beach and offers the paddler a range of sea conditions, even on a calm day. The rocky headlands, reefs and tides all contribute to interesting paddling. Little Beach is certainly well-named. What little sand exists lies behind a border of rocks which, in the northern corner flattens out to permit safe seal landings. Generally, the area permits reasonable landings, provided that the seas are running from the north.

The trip started well with Peter Ingleby (Estuary), Colin Campbell (Greenlander III), Perc Carter (Greenlander II), Paul Huetson (Greenlander II) and Phill Chidgey (Greenlander II) paddling to Lion Island to meet up with Bruce Lee (kevlar Greenlander II) and by 10 am, we were under way.

After an hour or so of pleasant paddling, Paul and Phill returned to Palm Beach and the rest of the crew paddled through undulating seas, about 1 metre on a 1 metre swell with a slight chop and varying degrees of clap-tosis as we passed the steep cliffs. Little Beach was reached about 12:30 pm and after an interesting seal landing on a weed-covered flat rock, tents were pitched and the usual eat-a-thon commenced.

As the hours went by, the cloud cover increased as did the wind from the south. By 4 am on Sunday morning, the sea was boiling the bay was white with foam, the rain was falling in bucket-fulls and sleeping bags were pulled over ears to drown out the roar of the surf. Numerous nerve-inspired trips were made to the National Park toilets as the morning wore on.

By 9 am, it was obvious that common sense and self preservation dictated a land-based exit rather than a foolhardy surfing display for the handful of watching campers waiting for a thrill.

Thanks to Bruce's foresight, his vehicle was available close by and we were soon transported overland to Brisbane Waters. A pleasant paddle with some sailing saw the group pass St. Huberts Island after about an hour and into The Rip about 15 minutes afterwards. What a thrill; wind against tide under the Bridge makes for exciting paddling with over 100 metres of wild, broken water with waves about 2 feet (0.61 m) high and about 2 feet (0.61 m) apart.

We though this was interesting but little did we know what was ahead. None of us were aware of the bar where Brisbane Waters meets Broken Bay. As we approached the breaking waves, it appeared that maximum wave height on the bar was about 0.5 metre. No problem, just punch through. The only problem was that the

more we punched, the higher the waves until the final barrier was over 2 metres of breaking waves and no retreat. Finally we all crossed the bar but not before some hair-raising disappearing tricks, involuntary backwards travel and extraordinary paddle braces.

By this time, the seas were running at about 3 metres with their own infrastructure of white water, lumps and holes on top of the swell, all encouraged by the strong southerly winds. We kept each other in sight and after about an hours battle, reached our departure point, wet, exhilarated and well satisfied by the sea worthiness of our boats.

A number of lessons were learned from this trip. Firstly, all outside trips of more than a day's duration should, where possible, provide for safe alternatives. Secondly, the trip leader should always be prepared to abort the trip if conditions deteriorate. Thirdly, boating weather forecasts are not always relevant to sea kayaks.

- Perc Carter

#### PADDLE PROGRAM

December 17 - Sunday

ROSE BAY MYSTERY TOUR Time: 9:00 am Venue: Rose Bay  
Trip Leader: Perc Carter Ph: (02) 523 6157

January 7 - Sunday

MRS MACQUARIES CHAIR Time: 7:30 am (for breakfast at Clark Island) Venue: Mrs Macquarie's Chair, the Domain  
Trip Leader: Ray Abrahall Ph: (02) 528 9091

January 14 - Sunday

PICNIC DAY Venue: Nielson Park, Vaucluse Time: 10:00am  
Contact: Peter Ingleby. Ph: (02) 32 2069  
(Paddle or drive to venue)

January 21 - Sunday

WOLLONGONG TO SHELLHARBOUR Time: 9:00 am Venue: Belmore Basin, Wollongong Harbour.  
Trip Leader: John Slattery Ph: (042) 261833  
(Direction will depend on prevailing conditions)

January 26-28 - Friday to Sunday

3-DAY TOUR OF BROKEN BAY, camping at Maitland Bay, Bouddi National Park and other sites. Time 9:00 am January 26  
Venue: Pittwater side of Palm Beach (near Aquatic Air Terminal).



Trip Leader: Perc Carter Ph: (02) 523 6157

February 4 - Sunday

GUNNAMATTA BAY - KURNELL Time: 8:00am Venue: Boat-ramp at  
Gunnamatta Bay (near Cronulla Railway Station)  
Trip Leader: Peter Ingleby Ph: (02) 32 2069

February 10 - Saturday

NIGHT PADDLE Time: 7:30 pm Venue: Lena St, Sandringham  
Trip Leader: Ken McDonald Ph: (02) 520 5349

February 24-25 - Saturday to Sunday

GREEN PATCH, JERVIS BAY. Time and venue : Details from Trip  
Leader, Michael Richardson Ph: (02) 907 9766.  
\*\*\* Rescue skills and training will be high on the agenda for  
this weekend.

NOTE : Persons wishing to attend any of these trips MUST contact  
the Trip Leader by the Wednesday evening prior to the trip.  
Earlier notice will be required for overnight paddles.

PLEASE CONTACT TRIP LEADERS BEFORE 9PM



NORTHWEST KAYAKS

15145 NC 90th Redmond, WA 98052  
(206) 869-1107

#### MANUFACTURER'S STATEMENT

NORTHWEST KAYAKS' guiding philosophy is to design and build kayaks that will perform reliably when subjected to even the most fierce winds or waves, and complement the paddler's ability. Sea kayaking safety is a function of the kayaker's skill, judgment and the kayak's design and construction. Few paddlers purposely venture forth in a storm, however anyone may misjudge conditions and get in a sudden squall or unanticipated riptide.

The design begins with the hull shaped in a shallow "V" with hard chines, flared sides and moderate rocker. Each of our sea cruising models is among the fastest most efficient in its class, with superb tracking and easily carved turns. Outstanding stability increases directly with the amount of the load and remains over a broad range of lean. Decks are finely curved to shed wind, and balanced fore and aft to reduce weather cocking at cruising speeds. Handling is lively, fun and responsive.

Each kayak is built by hand using a negative atmospheric (vacuum bagging) fabrication system for a high fiberglass to resin ratio with an incredibly hard surface finish. The basic lay-up exceeds industry standards for heavy duty construction and weight. Hulls are laminated with vinylester resins and three layers of sewn double biased fiberglass roving. Baltec foam core and glass reinforcements along the keel line are added for unsurpassed strength, rigidity and wear.

Expedition outfitting is standard for each of our single and tandem touring kayaks, including watertight bulkheads, convenient access to storage compartments through watertight hatches, adjustable foot braces, stainless steel security "U" bolts, carrying toggles, paddle park, chart holders, six point rear deck lines, padded seats, and knee braces. Stainless steel and aluminum rudder assemblies and adjustable rudder controls are standard on all doubles. There are over 51 gelcoat color choices available at no extra charge. Furthermore, kevlar and graphite lay-ups are available for all models.

NORTHWEST KAYAKS are built to last a lifetime, therefore, all kayaks are guaranteed against defects in materials and workmanship for the lifetime of the original owner.

PRINCIPALS: Owner, Lead Designer and Production Manager:  
John Abbenhouse. Quality Control and Performance Testing  
Managers: Bruce McGaw and John Mann.





## CORRESPONDENCE

Cheque from Mr Paul Valik in the sum of \$20 for membership discussed. Cheque to be returned to him.

World Expeditions commercial material received.

Moved Michael Richardson, seconded John Bamberry, ' that the correspondence as read be received'. CARRIED.

## TREASURERS REPORT

Membership fees \$800 (20 financial members)

Outstanding payments	-Receipt book	\$ 2.95
	-cash book	\$ 8.96
	-PO Box Charge	\$ 33.37
	-Postage	\$ 21.73
	TOTAL	\$ 67.01

## GENERAL BUSINESS

Moved John Slattery, Seconded Michael Richardson,  
'A magazine be produced and mailed by the end of the second week in December'. CARRIED.

A press release for Paddle Power Magazine was prepared for forwarding to that magazines editor, setting out that the NSW Sea Kayak Club had been formed.

A Trip program for January/February was prepared for publishing in the Sea Kayaker.

Meeting closed 9.40pm.