

NSW Sea Kayaker

Newsletter of the NSW Sea Kayak Club Inc. 29 Westgarth Street, O'Connor, ACT, 2602.

Issue 28

October 1996

BAJA REFLECTIONS

At play in the land of the Giants

By David Cregan

Whales look good from the deck of a tourist boat or from a vantage point on shore but up close from a sea kayak they are very intimidating!

The moment I left the shore of Isla Carmen I began to have doubts about my decision to cross to the next island. I had left it very late in the morning to cross to Isla Danzanante to my next campsite on the southern end of the island. Though only a crossing of 6 nautical miles, the usual gusty late morning breeze had begun to strengthen and white caps had begun to build and there was a strong northerly current to contend with.

I was crossing back to the mainland after a 6 day solo trip around Isla Carmen in Baja Mexico.

For six perfect days I had been captivated by the dry beauty of this paddling paradise. Isla Carmen had formed a perfect back drop, this deserted island with its steep mountain spine, salt pans, cactus covered plains down to the sea, cliff-lines, and perfect crescent bays was the stuff that I thought I would only ever read about.

I had paddled the previous week along the coast south of Loreto with an organised tour group based in California. That was fine, the trip was well organised, the food terrific, and the company and night time conversation was good but, there was a distinct lack of adventure. I do not care to have someone in charge, some one who knows what they are doing. The trip goes so smoothly, stuff falls into place and you never



Baja, Mexico, where desert and mountains provide the perfect backdrop to kayaking adventure

end up swimming through shark infested waters.

As outdoors writer, Tom Cahill

says, "you never wake up half drowned in some small Mexican village where there are no

In This Issue

Baja Reflections	1
President's/Treasurer's Report	6
Old Sea Dogs Gear Locker	7
Paddling Energy	8
Oz vs USA	9
Epic Sea Voyages	10
Backyak	12
Bergs, Bears, Bogs and Bugs	13
South Coast News	16
Flotsam & Jetsam	17
Installing Hatches	19
Survey results	21

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NSW SEA KAYAK CLUB INC.

PRESIDENT	Dirk Stuber (042) 68 1001
VICE PRESIDENT	David Winkworth (064) 94-1366
SECRETARY/ TREASURER	Arunas Pilka (06) 248-7828
TRIP CONVENER	Gary Edmond (042) 84-0836
EDITOR	Mark Pearson, (06) 288-3602 (H) (06) 289 6175 (W) 5 Miena Pl, Duffy, ACT 2611

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Contributor's Hall of Shame

Felons	Crimes	Editor's Comment
Shiryn Richards	As good as promised me a much needed Women's Issues article!	Will go down in history as the first female paddler to make the Hall of Shame!
D. Winkworth	Made his charming wife Sue give lame excuses for his late contribution!	This fine woman deserves a more punctual man!
J. Croft	Missing the cut-off/still only contactable on mobile phone with crap batteries/simply being Jim Croft.	Jim, if your aim is to drive me mad - its working!
D. Stuber	Strong evidence that his report was penned by some person other than the President.	Best written report we've seen from Dirk so far!
A. Pilka	Shot off to Torres Strait after giving me a password protected Financial spreadsheet which I cannot open to publish.	Arunas, what's with the security!

Once in a while there is an event
that changes things.....

INTRODUCING THE INUIT CLASSIC

Conceived by experienced paddler Norm Sanders, the *INUIT CLASSIC* is the fresh design approach Australian sea kayakers have been waiting for!

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Test paddle the INUIT CLASSIC at the ROCK'n'ROLL weekend, 30 November-1 December

(Continued from page 1)

telephones, no electricity and of

Puerto Escondido, a marina, south of Loreto and headed across the

spiny chollos cover these islands, proof as some biologists contend that the Sonoran desert in northern Mexico hosts more different plants than any other ecosystem.

Paddling Baja is green coves, eroded islands, a beautiful desert backdrop, the stunning Sierra Giganta mountains that drop precipitously to the sea.

Each day I had seen whales in the distance, there where a number of pods feeding nearby on the rich waters of this part of the Gulf of California, this great arm of the Pacific Ocean is a giant fish trap, a fecund sea in proximity to harsh unforgiving land. It is this contrast that intoxicates the Baja coastal kayaker.

The bird life was fantastic I saw peregrines, herons, large numbers of Pacific brown pelicans and blue footed boobies.

I poked around the abandoned salt mine on the southeastern end of Carmen, tumbleweed bounded down empty streets and I expected any moment to come face to face with one of the regulars from a "spaghetti westerns".

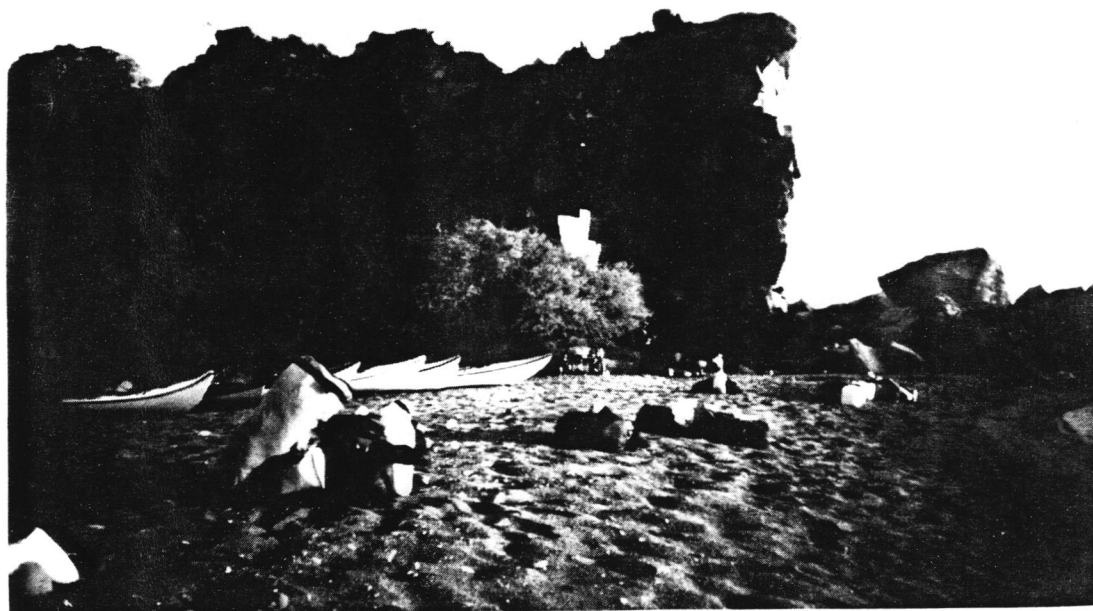
I quickly fell into a pleasant touring routine, a careful swim (there were no sharks I'd been told

"sharks, no problema"), while the MSR struggled with the local leaded petrol, a quick breakfast of tortillas and bananas, a cup of coffee sitting in the sun while the tent dried, a read of the guide book and a quick pack of the

(Continued on page 5)



Small off-shore islands provide nesting sites for boobies and the brown Pacific pelican



Evening at the campsite where the "neighbours from hell" are noisy whales and dolphins

course no doctor, you are never nursed backed to health by some dark haired beauty". No what happens on an organised trip is good clean, safe fun!

For my six day solo trip I started from

three nautical miles due east to the islands of Ilsa Danznante and then across to Carmen, which have been called an imitation Galapagos. Contrary to what we imagine by desert plants such as octillos, tawny dusters, palo blancos and

(Continued from page 4)

kayak and then off again for six or seven hours paddle along the rocky coast.

Occasionally I could hear whales exhaling, particularly early in the morning when the air was very still or at night when they would come close inshore. Suddenly there were whales right in front to me cavorting and breathing

In Baja whales are numerous, mostly the gray and fin whales- but these were Goliath blue whales. One surfaced right in front of my tiny Sealution seakayak - soon I seemed to be in the middle of a major whale freeway, I could see whales to my front and hear whales behind me. I kept tapping my hull with my paddle, hoping that they might hear my puny noise above their songs and the ambient noise. I thought I might be enjoying the long swim through shark infested waters after all.

I was suitably chastened by the thought of a 60 tonne mammal blasting skyward and launching me and my plastic boat into orbit - this helped me focus on the absurdity of my position, I sat there bobbing on a lumpy sea as six or seven Blue whales and their calves passed majestically by, their long backs arching in perfect curves, breaking the surface in a stylized arc, barnacles and tiny dorsal fins upsetting the streamlined shapes. As soon as I regained my composure and I was reasonably sure the whales had moved on I paddled the next 50 minutes to Ilsa Danzanante non stop. That night once again I could hear whales breathing and breaching very close inshore.

I packed early next morning before the final paddle back across to my pull-out at Puerto Escondido and had gone about 100 meters off shore when they were again, this time one whale a little way ahead and others surfacing and breathing behind me. This time the whole episode was over in a matter of minutes and suddenly they were gone. What a fitting farewell to a magic two weeks. Paddling in the afternoons after work on Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin will never seem the same again.

I paddled quickly back into the little port inspired by this fantastic farewell and also inspired by the thought of a hot shower and a fabulous Mexican breakfast in Loreto and the start of a long journey home.

Paddling in Baja is terrific!

Mexican travel is cheap, the food is good and nothing like Mexican food sold in Australia. The Peso is worth about seven to the \$US and restaurant meals are cheap, 49 Pesos for three courses. Mexicans are nearly always very pleasant and appreciate if you try a word of Spanish or two even if it is only Hola!(hello).

The fisherman who work these coasts are very helpful and can be seen any time of day or night fishing from their big open boats. The

good connections from Australia. Loreto a pretty town, founded by the Jesuits as a mission in 1670, is very relaxed and feels safe. There is a good supermarket stocking a familiar range of foodstuffs.

Further Reading

Baja By Kayak, In Pecked to Death By Ducks, Tim Cavit, Fourth Estate, London, 1993.

Baja California, Lonely Planets, Melbourne, 1994.

Into a Desert Place, Graham Macintosh, London, 1988.

Sea Kayaking in Baja, A Romana-Lax, Widerderness Press, Berkeley, 1993.



Mexican Navy and Federal police patrol the coasts in search of drug runners so help is not that far away in an emergency (sea kayakers don't seemed to be hassled by their presence).

Good quality sea-kayaks can be hired in Loreto and other towns nearby. Loreto is about one and a half hours flying time from LA and there are

Log From The Sea of Cortez, John Steinbeck, Pan Books, London, 1951.

Keep It Moving, Baja By Canoe, Valerie Vons, The Mountaineers, Seattle, 1986.

The Free Republic of Baja in Outside Magazine, 1991, pp 65-71.

Plus various articles in Seakayaker Magazine, index in current edition.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Its that time of the year again, i.e. time to pay club membership fees. The clubs financial year runs from the 1st of September to 31st August each year and so apart from the people who joined the club within the last three months everyone's membership is now due.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a renewal form and a stamped self addressed envelope. The reason for the renewal form is so that I can check the address details etc. for each member. Speaking of which I have changed all the seven digit Sydney phone numbers to eight digits by adding a nine at the start, if in any particular case this is incorrect let me know. Also a number of Sydney numbers were only six digits, I imagine these will also be changing but I don't know to what so could you please make sure that your contact numbers on the renewal form are correct.

I have included in this newsletter the Club's financial statement for last financial year (*no you haven't - please see Hall of Shame -Ed*). You will note that the Club's position has improved over last year. This is for two main reasons, firstly we have moved to the print post system for sending out the newsletter, this almost halves the cost of postage for mailing a newsletter. Secondly the cost of printing the newsletter has fallen to zero (apart from photo reproduction).

This is through the kind donation of photocopying services by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Pty Ltd, of whom Chris Souter is a senior partner & the Canberra branch manager, many thanks Chris.

While on the subject of photocopying, the Club is the proud owner of it's own photocopier. Given Chris's generosity and the fact that the task of reproducing 200 newsletters has out grown our little copier the issue of whether we should sell it needs to be discussed. If you have any strong views on the subject make them known to a member of the committee.

I have been contacted by the organisers of a Sea kayaking



President's Report

As this club year draws to a close it is time for an appraisal of the last twelve months.

Firstly, I would like to express gratitude for the unstinting efforts of the Executive, whose efforts have resulted in a very successful season. Gary Edmund has proven a very capable trip convenor, while Mark Pearson and Jim Croft have worked tirelessly to produce and dispatch some very substantial newsletters. Arunas Pilka has also proven to be an extremely efficient Secretary/Treasurer, and I congratulate him for his quiet dedication to the successful administration of the club's everyday affairs. Arunas's report in this issue shows the club to be in a very healthy financial position, with membership now at record levels and still growing. Enclosed with this newsletter are membership renewal forms and stamped self addressed envelopes.

I would also like to mention Chris Souter's (and his employer, Deloitte, Touche, Tomatsu) generous donation of photocopying services, which is also much appreciated, and has helped us

Symposium in New Zealand who are inviting members of our club to attend, they have promised to send leaflets which if they arrive in time will be included with this newsletter, if not they will go out in a separate mailing.

The idea of the club organising a symposium in Australia has been kicked around for a while so I would be very interested in the comments of anyone from the club who does attend.

Andrew Stephenson has come across a producer of dried

keep membership fees at the 1992 level. Thanks also to Vice President David 'the Pillar' Winkworth for his efforts, particularly with the organisation of the two highly successful Rock'n'Roll weekends this year.

I am glad to report that club trips throughout the year were well attended. I would stress that all members are encouraged to conceive and organise an event. Not only does this relieve some of the organisational burden from the Trip Convenor and Executive, it also results in a greater variety of paddles and locations - which may tempt more of our busy Sydney members to come along more regularly.

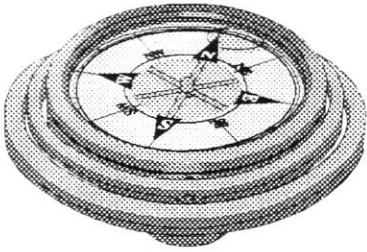
And finally, after three very rewarding years on the executive, I have decided to step down from the Executive - I hope for a well attended AGM at the upcoming Rock'nRoll weekend at Jervis Bay, with a new generation of members coming forward to fill mine and any other vacant positions. Happy gauntletting.

Dirk Stuber

vegetables in South Australia. Seeing as a few of us are heading for Torres Strait shortly I decided to check them out and have ordered some for our trip. They offer a much larger variety than available at supermarkets and their prices seem reasonable. I will let you know how they turn out in a later edition but if anyone wants to give them a try in the meantime the details are: Milburn Produce Pty Ltd, Berri SA, Ph: (085) 823-232. Fax: (085) 823-946. Happy paddling.

Arunas Pilka





THE OLD SEA DOG'S GEAR LOCKER

by Norm Sanders

The OSD has shaken off his jet lag and emptied out his bag of goodies from the US. The haul was pretty small, really. He picked up some camping and bushwalking gear from REI, but wasn't tempted to buy anything in the kayaking line. Turns out that the kayaking equipment is cheaper and better here in OZ. They are so backward in the US that they think that olives are what you put in martinis! (The OSD says he could have financed his whole trip if only he had taken a few hundred of the little beauties to trade with the locals.)

The niftiest things he found were (1) "Hefty" brand sealable plastic bags with slide closures, (2) Mariner Kayaks, (3) a new pouring spout for Sigg bottles produced by Trangia.

The OSD carried his faithful Trangia at all times, impressing the North Americans almost as much as olives. MSR is the Trangia distributor in the US, with the result that few Trangias are to be seen in the shops. REI doesn't stock the whole stove, only burners.

The OSD found fuel for the Trangia plentiful in the form of HEET, a methanol-alcohol mix sold in automotive stores as a gas tank moisture absorber. Drug stores (chemists) also stock isopropyl alcohol, but care must be taken to get 100 percent alcohol rather than the common 70 percent variety (mixed with water.) While in your local drug store, you can pick up a Magellan GPS for \$US200. The OSD didn't do this. Try as he might, he couldn't think of any reason to buy this glittering gadget just to find his way from Eden to Nadgee.

WARNING TO AIR TRAVELLING KAYAKERS IN CANADA:

The OSD was asked at the Vancouver check-in if he had a stove in his luggage. The truthful OSD said he did. The airline lady wanted to CONFISCATE THE STOVE. She said she had already snapped up several that day. The quick thinking OSD replied that HIS stove was not one of those nasty petrol burning, fume dispensing MSR's, but a benign Trangia

which consumed water soluble alcohol. The OSD had previously taken the precaution of washing out the stove and Sigg bottle thoroughly. They smelled clean as the driven snow and the OSD was allowed to keep his beloved cooking gear.

The OSD found air travel in the US less stove conscious and far cheaper. He booked all his flights after he arrived in North America and was able to get deals like Seattle to Anchorage for \$US96. The secret was to ask for "Flight Specific" bookings with Alaska Airlines. With no noise curfews, airlines fly day and night to keep their expensive equipment earning dollars. Flight Specific bookings are verified reservations at unpopular times like 2 AM. But, hey, to save a couple of hundred bucks....

The OSD had been toying with the idea of buying a folding kayak for his trip and was very glad he didn't. Everywhere he went he found he could borrow or rent a kayak. He did carry his Alan Wilson folding paddle. Even that wasn't necessary as the rental paddles he encountered were generally Werner Little Dippers.

The OSD had the opportunity to try a number of Yank kayaks. In general, he found them pretty ordinary. The exception was Mariner Kayaks, which have invented the term "Niftiness Quotient" as a guide to quality. Mariner gives itself a very high NQ, and the OSD agrees.

The OSD dropped in to see Mariners Cam and Matt Broze on Seattle's Lake Union and paddled almost everything in their shop, including a Khatsalano.

The OSD's Niftiness List of Kayaks paddled in the US:

Note: All the fibreglass boats sell for about \$A2600 or more!

1. Mariner Coaster - surf/fun boat
1. Mariner MAX - general purpose (The OSD liked them BOTH)
2. Mariner II - fast cruiser

3. Mariner Express - general purpose

4. Cadence LP (Rented in Alaska, Used on four day, 80 km paddle around Douglas Island, near Juneau. Comfortable, roomy, easy to roll, reasonably fast)

5. Sealution (Plastic boat, borrowed in California. Responsive, easy to roll)

6. Dagger Seeker (PB, rented in California. Fun to paddle, hard to roll.)

7. Tye One (1950's design fibreglass, borrowed in San Juan Islands. Pleasant, stable, basic kayak.)

8. Prijon Seayak (PB, rented in Alaska, paddled for a week in Prince William Sound. Slow, not much storage space.)

9. Aquaterra Chinook (PB, borrowed in California. Better than swimming, but only just.)

10. Khatsalano (Folder, VERY EXPENSIVE. Fast, but unstable. Seat wobbled from side to side. Not a fun paddle.)

The OSD went on two paddling trips. He accompanied Richard Larson to Prince William Sound and later paddled solo around the Juneau area further south. The PWS trip was fairly complicated logistically. (See accompanying article.)

The OSD's Juneau trip was much easier to organise. He merely rented a Cadence LP for \$US35 per day (including paddle, spray deck, PFD and dry bags) from the Juneau Outdoor Center. The OSD paddled away from town and was in the wilderness within a few hours -- Eagles, seals, leaping salmon, humpback whales, but no bergs, bears, bugs or bogs. (He did, however get stranded on a sand bank for 6 hours, waiting for the tide to come in. The tidal range is 5 meters!).

The Douglas Island circumnavigation or nearby Admiralty Island (Beware the BIG brown bears) are good options for

(Continued on page 17)

PADDLING ENERGY

by Stephen A. Williams

(reprinted courtesy of California Kayak Friends newsletter)

For energy paddling, you need sugar and water and oxygen - really, that's it. Because of something called the "Glycemic Index," complex carbohydrates (starches) are better for the long haul than simple carbohydrates (sugars). Some of the "Power Bar" type of stuff some athletes eat contain a lot of protein (or its building blocks - the aminoacids). Unless you can drink large quantities of water, you are better off eating carbohydrates than protein.

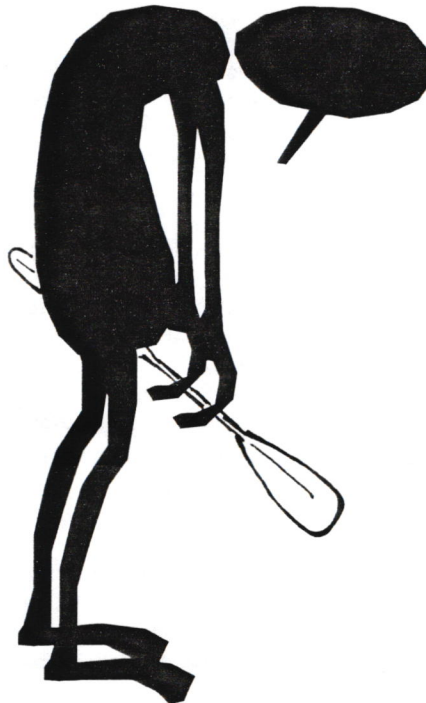
While you are actively exercising you are not building up muscle, that happens after the exercise. You will not break down muscle if you have enough carbohydrates in your system while you exercise. Therefore, if you exercise for hours and eat proteins, your body goes through a complex process to convert that nice protein into energy to burn (basically turning the protein into sugar) - and the process produces more waste than eating carbohydrates.

Your body can only store maybe 2 hours worth of carbohydrate energy, then if you have not been replacing it along the way, your body goes into catabolism - its tarts breaking down protein and fat for fuel. Now I can hear you saying, "Oh yeah!" - but you should know that the first target is the easier to burn protein, not the fat. That is why body builders trying to get huge eat from 6-8 small meals per day.

WHAT FLUID SHOULD YOU DRINK?

Gatorade? Plain water? There is a large misunderstanding in this area. It comes from not knowing how we sweat. When one does light to moderate exercise (kayaking or peddling a bike on level ground) in a cool to moderate climate (as we normally kayak in) then if you break out in a sweat, you are losing 5 mEq (milliequivalents) of salt in your sweat. If you exercise heavily

(football linemen, construction workers) in a high heat environment (temperature and humidity) then your sweat contains 120 mEq of salt. That is why the former type of exercise never leaves salt rings on your clothing like the latter does! When the climate is comfortable and you exercise lightly, you can



get away with water. But if you are pushing it on a hot, humid day, you will understand why they needed to invent that beverage if they were going to play football in Florida in the sun - (that's right, it was invented in place of lemonade for the Florida Gators in the Gator Bowl). By the way, the human is the only animal we know of that cannot rely on thirst to tell him when to drink. The average adult will have lost one to two pounds of water before becoming thirsty. Force fluids! Drink more than you think you need.

WHAT CAUSES FATIGUE?

A lot of things, but one important one is not delivering enough oxygen and fuel to muscles. If you sprint, you can easily experience the fade out of power when you

can't deliver enough oxygen to your muscles as fast as they burn it. Well, the same thing goes for fuel (carbohydrates). If the muscle runs out, fatigue sets in. But another big factor in fatigue is dehydration. As you sweat (or pee) you lose water. This results in your blood actually becoming thicker. It does not flow as fast, and will not supply fuel to your muscles as well. One of the signs of dehydration is having no appetite (and having a bad attitude). Ever "been there - done that?" How about a deck bag of grapes?

If you are going to exercise for more than 15 minutes, you need to drink. If you are going to exercise for more than 2 hours, you need to replace fuel. You can drink it in a sport drink, killing the proverbial 2 birds, or you can bring along water and then have some sort of carbohydrate at hand to nibble on while paddling.

Personally, I am not into endurance kayaking. But, on searches I have hiked from dawn to well into the night. Long distance hikers know the value of a good breakfast. Then, lunch is the meal that stretches from breakfast till dinner - and should be eaten in that manner, a little at a time - the same way it is burned - every hour of the day.

Adequate hydration and adequate food intake will make your paddling seem nicer, and less like an ordeal - it will even improve your attitude. It will also keep you safer - when you need that burst of energy to get yourself out of trouble.

The rule for hiking - never hike out farther than you want to (and are able to) hike back - probably applies to kayaking also. Except that in kayaking, add that the wind will turn and be blowing in your face on the way back. Don't ask me how the wind knows when to do that - it just does! Maybe it listens to the Laws of some guy named Murphy.





OZ VERSUS NORTH AMERICA

HOW DOES THE AUSTRALIAN KAYAKING SCENE COMPARE? by Norm Sanders

We in the antipodes often feel that we lag behind the rest of the world when it comes to new developments. This attitude even has a name: "The cultural cringe."

When I set out recently to revisit the country of my birth, one of my goals was to assess how the kayaking scene in Australia compared with the North American situation.

I was surprised to find that the differences were so great that the North Americans seem to be participating in an entirely different sport. Sea kayaking in Australia is just that — punching out through surf on open beaches and meeting the ocean head on.

With the exception of the Tsunami Rangers, Roger Schumann, the Brozes and a handful of others, the North Americans do their paddling in sheltered waters behind breakwaters. These breakwaters vary in size from harbour protection structures to the chain of offshore islands which runs from Seattle to Alaska. Paddling inside these barriers is more like kayaking on a big lake. Enjoyable to be sure, but is it SEA kayaking?

North American kayak design reflects this calm-water approach to paddling. Hatches are huge and not particularly watertight. Why should they be if the only water on deck comes in the form of rain? In addition, many designs HAVE NO BULKHEADS! Flotation is in the form of foam in the ends and blow-up buoyancy bags.

I first learned about this situation in Southern California's King Harbor when I rented a Dagger Seeker. I asked the instructor-owner of the kayak outfit if I could do a roll. He said, "Sure. But wait a minute. I'll get the rest of the guys to watch this. They've never seen a roll before."

Overwhelmed by the audience, dulled by jet lag and losing my grip in the un-padded cockpit, I blew it. "Never mind," I thought, "I'll just do a re-entry and roll." As soon as I popped the spray deck, I knew something was

wrong. If I had looked when I climbed into the Seeker, I would have noticed the lack of bulkheads -- but I naturally assumed that ALL kayakers had bulkheads.

Needless to say, the Seeker filled with water and behaved like a soggy log. We managed to drag it out on the dock and get it emptied. This was my first inkling that kayaking in North America simply isn't the immersion sport that it is in Australia where several dunkings per day are the norm.

As I travelled further north on my odyssey the water got colder and the idea of total immersion became less and less appealing, but the water was WARM in California. Maybe the scarcity of good instructors kept paddlers from exploring their limits.

When I got to the San Juans I got another insight into the different attitudes. I went paddling in a borrowed Tye One (a pleasant, early fibreglass design) with a group of long-time kayakers. I climbed into my wet boots, heavy poly top, bathers and paddling jacket and slid into the placid water. My companions simply put on rubber boots and set off in their street clothes which consisted of heavy, water resistant coats and jeans. No spray decks either.

In Alaska, I found the kayakers wore more conventional (to me) paddling gear, but still favoured the knee-length rubber boots. When I later met Chris Cunningham, editor of SEA KAYAKER Magazine, I asked him what happens if these boot-wearers capsized. "They die," was his matter of fact reply.

Fortunately, North American paddlers rarely get dumped in their benign waters. This is at first surprising because many of the people I met had minimal bracing skills and absolutely no knowledge of, or interest in, rolling.

The reason that they generally stay

right side up is that most of the North American kayakers are very stable, beamier than many of the Aussie designs. Of course, this stability leads to a lack of manoeuvrability which accounts for the almost universal use of the rudders so abhorred by the *cognoscenti* in Australia.

Rudder dependency is an epidemic in North America. Even experienced Alaskan touring kayakers who I paddled with had the disease. I suppose that rudders, like automatic transmissions, allow people to operate their machines with a lower degree of skill -- which is advantageous for manufacturers and dealers eager to sell kayaks. However, once the rudder habit gets the hooks in, it's hard to kick. This is in spite of the well known 10 percent drag penalty of rudders plus the obvious difficulties caused by equipment malfunction.

There is a certain irony in the fact that some North American manufacturers call their appendages "surfing rudders." Very few of their craft would ever encounter surf, which is a good thing. Rudders in the surf are at least useless, if not dangerous when they catch during a broach.

The major exception to the rudder rule is the Mariner Kayak line. Cam and Matt Broze of Seattle have developed a range of kayaks which respond to technique rather than rudders and feel RIGHT. (Although bulkheads aren't standard even on the Mariner kayaks.)

The sweetheart of the Mariner fleet is the little Coaster. Only thirteen and a half feet long (4.5m), the Coaster proves once again that small is beautiful. I have always felt that most sea kayakers are sized to accommodate gear for expeditions which they will never make. The Coaster is a popular fun boat, easy to turn without a rudder, good in the surf, and attractive to women.

The number of woman paddlers in North America was a pleasant surprise. Women in kayaks are as

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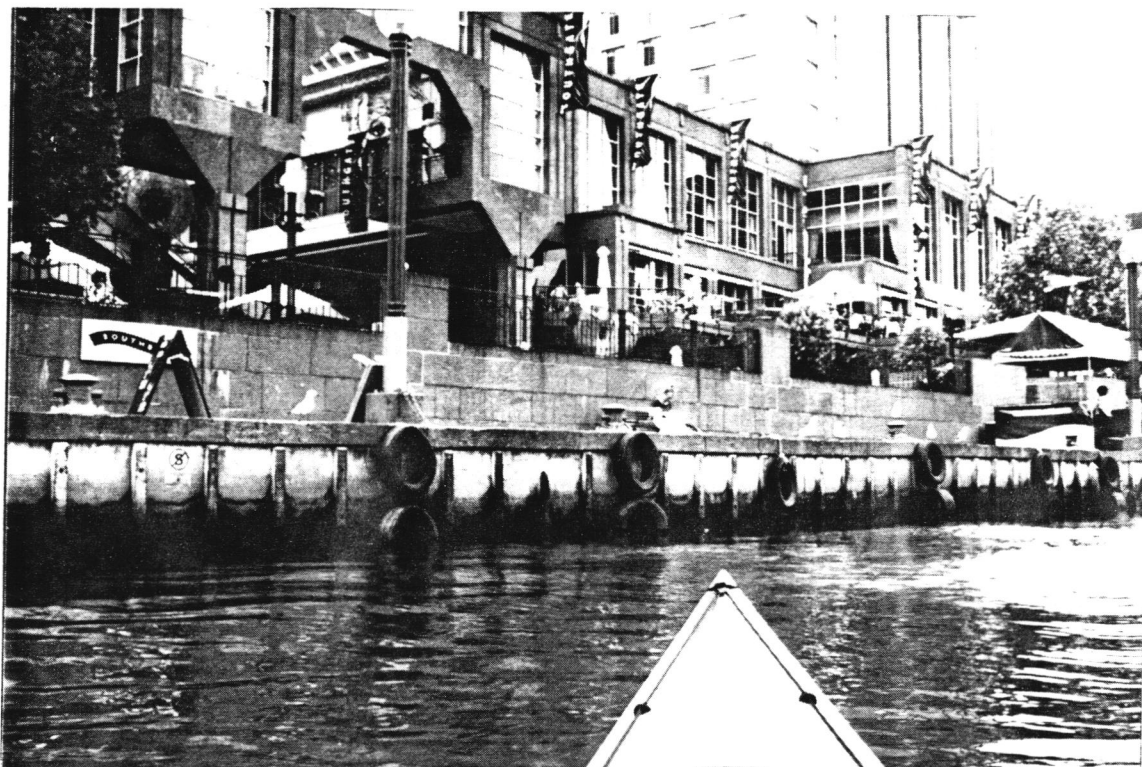
STUPENDOUS CONTEST!

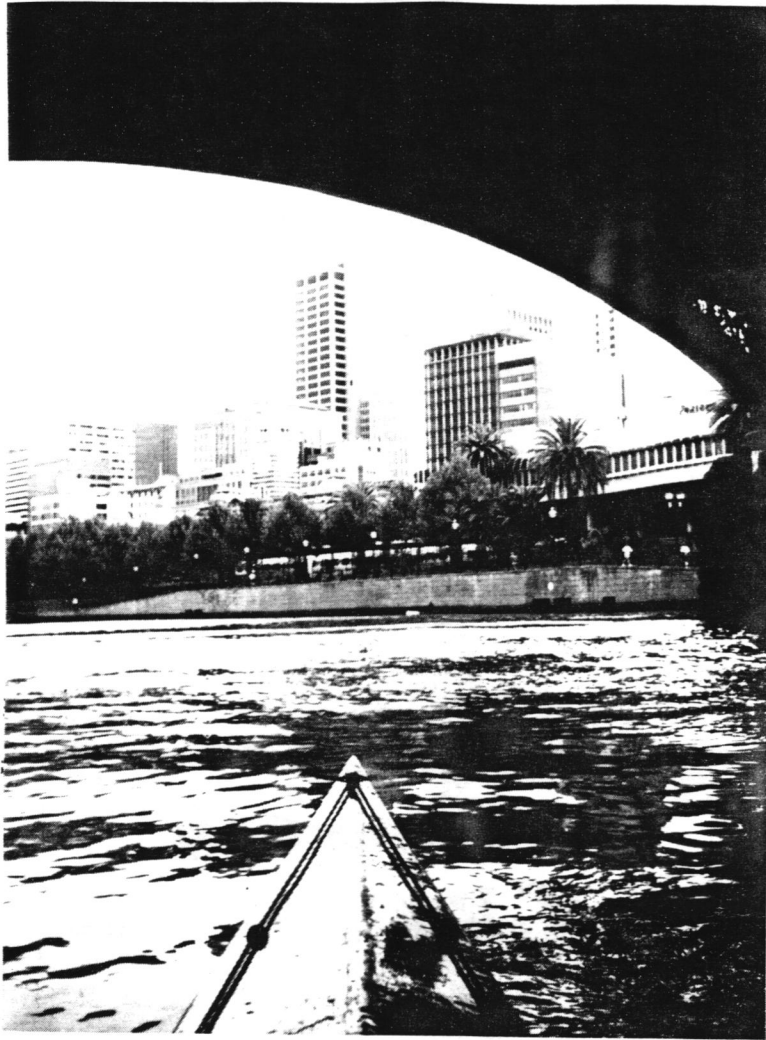
EPIC KAYAK VOYAGES OF AUSTRALIA!

The NSWSKC is proud to announce a **NEW CONTEST** for photos of the most thrilling, exciting, death defying, well planned, immaculately executed and successful sea kayak expedition of the year. Open to all, the prizes include (but are not limited to): **First Prize:** 3 Metres of BLACK deck line and 2 olive cleats from *Batemans Bay Power and Sail*. **Second Prize:** A weekend for one at *Paddlers Haven Guest House*, Tuross Head. (Bedding and food not included.) **Third Prize:** An autographed copy of the bestselling book "*RED WINE AND GLOWING COALS - 1001 Ways to abuse /amuse yourself and others at the campground,*" by Dirk Stuber. Many thanks to Norm Sanders for submitting the following entry to kick off the contest:



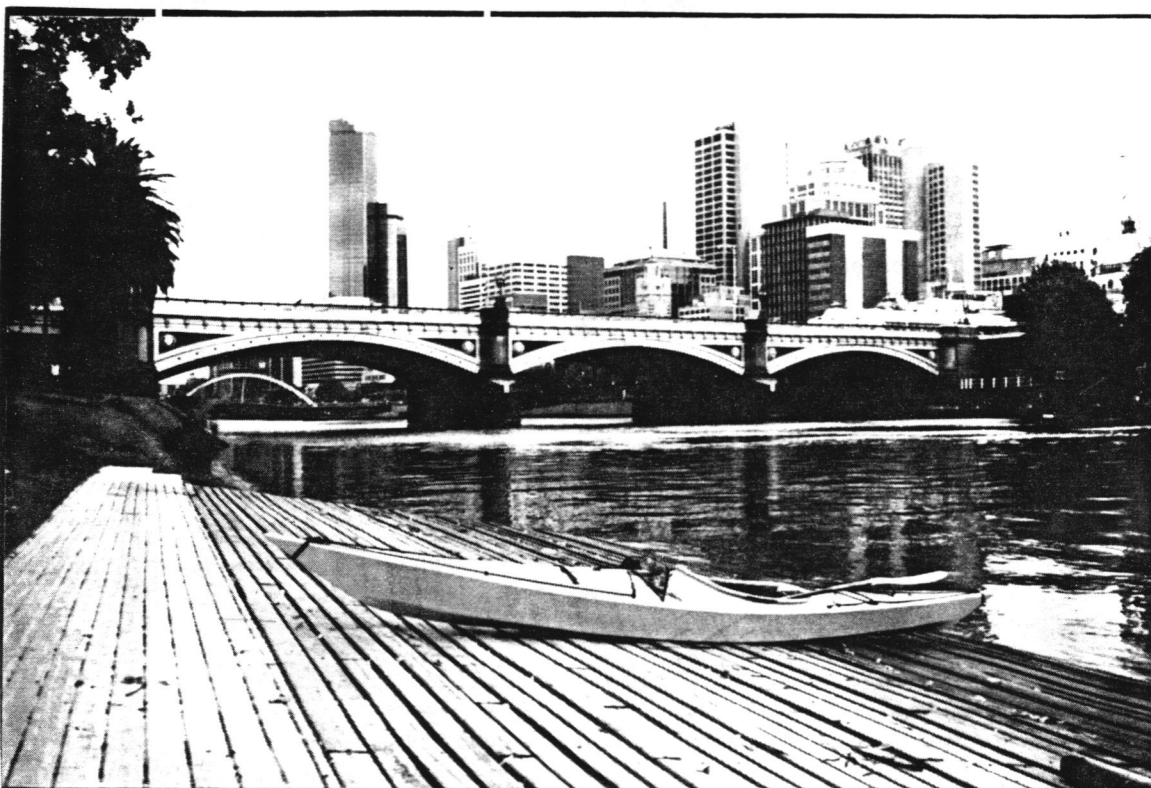
Above: Inuit Classic prototype *TAKU* ready to launch from the pristine wilderness beach at the junction of the Maribyrnong and Yarra Rivers, Southern Victoria. Massive surf required split second timing and great skill to negotiate the bar.
Below: Vertical sea cliffs made landings impossible for many kilometres.







Above: Emerging from one of the many sea caves encountered along the route

Below: Safe at last! *TAKU* on the beach after a hair-raising seal landing in monumental seas.





BACKYAK



with TIM BOWDEN

Hello everybody, and welcome to the first BACKYAK, the place where you, the members, have your say about our Club's newsletter, it's articles and ideas. And the inaugural mailbag is definitely a lively one. Let's start!

Firstly, there has been strong critical reaction to President Stuber's piece on 'running the gauntlet' in Issue 27. D.M. of Manlyvale, Sydney writes "*Dirk Stuber's vain attempt to adopt a responsible stance while advocating kamikaze paddling behavior was hilarious in the extreme*" while Mr C.D. of Bundeena put it more bluntly "*surely this man's got rocks on his head*".

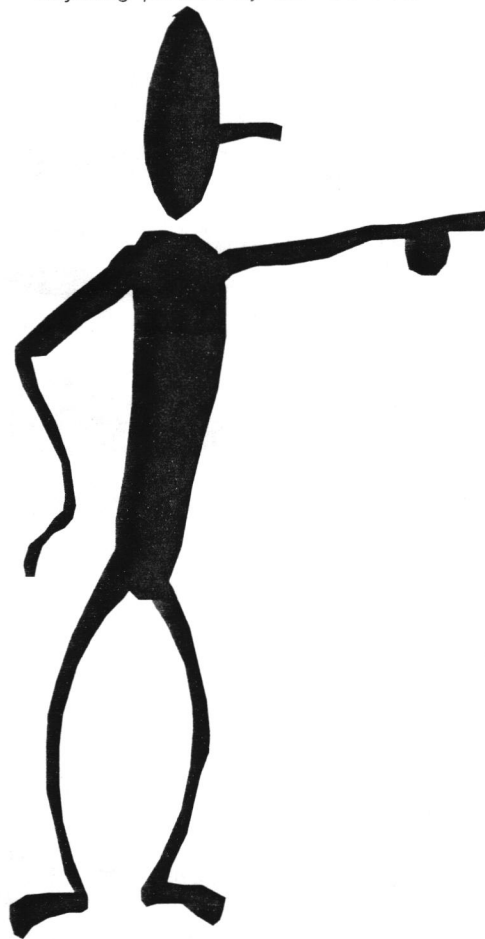
The medical establishment was also stirred to put pen to paper, this from Dr D.G. of the A.I.S., Canberra "*the article surely proves beyond doubt the far reaching effects of prolonged stananozal intake*". However, not all were critical - Mrs E.J. of Sylvania Waters, NSW, writes "*Mr Stuber is to be commended for his sage advice for those keen on pursuing this dangerous activity - his thoughts surely puts to rest his reputation for being a 'Resinhead' - well done!*". And a final comment from a Miss A.R. of Wollongong "*no matter what he writes about, Dirk's sensual style does it for me...*"

Nick Gill's sombre analysis of the Eco-carnage caused by kayakers also came in for some attention. Mr. G.P. of Corrimal was irate "*what a load of crap - Mr Gill clearly has a grudge against sea kayakers - maybe because he never really made it as one*". Also, from B.T. of Campbelltown "*this article smacks of hypocrisy - having deserted sea kayaking for an academic 'arid zone' come tax haven, Mr Gill's now feels safe to portray sea paddlers as public enemy no. 1 - fair go!*"

Nick did get some support however "*I was getting heartily sick of the trend towards 'infotainment' articles in our Newsletter. Mr Gill's article was heavy going and depressing - let's have more of it!*" said J.C. of Mittagong. Support also from a Mrs Gill of Adelaide who

rang our infoline "Oh dear, my Nick's not normally like this, he really was such a pleasant boy... ..until he discovered girls that is... anyway, I'm sure that when his shoulders get better he'll write about how nice sea kayakers really are..."

The substantial contributions of Norm Sanders have also not gone unnoticed "*I freely admit to loving anything penned by the Old Sea*



Dog - but the quality and variety of his work in Newsletter 27 was breathtaking - keep it comin'!" drawled N.S. of Tuross Heads.

It was editorial failings that most concerned Prof. J.C. of Campbell, ACT "*I counted no less than 4 typographical errors on pages 3, 4, and 6 and numerous punctuation and typesetting faults on pages 2, 5, 14, 16 and 19. These inexcusable lapses ruined any*

chance I had of enjoying the newsletter (which I tend to look forward to more than most because of my rather boring life). The consistency of these errors seem to be the hallmark of the current Editor - we are entitled to expect better for \$20 per annum!"

Mark Pearson's controversial depiction of his paddling companion Norm Sanders in 'Lessons from Nadgee' also provoked a response. Ms M.H. of Tuross Heads, writes "*leave Norm alone - at his age of course he has some anti-social habits, but he's basically a good man*" and yet more support from Mr D.W. of Tura Beach, N.S.W., "*I'd rather paddle with Sanders than have my leg bitten off by a Great White, that's for sure!..!*"

Andrew Eddy's trip to south west Tassie also drew attention. L.D. of Goulburn commented "*enjoyed Andrew's story immensely, though his account of '30 metre wind waves' was stretching it a bit*". However, M.P. of Canberra was disenchanted with the account's lack of the 'human' touch "*Mr Eddy would have us believe that he and his companion spent 500 hours together and didn't even begin to detest each other. - paddling trips just aren't like that!*"

And, finally, reaction to Arunas Pilka's suggestion for a Club Song - G.E. of Woonoona writes "*I and many others have no desire to hear sea kayakers sing anything - let's forget the whole idea!*"

Want to have your say? Send your BACKYAK contribution to;
The Editor
NSWSK
5 Miena Place
Duffy
ACT 2611

or leave a message on the Club Info Line.



BERGS, BEARS, BOGS AND BUGS

KAYAKING IN ALASKA'S PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND by Norm Sanders

The face of Alaska has been shaped by two of the most powerful forces on earth -- the clash of great crustal plates and the relentless grinding of glaciers. Denali, The Great One, uplifted by the colliding plates, towers as the highest point in North America. About 200 km to the south are waters which now occupy deep, classic U-shaped alleys, carved by ice. These fjords are still being created by the glaciers at their heads. The glaciers originate on peaks which are 3600 meters high -- not particularly big by Alaskan standards. However, they thrust their bulk impressively from sea level. The entire snow-covered mountain is there to see, when the rain lets up.

The glaciers in Prince William Sound have retreated since the last ice age, but are still quite healthy. Storms sweeping in from the Gulf of Alaska strike the icy walls and dump huge amounts of precipitation, feeding the glaciers and maintaining a thriving rainforest.

The scenery, plus whales, otters, seals, eagles, and aerobic salmon makes Prince William Sound a spectacular kayaking destination. An added attraction is the sheltered nature of the Sound's waterways, protected from the open ocean by a ring of offshore islands -- including Montague and Hinchinbrook. If the names seem familiar, it is because they were bestowed by the same Captain Cook that honoured those two gentlemen on his voyage up the East Coast of Australia. Maybe he just ran out of patrons.

I was making a pilgrimage back to the Alaska I left in 1958 when I graduated from the University in Fairbanks. I had already revisited Denali, which I climbed in 1954. This time I merely rode a mountain bike to the base, but it was good to be back.

My next goal was to go kayaking in Prince William Sound. I had flown over the area as a bush pilot, but had



never spent any time on the water. Fortunately, my old university buddies in Anchorage introduced me to Richard Larson. Like them, he was a keen mountain biker, competing in events like the Iditabike -- the bicycle equivalent of the famous Iditarod dog race. Iditabike racers hurtle down icy Alaskan trails in the dark, maintaining traction with studded tires. The races take many hours and merely to finish is an achievement.

Richard is a stocky ball of energy, a graphic designer and writer who had already published a mountain bike guide to Alaska. Now he was completing a kayaking guide to Prince William Sound. He had only one area yet to explore -- the remote Unakwik Sound region. Halfway between Whittier and Valdez, Unakwik was rarely visited, even though the Meares Glacier at the head of the fiord had the reputation of being very spectacular indeed. He needed someone to go with him. Would I like to make the trip? Yes, I would.

My Anchorage friends had done considerable sailing on Prince William Sound and delighted in

telling me horrific tales of week-long deluges and howling gales. They advised me to take heavy, bomb-proof wet weather gear and rubber boots. I reluctantly accepted the loan of the boots, but balked at the bulky vinyl. I put my faith in my normal paddling jacket and REI parka.

I bought food, scrounged some dry bags and met Richard at his home in Anchorage. We put a rickety wooden rack on the back of his battered pickup and drove off to collect our kayaks. Richard had a long term rental arrangement which provided kayaks whenever he wanted them.

We loaded up an Aquaterra Chinook and a Prijon Seayak and hit the road for Whittier. The day was warm and sunny in Anchorage -- but things on the other side of the mountains could be different. Anchorage is now a very average looking mid-size American city, with highrise, freeways and rush hour traffic. Some refer to the place as a cold Fresno. (Perhaps a frigid Wollongong?) The same people also delight in saying that Anchorage is a great place to live because it is so close to Alaska.

Richard hurtled enthusiastically down

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

the freeway past the mud flats of Turnagain Arm. (Named by Cook as he tacked back and forth against the currents and flukey winds.) The kayaks creaked on their flexible perch overhead. Richard entertained me with stories of hapless people who walked out on the flats, got stuck in the goopy mud and drowned when the tide came in. The tidal range here is about 5 meters and the flats are kilometers wide at low water. One particularly poignant story involved a duck hunter who was last seen completely submerged, breathing through the barrels of his shotgun until the barrels too disappeared.

We stopped in Girdwood, about 45 minutes from Anchorage, where Richard bought a can of Fosters to drink on the train. There is no road to Whittier, the jumping off place, so we had to load Richard's pickup on a flatcar. We sat in the truck for the 20 minutes it took for the train to pass through two long, completely black tunnels. We emerged into a cold, drizzling world, with waterfalls pouring down steep dark green slopes topped with snow.

Whittier is more of an outpost than a city. It was once a major port for bringing military supplies to Anchorage, but the collapse of the Evil Empire put an end to that. Now the remaining residents all live in one 10 story building. The block is self-contained, with all the amenities under one roof, like some lunar base. The harbour is the only part of town which looks relatively normal. It was packed with fishing and pleasure boats.

We backed towards a dock and loaded the kayaks onto Jerry Sanger's *Sound Access*. The 9 meter aluminium boat was specially built for Prince William Sound excursions. It even had a roof rack for the kayaks and a landing barge type bow door for unloading on the beach. The bow door was handy for us, but essential for Jerry's other clients -- he often carried wheel chair passengers.

By the time we got gas and left the harbour it was about 8 PM. There was still plenty of light left, in fact it never gets really dark at this time of year at 60 degrees North Latitude. The twin 150 hp Yamaha outboards drove us across the gray water at 28 knots. We saw two kayaks paddling along the

shore on their way to Blackstone Bay. This is a popular kayaking locality, scenic and close to Whittier.

We were heading for an area where we would see no other paddlers, but the seclusion came at a cost. The boat charter, including drop off



and pick up, was \$US600. We speared expensively across the Sound, watching the salmon leaping out of the water. They would be our constant companions. Why do they jump? Nobody knows. Some say it is to get rid of sea lice. Others have the opinion that it is a jump for joy at the thought of their impending sexual act. (They undoubtedly don't realize that this moment of lust will result in their deaths.)

Jerry nudged the bow up on the steep pebbly beach of Olson Island and we unloaded the gear. The tide was out, making it a climb to reach the area above high tide. When all the gear was safely elevated, we searched for relics from a fox farm which had once been on the island. Little trace of the operation remained. Vegetation bursts out of the ground here, quickly obliterating the puny activities of humans.

It was overcast, calm and warm. There were clouds of mosquitos, taking advantage of the first human blood in a long time. An old Sourdough joke goes: "There isn't a single mosquito in Alaska." (Expressions of disbelief among

listeners at this point.) "No, they're all married and have large families." We retreated to our tents at midnight.

We were up at 7 AM on Wednesday, June 19, 1996. There was drizzle during the night, but now it had stopped and the sky was merely overcast. It took a long time to pack

up. I had decided on the Prijon Seayak. Richard didn't care which kayak he paddled. I found that the Prijon was a bit short of stowage space, in spite of the fact that it had no front bulkhead. I managed to cram everything in and we started off at 9:45. The tide was out again. We climbed into the loaded kayaks and slid down the pebbles into the water. I guess Tupperware boats do have an advantage, except that these two were pretty furry on the bottom from all the scratches and seemed slow. I wore the regulation rubber boots on that first day, but later abandoned them in favour of Goretex socks and watersport sandals.

A 10 knot wind swept a dark band of rain across the water from the southeast. It turned bleak and cold, with reduced visibility. These were the conditions I had been told to expect and I wasn't unduly perturbed. It was good just to be there, paddling into a place I had never been before. We cleared the south end of Olson Island and headed up the east side of the sound, which was several kilometers wide at this point. Bald headed eagles watched us suspiciously from their perches in the tree tops.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Richard was compiling a list of campsites and we explored many coves along the coast. He entered each suitable location in his GPS satellite navigation equipment. Some sites looked good from the sea, but had dense vegetation growing to the high tide line or were soggy swamps. We finally paddled into a deep cove which was guarded by 20 ravens. It had no name on the map, so we christened it, not surprisingly, Raven Cove. Raven Cove was a benign place, with good camping and a nearby supply of water. (Even here, we pumped our drinking water through filters. Guardia is everywhere now.)

It was too early to camp, so we had lunch and watched a raft of about 30 sea otters. They floated on their

sat up and stared at us as we passed through their domain. This was what I had hoped to find. A quiet, peaceful corner of the world.

The peace was shattered by a float plane landing at the one trace of "civilisation" in the area – an oyster farm. We paddled past and left it on the other side of a point. Ahead of us was a region which showed no sign of humans. The water was now grayish green. We were nearing the glacier. Bergs floated by, carrying seals as passengers. They would swim up to the glacier, climb on an ice floe and drift with the current until the ice melted.

We paddled into a deep cove which fronted a river. The spot looked good from the water, but turned out

Richard was ready for the bears and rigged lines to hoist our food high into a tree – ALL of our food. There are stories of bears tearing into a tent and mauling the inhabitant just to get a candy bar.

We cooked dinner 100 meters from the tents and then hauled food, garbage and even the cook stoves (a Trangia and a Whisperlite) into the tree. We turned in at 9:45. It had been a long day but a good one. We had paddled about 25 km, not counting side trips into coves, much of it against a current. I climbed into my tent which felt like a waterbed on the bog. Fortunately, the tent bottom was completely waterproof and I floated. It was comfortable and the thought of bears didn't keep me awake.

We got up at 6:30. The night-time drizzle had stopped but everything was still very wet. The bears had maintained their distance. The only wildlife was a bald eagle which sat on a tree directly overhead and observed us imperiously while we ate breakfast. Promising breaks were appearing in the cloud cover. We hit the water at the now usual time of 9:45.

We paddled upstream in calm conditions past fantastically shaped ice floes. Every once in a while, one would roll over as its bottom melted. The ice floes got closer together. We were afraid of getting caught if the wind shifted and packed the ice tight, but decided to keep going towards the glacier. The valley was becoming narrower now. As this was a classic fiord, the water was still very deep. The chart showed 170 fathoms, 300 meters. No worries about running aground.

We turned a corner and were confronted by a hundred-meter-high wall of blue ice and rock. Many Alaskan glaciers have retreated so far that their snouts merely melt unobtrusively over solid ground. Not so the Meares Glacier which is still calving into the sea. We paddled as close as we dared and then watched the massive ice towers peel away from the body of the glacier. The tonnes of ice fell slowly at first and then, with increasing speed, smashed into the bay. The roar would hit us a few seconds later, followed by a small tidal wave. Blinding white mountain tops were now peeking through holes

(Continued on page 16)



Norm Sanders near the 50 metre high ice wall of the Meares Glacier

backs and stared at us with wise, round eyes. Once the Russians and their native slaves had hunted the otters almost to extinction for their fur. Now they were protected and abundant. We launched the kayaks and paddled quietly past the otters, respecting their space. Our course took us along shores cloaked with massive spruce trees which produced intense green hillsides. The green was overpowering, uncompromising. The definitive GREEN.

The clouds lifted and revealed the lower portions of the mountains. The tops were still hidden. The wind died and the water was glassy calm. Otters, some solitary, some in groups,

to be very soggy. We were tired and weren't sure of finding anything better, so we unpacked the kayaks. As we scouted around for the driest possible tent sites, we spotted piles of fresh, black shit. Bears! We had chosen a bear loo to sleep in.

I later saw two large black bears on the other side of the river. Black bears aren't normally dangerous, but even they seem to be getting peskier as the years go by. Grizzly bears are another story. They have always been a threat. Three people had been killed by them in Alaska and the Yukon Territory in recent times.



(Continued from page 15)

in the clouds. The glacier bellowed. Seals barked. I felt a profound sense of awe. I sat there in my little kayak surrounded by ice and immense beauty.

After a while, I joined Richard in paddling several kilometers to the west side of the inlet to find a camp site. We landed on a beach just opposite the glacier and I dragged my kayak the customary distance above the tide line.

Richard pulled his higher, saying that he had heard that surges from the calving ice had carried away kayaks in locations like this. I just grunted, feeling mine was high enough anyway. We went exploring, finding the usual piles of bear shit and two nice (if boggy) tent sites on a bench overlooking the glacier.

We both yelled at the same time. My kayak was already 30 meters from shore and caught in the current. Richard's was still in knee deep water. I didn't fancy a swim in the near freezing sea so I raced down to the beach, corralled Richard's kayak and paddled out to retrieve mine. When I was safely back on land, I noticed a bunch of ice blocks high up on the shore. We dragged the kayaks well above them.

The weather turned warm and clear later in the day. From our evening dining room, we watched the passing parade of hundreds of seals on their ice floes. Two sea otters observed us in turn while eagles soared overhead and the glacier boomed. We soaked up the experience for a long while and then hoisted our gear above the bears and climbed into our tents. We had paddled some 20 km that day through a very special place. I felt very fortunate.

A chill wind poured down the glacier and the temperature dropped during the night. My boggy waterbed seemed more icy than the previous night and I didn't sleep very well, in spite of my recent euphoria.

I was glad to extricate myself from the tent at 6:30. The sun soon struck our camp site and we dried out our gear while we drank in the view of the snowy peaks against the dark blue sky. We were on the water at 8, joining the seals drifting seaward with



the current. Now, sweeping along with the wildlife, we felt we were a part of the picture rather than mere spectators. Otters and birds, mostly murrelets, were fellow voyagers through the extravagantly sculptured ice floes which scintillated in the brilliant sunshine. We skimmed over the blue-white water between forested hillsides and snowy mountains.

The spell was broken about noon when we paddled out of the ice floes into a 10 knot southerly wind. We slogged along until 5:30 when we made camp on a little bench just above a rocky beach. We had come about 30 km and weren't very particular about our site. At least there were no bears or bogs here, but not much space, either. (There were, sad to say, bugs.) We turned in early. I savored the images of the day for a while and then drifted off to sleep.

5:30 AM. I had slept well, and warm. The day was clear and sunny. We were on the water at 7:30, paddling around the western entrance to Unakwik Sound. I was sorry to leave, even though we were still kayaking in beautiful surroundings. There was something special about Unakwik.

The original inhabitants probably thought so, too. We visited the now abandoned Chugiak village of Knikilik, once a thriving community of sea-going people. The vegetation has reclaimed the site, but the sheltered beach where the canoes were once kept is still there.

It didn't take much imagination to picture the little bay full of activity. I was glad that I had arrived by kayak to this place. To come in a power boat would have been an insult.

We paddled on, and on. Richard's agenda was to find as many campsites as possible for his book. I was in a mood to just be. We had a conference and decided to take it easier. Richard's rudder had broken anyway, and his shoulder was bothering him.

We drifted through a keyhole in the rock and entered Schoppe Bay Lagoon, a perfect basin set in forested mountains. We would have tarried with this jewel over lunch, but feared being trapped by the torrent of incoming tide.

We cruised through small, wooded islets into Eagalik Inlet where we found a cove with good camping at 1:30 pm. We had covered 18 km and I, at least, felt justified in having an early day. It turned out to be a great spot. No bugs, no bogs, just bears -- which we could take in our stride. We lounged around in the afternoon sun, listening to the geese honking in a nearby meadow. (Actually, it was a bog, but if you didn't try to walk in it or sleep on it, the scene was very pleasant.)

I was in my sleeping bag by 8 PM, luxuriating on a dry, mossy bench. Richard had threatened a 4 AM wake up call in order to get an early start to beat the sea breeze. He was slightly pre-empted by a flock of alarm geese

(Continued on page 19)



Flotsam & Jetsam



Toxic cloud strikes rural paradise!

Residents of Candelo in the far south of the State are up in arms over the 'blue resin cloud' that hangs over this picturesque village, situated 5 kilometres inland from Merimbula. One resident, who didn't wish to be named, said "some days the fog is a real pea-souper, especially in winter - it was beautiful here before that sea kayaker bloke came to town - should be a law against it!". Another resident said that she was sick of her washing 'going stiff' if left out too long, "I retired here after living in Port Kembla for thirty years" said Mrs Mavis Brampton, "but this is worse than the steelworks ever was - the dogs are off their food and even my cat Fluffy stinks of resin". The residents believe that the cause of the phenomenon is a newly established kayak factory, owned by a Mr Ron Mudie, which is now turning out 20 new kayaks each week.

Our 'Flotsam' reporter caught up with the controversial ex club member/turned kayak builder in his workshop, lovingly applying gelcoat. When the 'fog' issue was raised, Mr Mudie denied that the aroma was a health hazard, and in fact advocated the beneficial qualities of polyester resin. "The fumes are good for you for sure - clears me sinuses...never wear a mask!" he shrieked enthusiastically! Swatting vigorously at imaginary blowflies, the menacing Mr Mudie added, "Fumes never did me no 'arm, never did me no 'arm!", before chasing our reporter all the way to the Post Office.

(Continued from page 7)

paddlers not wishing to tackle the expense and logistics of Prince William Sound or face the traffic jams and expense of Glacier Bay. There are LOTS of other glaciers in the area for those who are determined to paddle in the ice. (Which, the OSD admits, is kind of fun.) A tour boat in Juneau will take kayakers to Tracy Arm for \$US175.20 per person round trip.

One bit of gear which the OSD found very useful on his trip was the INTERNET. Through this electronic

Recycling Innovation

A recent ABC wildlife special on the lifestyle of the gorilla contained graphic footage of a male primate eating it's own (green) excretia. David Attenborough explained the gorilla was seeking to gain extra sustenance from it's last meal of super-nutritious seeds. What's this got to do with sea kayaking? Well, given the perennial problem sea-kayakers have with food storage space on longer trips, and the obsession of some (eg. J.Caldwell) to paddle "ultra-light", could it be that our ancient cousins have given us a simple solution! But would semolina taste as good second time round. And how would you cook it?

(I would like to apologise to club members who were actually eating semolina while reading the preceeding article - it is acknowledged that the piece was in extremely bad taste and should never have been published. The 'Flotsam' reporter responsible has been redeployed to mailing duties! - Editor)

Far North

As you read this Dirk Stuber, Arunas Pilka, John Wilde and Gary Parker should be on the return leg of their "double crossing" of Torres Strait. The group's choice of kayaks for the trip has raised some eyebrows. Apart from the sensible John Wilde (who is paddling a sensible Greenlander), the others are gamely experimenting with boats reknowned for their dislike of

marvel he was able to stay in contact with OZ. He often visited the NSWSKC home page, a wondrous collection of information put together by techno-nerd (meant in the nicest possible way) and ace paddler Jim Croft. Not only does it contain a plethora of stuff about the club, it also has lots of general interest sea kayaking items. Inspired, The OSD got himself on the Net as soon as he got home. His address is: oldcdog@acr.net.au
Talk about gear! 28,800 bauds per second modems with V.32bis Data

travelling in a straight line. If they make it back, we look forward to the Pilka Diaries!

..and for Canberra region paddlers

Lake Burley Griffin Watersports Day!

Come along on October 13th and support the club in recruiting new members and, as a bonus, get to paddle the latest boats from Perception, Dagger and Pyranha. Bring your sea kayak, family and friends for a day on the water. A great range of watercraft including white water and racing kayaks, beginner and high performance sail boards and canoes will be available. Representatives from many of the suppliers will also be there for you to grill on the latest design advances.

When: 9:30am - 4:30pm, Sunday 13th October

Where: Yarralumla Bay beach on Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra (a sandy beach with grass and shade)

Bring: Food and drink, your boat, your family and anyone you know who's ever wanted to try paddling.

WANTED

PUFFIN WANTED - in good condition, preferably with paddle, spray deck, PFD etc. Please phone David Cregan (06) 251 2250., all hours. Will consider any reasonable boat.



Modes and V.42 (LAP-M) Error Correction...Oh well, muses the OSD. There was probably a time when stretching a seal skin over a wooden framework was considered a great technological step forward which caused much headshaking and clucking of tongues. Still, he remembers with fondness the simpler days of the recent past when technological argument revolved around the relative merits of non-offset paddle blades versus offset.

Happy paddling.



Installing hatches the right way!

Sea Kayaking (I'm talking about open sea paddling) is a bit like flying in a plane.....you can't just get out" whenever you feel like it! You have to go home/ashore first.

So, your equipment had better work each time every time. This means that your hatches should all be watertight. Many boats these days are fitted with Valley or VCP hatches and, to a lesser extent Henderson equipment.

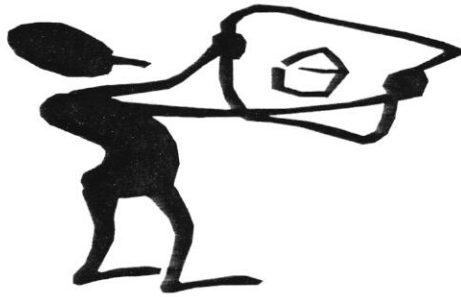
I've seen lots of boats both "home fitted out" and commercially made with leaking Henderson and Valley hatches, sometimes almost brand new. The purpose of this article is to suggest a method of positively sealing these hatch rims and to show buyers of new boats what to look for.

Before manufacturers jump on me, I must say that quality boats are being made and hatch **rims** well sealed in these. Unfortunately there are still commercially made boats with pathetic attempts at hatch Rim installation and water sealing just to get the product out the door. Buyers, vote with your feet and go for quality! Problems with leakage can occur around the hatch lid when it is not fitted properly. This is easily fixed - put it on right!

Water leakage around the base of the rim is more serious. The best way to fix it is to take it off and fit it again! If your hatch rim has been fitted **from under** the deck, you have a problem! They can be hard to seal long-term.

OK, Valley and Henderson rims are made from plastic. Glass fibrer resin will NOT adhere long-term to this plastic where there is any flexing or manual pressure involved. By this I mean the forcing of gear into the hatches and the pushing-twisting etc to remove/replace hatch lids. If resin/glass is your only sealant, your hatches will eventually leak. This also applies to Q cells which is a glass fibre filler and various commercially made bonding agents which set **HARD** when cured. A flexible sealant is needed in **CONJUNCTION** with glass fibre and resin.

I have seen hatches secured from under the deck with glass fibre only



where the rim could be rotated 25 mm each way. Needless to say, this one leaked!

The very best sealant I have seen is SIKAFLEX. Nothing else even comes close. This sealant is a purpose designed marine sealant/adhesive for below-the-waterline use. You can get it in black or white, tube or cartridge. It can be a bit messy to use, clean up with turps, metho or acetone and store opened cartridge in the fridge. You can get it at Ships Chandlers and marine dealers. Resins will stick to it unlike silicone sealants. It is the best. Again,...it is the best. Do NOT use silicone sealants.

METHOD

(1) All areas of contact for the Sikaflex sealant and the glass fibre with both the boat and the hatch rim should be sanded thoroughly. I use a really rough grit paper and remove all trace of the shiny plastic surface of the hatch rim which will be contacted by the sealant and the resin. If installing rim **ON TOP** of the deck with bolts, roughen the gel coat area which will be under the rim too. When sanding, go around the rim and deck - not in and out!

(2) If fitting rim on top of deck, squeeze a generous bead of sealant around the sanded gel coat area with a loop around each bolt hole. When bolting down sealant will squeeze out and can be wiped off (although a bit messy) or left until dry (about a day) and cut with a sharp cutter.

(3) If fitting rim from under the deck, you will need some clamps or short pieces of wood to keep

rim in place until dry for glassing. For under deck fitting, squeeze sealant onto top of flange generously and lift rim into place through the deck. Secure until dry. Sealant should be visible between rim and deck hole all round. At the edge of the flange under the deck, use your finger to smear sealant flat in preparation for glassing.

(4) When dry, clamps etc can be



removed. Now, turn boat upside down on some trestles so; that you can get underneath it. Have a small mirror handy and possibly a torch if your work area is not well lit. Cut some small pieces of glass fibre - 225 gsm or 300 gsm are fine - the 225 if there are tight corners for the fibre to go around. The pieces should be about double the width of the flange to adequately contact the boat material,

5) Mix resin and go to work, checking for pieces that have not wetted nut completely with the mirror. If you expect anyone to be sitting on your hatch rim - ie if your hatch is in the "day hatch" area, I'd use 2 layers of glass. When cured, give the underside a good sand to remove dags which could' puncture your new drybags.

If you've done it right and there are no leaking bulkheads etc, you should be rewarded with a hiss of air on a warm day. To avoid this pressure build-up, I've heard of paddlers drilling small pinholes in each bulkhead near the top. It's up to you.

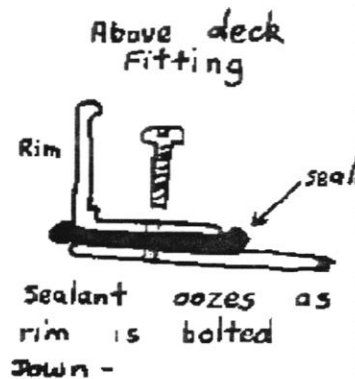
I wish to state categorically that I have received no kickback from Sikaflex Australia

Dave Winkworth

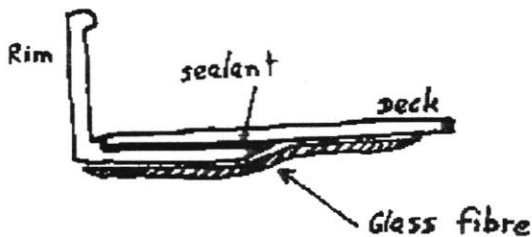


Installing Hatches!

Illustrative Artiste ~ Dave Winkworth



Below Deck Fitting



(Continued from page 9)

OZ VERSUS USA

scarce as hen's teeth in Australia. In North America, they seem to outnumber the men. I first found this situation in California, where there were flotillas of female-powered sit-on-tops.

Fascinated, I asked the women what they found so attractive about kayaking. The consensus was that it was a nice way to be on the water. The SOT's were easy to paddle and felt safe. The sea was warm and the air balmy.

Further north, the women paddled normal kayaks, but they were still numerous. Sea kayaking in Australia is considered the province of the Iron Men. In North America, the waves are smaller and there is less emphasis on testosterone.

I coveted a Coaster, but was repelled by the price -- US\$1987.00. This

converts into \$2600 in Australian currency, plus about \$1000 freight. The equivalent Australian kayak (the slightly larger Inuit Classic) sells for about half the price, even without the freight. The Coaster's US pricetag is actually on the low side for North American fibreglass kayaks. Plastic boats, on the other hand, are considerably cheaper and more on a par with Australian prices.

So who wins, the Aussies or the North Americans? Neither. It's like comparing apples and oranges. I'd say the Aussies win on the basis of technique and equipment for SEA kayaking, but the North Americans have developed kayaks and attitudes which well suit their own sheltered waters. In addition, the North American approach seems to attract far more women to the sport -- something for macho (but lonely) Aussie males to think about.

(Continued from page 16)

BEARS, BUGS etc

which flew over at 3:59. The sun wasn't above the peaks yet, but it soon would be. The air was warm and the wind was calm. It promised to be a great day. We were on the water by 6 AM, paddling in a glassy wonderland of islands, reflections and sunshine. Salmon jumped, eagles soared and life was good.

Visibility was exceptional. I shot a whole roll of film on the mountains at the head of the sound. It was actually HOT on the water and we stripped off our paddling jackets. So much for the deluge. Richard spotted a deer on the beach and raced in to take its picture. I wasn't all that impressed, having seen lots of deer, but Richard said they were rare in the area.

Our goal was East Flank Island, where Jerry would pick us up that evening. We were getting back into crowded waters where fleets of commercial fishing boats were netting salmon. Richard went over to speak to one fisherman and scored a beautiful seven kg. coho. We were near our destination now, so the prize wasn't a problem.

We landed on East Flank about noon after coming 20 km from our previous campsite. East Flank was a nice little island with no bugs, or bears (or bergs), just a bog. We unpacked and lounged around in the hot afternoon sun. I played with Richard's GPS, fascinated by the toy, but having trouble visualizing a situation where I would NEED one.

Jerry was a little late, finally churning into view about 7PM. I was glad to see him, but felt slightly invaded when the bow ramp hit the beach. I had been blessed with a rare experience and was reluctant for it to end. Already, the bears, bogs and even the bugs were starting to look good. As for the bergs - well, they were always magnificent!





South Coast News



Rock'n'Roll Weekend

Hello Everyone,

Let's start by mentioning our upcoming Rock 'n Roll & AGM Weekend at Honeymoon Bay. The dates you need to reserve are Sat, Sun 30th November and 1st December. We've put in an advance order for fine weather for this weekend - remember last year?

This year for the Rock 'n Roll Weekend we will have a relaxed program of instruction and training/assistance for paddlers. The usual eskimo roll assistance will be available - so if your roll is a bit shaky and unreliable or just plain non-existent, resolve to develop a bomb-proof roll this summer...starting At the Rock 'n Roll Weekend. Perhaps it's time to work on your **weak-side** roll? For paddlers wishing to improve surf skills, there will be plenty of help available too. Just ask!

Our AGM will be held on the Saturday afternoon fairly late..... so bring your folding chair and come and sit in on the meeting. If you would like to help out by nominating for one of the executive (love that word!) Positions... please...just speak up!

On the Saturday evening, please join us for some house wine and nibbles at the main tent and listen to the talk and slide show presentation by two guys who have recently completed an amazing voyage by sea kayaks in Patagonia. It will be worth coming along just for this!!

On Sunday morning there will probably be a group paddle out to the cliffs of Point Perpendicular for the early risers and plenty more help and instruction in all facets of sea kayaking.

There will be quite a few of us in camp on the Friday night so come in then if you can. If you don't like the hard ground you can always find accommodation in Currarong a few ks along the road. Oh yes, bring all the drinking water you'll need to Honeymoon Bay too.

How to get there?....Follow the signs from Nowra to Currarong but turn right a few ks before Currarong onto a wide dirt road - this road is then signposted at the various turnoffs onto the Jervis Bay shore, including Honeymoon Bay.

Now, we will be contacting the major sea kayaking retailers in NSW to see if they have any new boats to show off (why would they miss this opportunity?) to club members...so there may be a chance to paddle some new and interesting boats on the weekend. Got any surplus kayaking or camping gear? Bring it along and display it for sale or swap. Pretty cheap advertising eh?

Rangers will come round and collect camping fees. Fires are not allowed. Also, please don't use trees to string up clotheslines and the like. That's about all on the Rock 'n Roll Weekend. Please give me a call if you have any questions. Look forward to seeing you all there.

SOUTH COAST NEWS

'Found an interesting article in the Sydney Morning Herald recently on those darling little creatures...ticks.

If you're doing any coastal kayaking/camping between now and early next year...then these animals are the enemy! Your first aid kit should include tweezers and possibly some antihistamines if you react badly to bites. Regular full body inspections should be also part of your day if camping in coastal scrub. Depending on your paddling partner, this can sometimes be good fun!

Well now, why all the fuss? Simply because we have been alerted to increases in tick-borne illnesses such as Lyme disease and Spotted Fever. Many people are apparently unaware that they have been bitten and *if* they become ill their symptoms are often misdiagnosed. The diseases carried by ticks are debilitating and sometimes fatal. Be aware! For those who like to pour Trangia fuel all over the little biters the message is DON'T!

Applying alcohol, metio or patrol only makes them release more venom. Lindsay Smith of the Southern Ocean Seabird Study Association is back home after a recent operation in hospital and mending well.

While on the subject of SOSSA, I'm on the lookout for groups (flocks?) of Sooty Oystercatchers. They are an endangered species and are probably more likely to be seen by sea kayakers than anyone else because their nesting areas are offshore islands, isolated rocky shores and headlands. Actually you won't see them in big groups - more likely two's and fours. They are all black with a long bright orange beak. If you see any in your sea kayaking travels. I'd appreciate a call. Thanks.

It's whale time again! They are heading south to the Antarctic coast at this time of the year. The peak months for sightings are October and November. This year, a prominent cetacean organisation from good ol' USA is coming to Eden because the local whale watching boat crews have succeeded in convincing everyone that the whales are actually feeding in Twofold Bay which is apparently something not often observed. So, if you're keen to paddle with whales in the next 2 months, the far south coast may be your best chance.

A few weeks ago while guiding a school sea kayaking expedition we watched a huge (aren't they all?) humpback clear the water in a spectacular leap. Quite a sight...from a safe distance!

As our paddling waters are about to warm up I include a graph of survival expectancy during immersion which is I suppose at the wrong end of summer. No matter really as the important thing is that all paddlers are aware of potential danger they face if they come out of their boat on the open sea and can't get back in for whatever reason. I have a little (slightly coarse) saying for trainee paddlers which applies to wind and sea changes, failed rolls or re-entries or just about any other major problem at

SURVEY OF MEMBERS

Thanks again to everyone for the great response to our survey. The following tables details the kayak profile of the club. On the following pages are also some charts detailing how we are in 96. Generally, the survey showed that most members were happy with their boats - the members that stated that they would not buy the same boat again often just wanted a change, or a craft that matched their improving skill levels. One thing is conclusive - Arctic Raider owners are the wealthy elite - ALL bought their boats new, as compared with the thrifty Greenlander paddlers, who like to sniff out a good second hand bargain. There will be more controversial analysis in the next newsletter.

	NUMBER OWNED	BOUGHT				RATING		% WOULD BUY AGAIN
		New	S/Hand	Self Built	Dog	Good	Excellent	
MIRAGE	18	15	3			9	9	89%
PUFFIN	11	8	2			8	3	73%
RAIDER	11	11	0			4	7	100%
PITTARAK	11	9	2			4	5	64%
G'LANDER	10	1	8	1		5	5	70%
SKERRAY	3	2	1			2	1	100%
OSPREY	2	2				1	1	100%
SPECTRUM	2	2				2		100%
SEAFARER	6	3	3			6		33%
TASMAN 19	3	3			1	2		0%
ESTUARY/PLUS	4	3	1			4		50%
SEAMASTER	2	2				1	1	0%
MERMAID	2	2				1	1	100%
ROSCO	1	1				1		100%
BLUE MARLIN	1	1				1		0%
PHYSEGAR	1	1					1	0%
S. AURORA	1	1				1		0%
CHINOOK	1		1				1	100%
KAKADU	1	1				1		0%
PINTAIL	1	1						100%
D. APOSTLE	1	1					1	0%
S. DUNGBEETLE	2			2			2	100%
S.W.GREENLAND PLY	1			1		1		100%
OWN DESIGN	1			1			1	0%
	97	70	21	5	1	54	39	

sea: "When shit happens, it happens fast!" Resolve to improve and develop your skills this summer!

Sea Kayakers who paddle the coast of the Nadgee Wilderness in the far south of our state will know that there has been until now, access for vehicles to Newtons Beach at the northern end of the Nadgee Wilderness. Actually, the northern section has not been classified a wilderness area because of the vehicle access to the Newtons Beach camping area. Paddlers I know have tended to skip this spot to camp at other beaches off limits to 4WD's. Well, last week the NSW Government announced that the northern section of

Nadgee Nature Reserve would be declared wilderness and vehicle access closed off. The reason behind this move we are told is to make the catchment of the Merrica River a totally undisturbed catchment. Merrica River flows into Disaster Bay near the town of Wonboyn.

Wonboyn residents lobbied long and hard against this move saying that supplying Newtons Beach campers with provisions was the lifeblood of the village. I believe that many of the "Newtons" campers will now stay in Wonboyn itself and that the town will not die as has been predicted. Also, the extension of the wilderness area may attract more walkers and sea

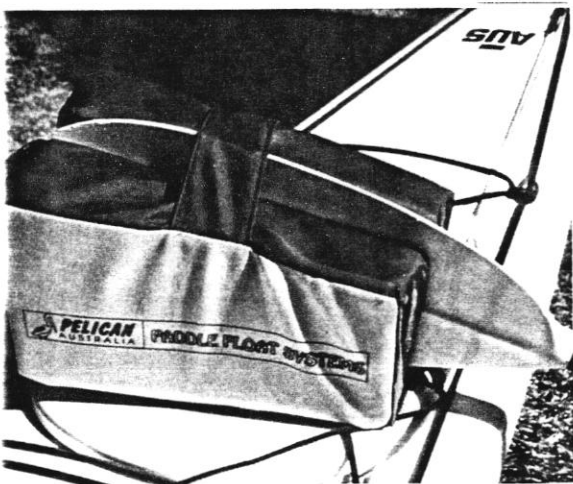
kayakers to the area so, if you're planning a trip down this way please support the local store at the start and finish of your trip by buying your fuel/ice creams/beer etc there and make a point of telling them that you're there *because of* the extension of the wilderness. Soon you'll be able to camp at Newtons without listening to ghetto blasters and generators. On the down side the beach does have a steep dumping shore break at times. Please register with NPWS at Merimbula. See you at the Rock 'n Roll/AGM weekend?

David Winkworth

PADDLE FLOAT SYSTEMS



Easy to use - The Pelican Paddle Float System provides a quick and reliable means of getting back into the kayak after a capsize. It also provides excellent stability while fishing or resting.



The Paddle Glove is clipped to the foredeck of the kayak in a position where it is easily reached from the cockpit and can be mounted so that access is either from the port or starboard side.

A paddle tie fitted to the foredeck in front of the glove allows the paddle shaft to be pulled down and secured.

The Permanent Buoyancy Paddle Float when not in use opens out flat to provide minimum wind resistance when secured on the rear deck. In use it folds around the paddle blade and is secured with a velcro strap. A floating line between the paddle float and the rear deck of the kayak allows the float to be released from the paddle after re-entry, discarded and later retrieved when conditions are more stable.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

WARWICK FORD
MOBILE 0414-230-640

1995/1996 CLUB CALENDAR

(Call Gary Edmond on (042) 84 0836 to notify events)

September-96

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
WEEKLY		
Sundays ③	Michael Maleedy usually does a 30km paddle from Hunters Hill to North Head & return. If other experienced paddlers are available he occasionally paddles from the Spit out the Heads to somewhere north & return. Ideal for anyone interested in building or maintaining fitness. Contact Michael on (02) 816 2428 - home or (02) 332 1122 - work.	Sydney Harbour
Weekends ②	The Wollongong pod usually go for a paddle. If you would like to join them please call Gary Edmond on (042) 84 0836 -home or Dirk Stuber on (042) 68 1001. Instruction available.	Wollongong Area
Tuesdays (evening) ②	Paddle, Surfing Practice or a Barbecue. Meeting at either Clontarf or Long Reef around 5pm. A fairly casual affair and usually a lot of fun. contact either Dave Malcom on (02) 970 7633 - home or Chris Welsh on (02) 977 7356 - home.	Sydney Area
Tuesday (evening) ①	The Canberra pod usually go for a paddle on the Lake for an hour or so, sometimes followed by a Bar-B-Q. Meet at Black Mountain Peninsula at 6.00pm. Contact Arunas Pilka (06) 248 7828 (h) or (06) 283 5404 (w).	Canberra
Thursdays (evening) ②	Nevile Lazarus and friends paddle on the Harbour regularly on Thursday nights, leaving from Roseville Bridge Boat Ramp at quarter to seven and paddling to Balmoral Beach and return. Nevile would welcome other club members to come along , so if you are interested give Nevile a call at home on (02) 498 1706 or at work on (02) 624 2511	Sydney Area
OCTOBER		
2-7 ①	Gentle paddle on the Clyde River Estuary. Spend 3 tranquil days exploring the Clyde River. Camping in idyllic splendour on one of the South Coast's prettiest river estuaries. Contact Mark Pearson (06) 288 3602 H, (06) 289 6688 W. CANCELLED	Batemans Bay
5-7 ②-③	In place of the Clyde River Paddle. Whale Watching. The Humpbacks and Right Whales will be traveling south on their annual trip to the Antarctic. They often congregate between Montague Island and the mainland, a few kilometers offshore. They are clearly visible from the cliff tops for family members with binoculars. Camping at Mystery Bay, with whale watching paddles, coastal cruising and surfing. Grades 2 to 3, depending on paddling options chosen. Contact Norm Sanders on (044) 738918.	Mystery Bay
NOVEMBER		
9-10 ①	Surf skills weekend. Same format as last year with the opportunity for some fun in the surf for the experienced and for some tuition by the experienced for those not so confident in the surf. Those with access to a white water boat are encouraged to bring it along. Camping is available on the beach at Coledale. Contact Gary Edmond (042) 840 836.	Wollongong
30-1 ①	Rock & Roll Weekend. Despite the deluge on Saturday night last year's event was a huge success with almost 100 people attending. The format will be much the same as last year with seminars and coaching clinics on a variety of topics as well as the learn to Eskimo Roll sessions. There will be a guest speaker on Saturday night and the opportunity for socialising with other club members. Contact Dave Winkworth (064) 941 366 H, (064) 959714 W.	Honeymoon Bay on Jervis Bay
30	Annual General Meeting. As with last year the AGM will be run in conjunction with the Rock & Roll weekend on Saturday afternoon. It is your chance to have a say on the running of the Club or to stand for election to the executive. Anyone interested in nominating for the executive should contact Arunas Pilka on (06) 248 7828 H, or (06) 283 5562 W	Honeymoon Bay on Jervis Bay

NSW Sea Kayak Club Info-Line

(02) 552 0028

A recorded message giving the latest on club trips and events. It costs the same as dialling any local Sydney number and messages may also be left.

NSWSKC Paddle Grading System

ABILITY

Sea kayaking is by its nature dangerous. The sea does not suffer complacency kindly. Paddlers should, therefore, aim to minimise their risk. The paddle grading system is provided as a guide for members to **SELF-ASSESS** their suitability for club paddles. The various grades are a reflection of ability, experience and fitness. Through inspection of the grading system and/or discussion with the particular 'paddle coordinator', prospective paddlers should determine whether they are competent to attend. With the exception of grade 0-2 paddles: where very little experience and ability are expected, prospective paddlers should determine their suitability of their **OWN ACCORD**. You should not expect strangers/others to simply assess your competence and stamina. If you are in doubt then don't go.

The NSWSKC reserves the right to prevent people from participating in club paddles. Authority is vested in the paddle coordinator and/or senior/experienced paddler(s) and/or instructor(s). The occasion may arise where a coordinator(s) and/or one or more of the senior/experienced paddler(s) and/or instructor(s) may prohibit a person from paddling on the 'club paddle'. Such an exclusion does not constitute an implicit approval of remaining non-prohibited paddlers. For the exclusion might, for example, be generated from a personal knowledge of the excluded individual's deficient paddling ability or equipment. Such a vetting process will be exceptional as paddlers will be expected to exclude themselves. **ALL RESPONSIBILITY** lies with the individual contemplating participating in the paddle to comply with the advertised standard.

Paddles of grading 0-2 will usually have a 'paddle leader' to offer both instruction and leadership where required. Paddles ranked >2 (greater than 2) may or may not have an identifiable 'paddle leader'. Often there will be a consensus achieved through negotiation. No one person, including the 'paddle coordinator' assumes responsibility for paddlers. In such circumstances paddlers are obviously committed to communal safety and well-being but they should be prepared to care for themselves in the event of complications.

EQUIPMENT

Any paddler anticipating attending a club paddle should, unless otherwise stated, possess as a minimum the following equipment.

Essential:	Well maintained sea kayak with bulkhead(s) and buoyancy.
	Fitted decklines
	Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
	Tow rope (>10m)
	Cagg or paddle jacket
	1st Aid Kit (group)
	Spray skirt
	Whistle
	Compass
	Paddle and paddle leash
	Warm clothing, matches, food and water.
	Spare paddle (group)

Recommended: map(s); flares; knife and relevant personal items eg. medication.

Possession of this equipment and enforcement of these requirements are not the responsibility of the 'paddle coordinator' for paddles Graded >2 (greater than 2). The individual paddler is expected to conform of their own accord. Obvious failure to meet the standard may lead to prohibition from the particular club paddle by the coordinator(s) and/or experienced paddler(s) and/or instructor(s). Where an individual fails to meet the required minimum standard of equipment and/or competence and yet undertakes to continue, the paddle coordinator(s)/experienced paddler(s)/instructor(s) assume no responsibility for that action. The individual is most familiar with their own gear and ability. Emphasis is upon **SELF-REGULATION**.

Definitions

'Club paddle': a paddle advertised in the NSWSKC calendar or on the *Infoline*.

'Paddle coordinator': member who disseminates information about a particular paddle. There is no imputed onus of leadership.

'Senior/experienced paddler': member with considerable paddling experience.

'Instructor': a person with sea kayak instructor qualifications recognised by the ACF or NSW Board of Canoe Education.

'Paddle leader': person(s) who formally lead paddles Graded from 0-2. On paddles Graded >2 a leader is a person who has formally nominated themselves as such through the paddle advertising. In both instances they may be distinct from the paddle coordinator. It should be remembered that in the second instance (grade >2) there may be no leader.

* All advertised paddles should clearly identify paddle coordinator, paddle leader (where appropriate) and base grade.

The grading system is intended as a rough guide for members to self-assess their suitability for club paddles.

Grade	Description & Pre-requisites	Scaling Factors		
1	Beginner - Closed or protected water - instruction available. No experience required. Might not be influenced by bad weather.	For grades 1 & 2		
		Wind	Seas	Add(for each)
		<10kn	<1.5m	0
		10-15kn	1.5-2.5m	0.5
		15-25kn	>2.5m	1.0
		>25kn	>3.0m	1.5
2	Novice with some paddling experience. <15km paddling day(s) primarily along accessible coastline or on protected water. Pre-requisite: able to perform assisted rescues.			
3	Proficient . <25km paddling day(s). Possibly short open water crossings or non landable stretches: up to 5km. Pre-requisites: able to perform assisted rescues & surf entries & exits.	For Grades 3 & 4		
		Wind	Seas	Add(for each)
		>20kn	>2.5m	1.0
4	Intermediate . <40km paddling day(s). Longer open crossings and non landable stretches: up to 10km. Pre-requisites: able to perform assisted rescues and rescue others: surf entries & exits: reliable eskimo roll.			
5	Advanced . Long open ocean paddling in large seas and adverse conditions. Pre-requisites: very reliable surfing skills & eskimo roll. ability to self rescue & rescue others.	For Grades 5 & 6		
6	Expedition . Potentially very challenging conditions. Only for experienced advanced paddlers. Probably invitation only.	No weather modifications. Paddlers know their limits.		

To obtain modified grading **add** the value for wind & seas.

eg. For a grade **2** paddle on a weekend with forecasted 12kn winds & 2m seas the new grade would be:

$$\text{Grade } \mathbf{2} + 0.5 (\text{wind}) + 0.5 (\text{seas}) = \text{Grade } \mathbf{3}$$

NSW Sea Kayak Club Inc. - Contact List

Surname	Firstname	Suburb	State	Home	Work
Abrahall	Ray & Shirley	DORA CREEK	NSW	(049) 705-387	
Adams	Peter	AVALON	NSW	(02) 9918-628	(02) 9928-2323
Andrews	Don	CROMER	NSW	971-6842	018-111087
Angel	Rick	CHATSWOOD	NSW	(02) 9415 1505	(02) 9954 5222
Angwin	Brian	LEURA	NSW	(047) 84-3515	(047) 73-3285
Atkinson	Mark	YAMBA	NSW	(066) 469-474	(066) 462-205
Baer	Walter	WILLOUGHBY	NSW	(02) 9417-222	(02) 9688-9545
Bakker	Frank	COOMA	NSW	(064) 52-3826	(064) 53-2707
Bartel & Wilkins	Jan & Greg	BALMAIN	NSW	(02) 9810-702	(06) 9249-6175
Betteridge & Mercer	Sharon & Robert	RANDWICK	NSW		
Bingham	Stephen	KIRRIBILLI	NSW	(02) 9954-123	(02) 9683 -044
Birks	Christopher	AVALON	NSW	(02) 9918-060	(02) 9417-6144
Bitmead	Lucy	BELCONNEN	ACT	(06) 251-6386	(06) 275-6815
Blamey	Jeff & Janet	O'CONNOR	ACT	(06) 248 6003	
Blumenthal	Simon	ST IVES	NSW	(02) 44-1692	(02) 9624-2511
Blunt	Peter	ISABELLA PLAINS	ACT	(06) 292-1879	(06) 237-5135
Boardman	Ross	ERROL BAY	NSW	(044) 433-385	(015) 439 820
Bones	Kevin	BAYVIEW	NSW	(02) 9999-467	(02) 9771-4111
Brady	Stephen	NEWCASTLE	NSW	(049) 29-3017	(049) 21-3000
Brandon	Frank	BONDI	NSW	(02) 9387-309	(02) 9387-3091
Briggs	Gregory	GREENWICH	NSW	(02) 9439-626	(02) 9926-8505
Brown	Roger	EPPING	NSW	(02) 9869-7002	
Bryan	Tracy	WESTMEAD	NSW	(02) 9633-969	(02) 9687-2800
Bull	Norman	EPPING	NSW	(02) 9876-249	(02) 9209-7732
Buras	Bruno	CHURCH POINT	NSW	(02) 9979-599	(02) 9979-5999
Burnham	Gary	MOSMAN	NSW		(02) 9969-4590
Butcher	Peter	KATOOMBA	NSW	(02) 630-2025	(047) 822-014
Caldwell	John & Jutta	BOWRAL	NSW	(048) 712-124	
Carmody	Patrick	COLEDALE	NSW	(042) 67-4710	(02) 9364-6523
Carswell	Gordon & Lesley	TATHRA	NSW	(064) 94-1920	
Carter	Perc & Desma	WOOLLOOWARE	NSW	(02) 9523-615	(02) 9220-0963
Chalson	Ian	ENGADINE	NSW	(02) 9520-550	(02) 9543-7000
Chidgey	Phil	THORNLEIGH	NSW	(02) 9980-6729	
Clarke	Norm & Jo	OAKS FLAT	NSW	(042) 564-617	(042) 757-380
Cochrane	Tim	Via CANDELO	NSW	(064) 932-351	
Collins	Deb	DARLINGHURST	NSW	(02) 9389-123	(02) 9386-0811
Cowin	Neil	HAMILTON	NSW		
Cregan	David	BELCONNEN	ACT	(06) 251-2250	(06) 240-9531
Crocker	Eric	ULLADULLA	NSW	(044) 552-227	(045) 755-292
Croft	Jim	CAMPBELL	ACT	(06) 247-6712	(06) 246-5500
Cronin	Julie	CURTIN	ACT	(06) 281-0002	(06) 279-7123
Cross	Gillian	BEVERLY HILLS	NSW	(02) 9536-740	(042) 342-442
Crowe	Mick & Kate	KAMBAH	ACT	(06) 231-9447	(06) 281-8357
Cummings	Graham	WARRAGAMBA	NSW	(047) 742-364	(02) 9215-6675
Dabinett	Colin	HORNSBY	NSW		(02) 9477-7176
Dale	Angela	SURREY HILLS	NSW	(02) 9331-319	(02) 9380-5119
Dale & Family	Michael	WENTWORTH FALLS	NSW	(047) 573 412	(02) 9963-1116
David	Shantha	CLOVELLY	NSW	(02) 9665-615	(02) 9385-4463
Deane	Roy & D	MANLY	NSW	(02) 9977-022	(02) 9247-9491
Decorte	David	GOULBURN	NSW	(048) 481-255	
Doust	Stephen	NEWTOWN	NSW	(02) 9516-549	(02) 9698-3715
Easton	Bruce & Rosalyn	JINDABYNE	NSW	(064) 567 027	(064) 562 966
Eddy	Andrew	NORTH RYDE	NSW	(02) 9888-207	(02) 9887-8333

NSW Sea Kayak Club Inc. - Contact List

Surname	Firstname	Suburb	State	Home	Work
Edmond	Gary	WOONONA	NSW	(042) 84-0836	
Ford	Warwick	NEWPORT	NSW	(02) 9979-546	(02) 9905-0588
Francis	Warwick	YARRALUMLA	ACT	(06) 28-23467	(06) 269 5107
Fraser	Doug	CONDER	ACT	(06) 265-4797	(06) 294-1044
Galt	Ric	BONDI	NSW	(02) 9389-163	(02) 9256-9800
Garrett	Peter	WANNIASSA	ACT	(06) 231-9838	018-674310
Gill	Nicholas	ANSLIE	ACT	(06) 257-6120	(06) 268-8472
Gover	Clive & Raylin	AUSTIMEER	NSW	(042) 67-3859	(042) 29-8044
Gray	Michael	MUSWELLBROOK	NSW		
Gualter	Ashley	BALMAIN	NSW	(02) 9810-6942	
Hadassin	Ian	LINDFIELD	NSW	(02) 9416-228	(02) 9310-3499
Hall	Susan	BROOKVALE	NSW	(02) 9938-318	(02) 9267-6511
Harding	Ian	NORTH BONDI	NSW	(02) 9365-165	
Hart & Knopke	Lindsay & Leanne	MIRANDA	NSW	(02) 9525-770	(02) 9229-5616
Harvey	Ken	ENGADINE	NSW	(02) 9520-617	(02) 9648-5099
Head & family	Bob	CARINGBAH	NSW	(02) 9525-024	(02) 9923-6005
Hemmings	Leigh	HORNSBY HEIGHTS	NSW	(02) 9482-287	(02) 9482-2876
Hemsley	Steve	WORONORA	NSW	(02) 9545-442	(02) 9545-4422
Hennings	John	REVESBY	NSW	(02) 54-31351	(02) 53-46011
Heron	Stephen	BAULKHAM HILLS	NSW	(02) 9639 7927	(015) 061 318
Hewitson	Paul	NARRARA	NSW	(043) 24-1922	(02) 9651-1616
Higgins	Gary	MANLY	NSW		(02) 9214-9868
Hockley	Cheryl & Neil	McGRATHS HILL	NSW	(045) 772-782	(02) 9685-4487
Holster	D. John	NORTH ROCKS	NSW	(02) 9873-185	(02) 9873-1857
Howes	Damon	BRADDON	ACT	(06) 247-7269	(06) 265-4331
Ingleby	Peter	NORTH BONDI	NSW	(02) 30-4937	
John	Sundra & Salo	NORMANHURST	NSW	(02) 9875-425	(0418) 447-942
Jones	Brian & Suzane	ERMINGTON	NSW	(02) 9804-763	(02) 9354-4006
Jones	Doug	BAULKHAM HILLS	NSW	(02) 9674-603	(02) 9934-5100
Jung	Rob	WEST RYDE	NSW	(02) 9808-169	(02) 9887-8853
Kitteridge	Mark	COOGEE	NSW	(02) 9665-272	(041) 266-7453
Lamonda/Rutherford	Mary Lou/Peter	INGLESIDE	NSW	(02) 9913-3559	
Lazarus	Nevil	GORDON	NSW	(02) 9498-170	(02) 9624-2511
Lea	Greg	KARIONG	NSW	(043) 40-0157	(02) 9751-1451
Lewis	Sheree	COOGEE	NSW	(02) 9315-784	(02) 9953-6769
Litchfield	Ian	WYONG	NSW	(043) 52-2242	
Lucas	David	PEAKHURST	NSW	(02) 53-9192	
Luck	Geoff	WEETANGERA	ACT	(06) 254 -0623	(06) 283-5754
MacDonald	David	FRENCHS FOREST	NSW	(02) 9452-265	(02) 9647-1033
Malcolm	David	DEE WHY	NSW	(02) 9981-334	(02) 9228-6965
Maleedy	Michael	HUNTERS HILL	NSW	(02) 9816-242	(02) 9299-6900
Markwart	Gordon	HARBORD	NSW	(02) 9905-186	(041) 841-0172
Maticka	Andrew	ARMIDALE	NSW	64-4-495-8521	64-4-499-1000
McConchie & McDermott	Ian & Marie-Louise	SHOALHAVEN HEADS	NSW		
Meert	John	SPENCE	ACT	(06) 258-7290	(06) 203-7360
Meredith	Peter	NORTH SYDNEY	NSW	(02) 9959-574	(02) 9959-5742
Meredith	Peter	NORTH SYDNEY	NSW	(02) 9959-574	(02) 9959-5742
Mill	Jeanette	ANSLIE	ACT	(02) 9257-709	(02) 9250-9509
Miller	Peter	BURWOOD	NSW	(02) 9691-1917	
Morris	Jeremy	MOSMAN	NSW	(02) 9969-481	(02) 9335-3009
Morrish	Ian	BATEMANS BAY	NSW	(044) 728-951	(044) 728-388
Natgrass	Paul	LINDFIELD	NSW	(02) 9416-484	(02) 9259-4579
Newton	Keith	BELROSE	NSW	(02) 9975-3266	

NSW Sea Kayak Club Inc. - Contact List

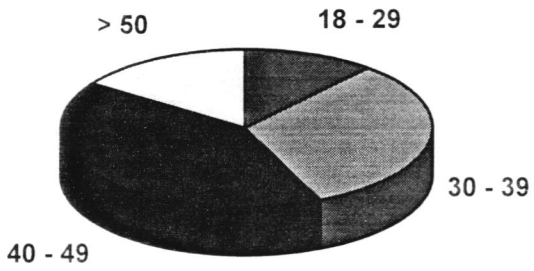
Surname	Firstname	Suburb	State	Home	Work
Nichols	David	TUROSS HEAD	NSW	(044) 738 052	
Niderberger	Tony	WAVERTON	NSW	(02) 9922-222	(02) 9438-3666
Nimmo	Christopher	TOMAKIN	NSW	(044) 718-233	(044) 741-599
North	Andrew	CAMMERAY	NSW	(02) 9922-402	(02) 9666-4455
Ogawa	Kenji	PUTNEY	NSW	(02) 9807-691	(02) 9807-6911
Parker	Gary	BULLI	NSW	(042) 85-4317	
Pearson	Mark	DUFFY	ACT	(06) 288-3602	(06) 289-6175
Pearson	Robert & Merry	PANANIA	NSW	(02) 9773-8772	
Peattie	Wendy	AVALON	NSW	(02) 9918-3766	
Peterson	Tony	CHIFLEY	ACT	(06) 282-2646	(06) 266-8893
Phillipson	Jim & Heather	MAFFRA	VIC		(051) 44-4566
Pilka	Arunas	O'CONNOR	ACT	(06) 248-7828	(06) 283-5562
Pratt	David	WOLLSTONECRAFT	NSW	(02) 9901-312	(02) 9957-4117
Preema	Alex	LITHGOW	NSW	(063) 51-3267	(063) 52-2855
Raftery	Ron	CARLINGFORD	NSW	(02) 9630-3972	
Read	Gregory	WEST PENNANT HILLS	NSW	(02) 9484-1233	
Rees	Richard	PUTNEY	NSW	(02) 9807-2848	
Richards	Shirin	MIRANDA	NSW	(02) 9540-3743	
Richardson	Michael	MANLY VALE	NSW	(02) 9907-074	(02) 9907-9766
Ross	Duncan	St IVES	NSW	(02) 9449-296	(02) 9795-3559
Sanders	Norman	TUROSS HEAD	NSW	(044) 73-8918	
Scheafer	Ralph	WAHROONGA	NSW	(02) 489-7898	(02) 489-7898
Scott	Michael	AUBURN	NSW	(02) 9649-770	(02) 9633-3555
Shaw	Graham	FLYNN	ACT	(06) 258-8599	(06) 258-5830
Singer	Andrew	CHATSWOOD	NSW	(02) 9816-119	(02) 9415-2084
Slattery	John	WOONOONA	NSW	(042) 85-2000	(042) 85-2000
Smith	Rory	KAREELA	NSW	(041) 922-9883	
Smith & Chance	Alan & Gwen	BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS	NSW	(02) 9567-245	(02) 9581-7611
Snelgrove/Hosty	Cath & Kieran	PYRMONT	NSW	(02) 9660-6173	
Soutter	Chris	ISAACS	ACT	(06) 290-2204	(06) 202-7000
Steer	Gary	BONDI	NSW	(02) 9365-096	(02) 9356-2266
Stephenson	Andrew	GUNDAROO	NSW	(06) 236-8377	(06) 207-8333
Stotz	Carlos	DRUMMOYNE	NSW	(02) 81-2468	(02) 9901-5099
Stuber	Dirk	THIRROUL	NSW	(042) 68-1001	(042) 95-2250
Stupans	Peter	GLEBE	NSW	(02) 9887-235	(02) 9417-7866
Tait	Nikki	BONDI	NSW	(02) 307-254	(02) 9238-2274
Taylor	Doug	NORTH ROCKS	NSW	(02) 9872-2336	
Taylor	Ian	RUSE	NSW	(046) 266-756	(046) 25-1403
Taylor	John	CROMER	NSW	(02) 9982-751	(02) 9951-0197
Thomas	Carl	WATSONS BAY	NSW	(02) 9388-722	(02) 9957-1200
Thompson	Rob	MANLY VALE	NSW	(02) 9949-397	(02) 9949-3975
Tringham	Ian	CHURCH POINT	NSW	(02) 9997-8190	
Turnbull	Malcolm	POINT PIPER	NSW	(02) 9328-203	(02) 9223-5399
Tyrrel	Anthony	BODALLA	NSW	(044) 73-5515	(044) 73-5515
Verity	David	EPPING	NSW	(02) 9876-537	(02) 9624-2511
Vogel	Roelof	BELLEVUE HILL	NSW	(02) 9428-227	(02) 9394-0555
Weir	David	CASTLE HILL	NSW	(02) 9899-1730	
White	Norman	EASTWOOD	NSW	(02) 9874-228	(018) 86-1587
White	Tony S.	MANLY	NSW	(02) 9977-343	(02) 9957-4117
Whitsunday Kayak Adventures		AIRLIE BEACH	QLD	(018) 31-8354	(079) 46-5574
Whyte	David	HOLDER	ACT	(06) 288-0446	(02) 264-4334
Wicks	John	EPPING	NSW	(02) 9876-6785	
Wilde	John	NARRABUNDAH	ACT	(06) 295-6062	(06) 295-1833

NSW Sea Kayak Club Inc. - Contact List

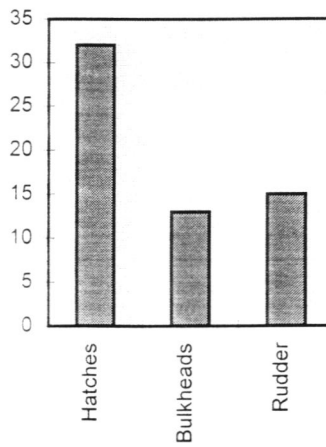
Surname	Firstname	Suburb	State	Home	Work
Wildman	Adam	CURRUMBIN	QLD	(07) 5598-217	(015) 75-5244
Wilks	Craig	ELIZABETH BAY	NSW	(02) 9357-167	
Williams	Andrea	LINDFIELD	NSW	(02) 9416-484	(0419) 22-7114
Williams & Mack	Neil & Jenni	SYDNEY	NSW	(02) 9398-150	(02) 9221-5604
Wingrove	Bruce	OATLEY	NSW	(02) 9580-531	(02) 9414-8274
Winkworth	David	TURA BEACH	NSW	(064) 94-1366	(064) 95-9714
Winkworth	Phil	CAMPBELL	ACT	(06) 247-3581	(06) 251-3122
Winters	Ross	LUGARNO	NSW	(02) 53-7766	(02) 9710-8274
Wischer	Rob	NEWPORT	NSW	(02) 9973-130	(02) 9364-2411
Witt	Peter & Anne	PORTLAND	NSW	(063) 555-144	(063) 555-233

Survey

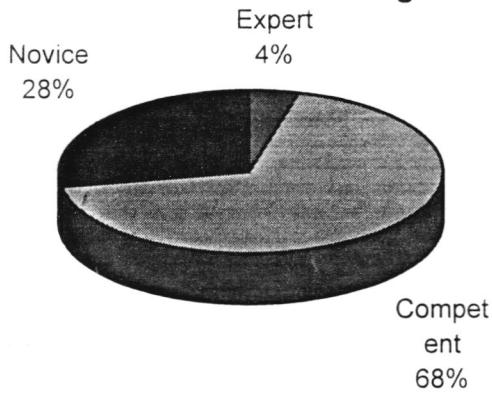
AGE PROFILE



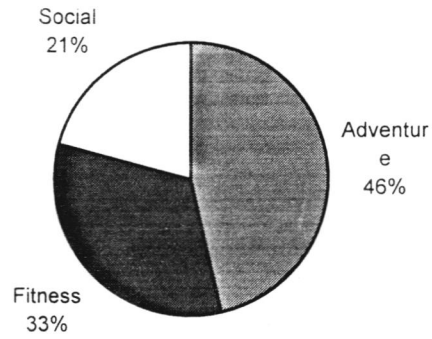
BUILD PROBLEMS



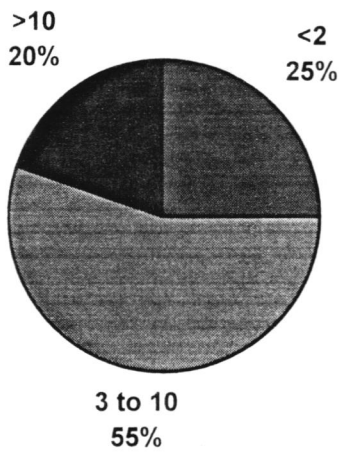
Members' self rating



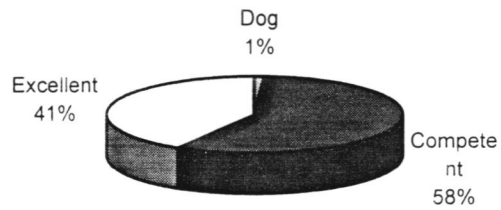
Why we do it!



Years paddling



Boat Ratings



Page 1

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29 Westgarth St
O'Connor ACT 2602

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