

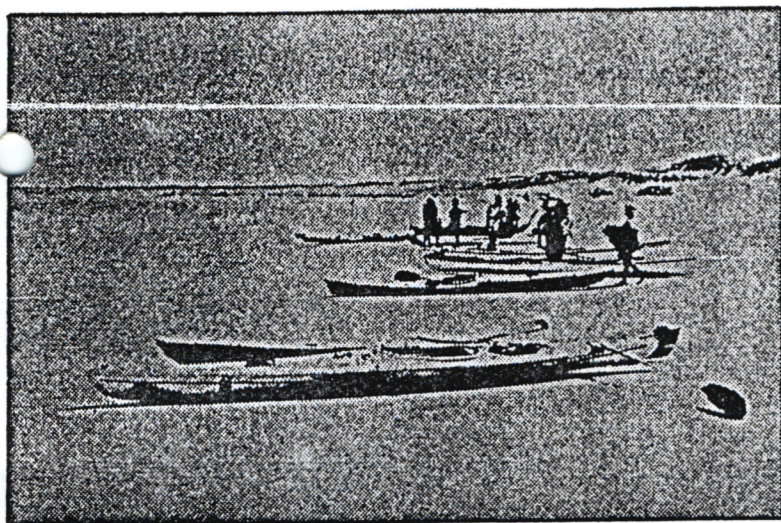
NSW SEA KAYAKER

Newsletter of the NSW Sea Kayak Club Inc.

P.O. Box A1045 Sydney South, NSW 2000

Number 2

March 1990



Lunch or launch?



High seas, 2 km east of Kiama.

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Programme Committee	Ken McDonald Michael Richardson.	

***** NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE *****
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 * THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID THE CLUB FEES *
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DISCLAIMER

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

COMING EVENTS

- Contact the trip leader by 8pm of the Wednesday prior to the trip

March 4 - Sunday

GUNNAMATTA BAY - KURNELL Time: 8:00 am Venue: Boat ramp at
 Gunnamatta Bay (near Cronulla station)

Trip Leader: Peter Ingleby Ph: (02) 32 2069

** Trip carried over from last month when cyclonic winds and huge seas forced us to hide under the bed instead of paddling **

March 17-18 - Saturday and Sunday

GREEN PATCH, JERVIS BAY Time and venue: Details from trip leader

Trip Leader: Michael Richardson Ph: (02) 907 9766

*** Rescue skills and training will be high on the agenda for this weekend, which is carried over from last month ***

April 1 - Sunday

LONG REEF - MANLY Time: 9:00 am Venue: Anzac Pde off Pittwater Rd

Trip Leader: John Bamberry Ph: (02) 955 8212

April 13-16 - EASTER WEEKEND

BROKEN BAY, camping out in Bouddi National Park

Trip Leader: (any volunteers for trip leader ?)

Contact Ken McDonald for details Ph: (02) 520 5349

April 25 - ANZAC DAY

MILITARY BASES TOUR ON SYDNEY HARBOUR Time: 9:00 am

Venue: Rod Point, Iron Cove

Trip Leader: Ken McDonald Ph: (02) 520 5349

April 29 - Sunday

CRONULLA - WATTAMOLLA Time: 8:00 am Venue: Gunnamatta Bay boat
 ramp (near Cronulla Station)

Trip Leader: Ken McDonald (02) 520 5349

ROSE BAY MYSTERY TOUR - 17 DECEMBER 1989

9am on December 17, 1989 at the small beach adjacent to the rental sail board establishment at Rose Bay was the meeting point for the mystery tour.

Paddlers present were:

Gary Burnham	Dolphin
Des Carter	Greenlander II
Alan Smith	"
Perc Carter	"
Gwen Chance and Wendy Hamer	Tasman Twin

The day was warm and sunny with only a slight nor' easter blowing, perfect weather for a slow idyllic paddle to points of interest in the harbour.

First stop was the navy demagnetising station at the nor' eastern point of Rose Bay where all paddles and kayaks were demagnetised in preparation for forthcoming Christmas and new year festivities. The demagnetisation must have worked because the group had no difficulty in navigating across the harbour to view the Japanese writing on the rocks near Obelisk Beach. A number of indescribable obelisks were sighted on or near the beach in addition to the shipping marker. No untoward incidents took place and the group then paddled to Neilsen Park for nourishment.

After an incredible battle to leave the beach at Neilsen Park, the group rounded the headland and headed north, past various boat sheds small weekenders and various parklands, to arrive on the beach in front of Doyles at Watsons Bay about 12.30 pm.

This arduous trip required further nourishment and fluids. Fortunately, the bottle department nearby had stocks of chilled Brown Brothers Chardonnay and glasses. This enabled the group to ensure complete digestion of the abundant seafood which is available in the area.

Suitably nourished, rested and motivated, the group fought their way through incredulous crowds and launched into the boiling seas off Doyles.

No capsizes were recorded and the flotilla set out to cross the harbour. The crossing was accomplished without collision or near miss and we farewelled Gary at Clifton Gardens.

The return to Rose Bay was uneventful and sufficient daylight remained to enable the consumption of tea, coffee, pepsi cola, cake, fruit, coconut tarts, fruit cake and other goodies necessary to sustain life for the long trip home by road.

John Slattery organised this trip, to start from the beach in front of Shell Harbour surf club, just so that he could sleep in while the rest of us (who had to drive down from Sydney) were stumbling around in the dark looking for that last piece of gear or the car keys etc

In anticipation of an exciting paddle on an interesting stretch of coast which included the Five Islands off Port Kembla, we arrived at the beach to find a small (.5m) swell running onto the sand and a couple of locals hassling for waves in front of the surf club.

John decided that he needed to practice his Eskimo rolling and promptly capsized whilst trying to fix his rudder in the down position (to be fair it was a new boat and he did look a bit hot).

Several "fins" were sighted patrolling off the coast but even this did not affect the leisurely pace of paddling as we headed out to Martin Islet, which lies about 1.5 km off shore and is the southernmost of the Five Islands.

Peter and I pulled in close to the wave-swept shore to try and see if the pelicans nesting on top of the island had any chicks but our view was obscured by the rocks and vegetation. As Gary, Phil and the others were heading off towards Bass Islet we turned north with them and surfed on the long smooth swell across to this barren rocky island.

The group reformed on the sheltered northern side of Bass Islet and John must have decided to cool off again as he was seen examining the sea-bed for signs of moisture (or was it the new paddle this time ?)

Bass Islet as with the other islands in this group is named after that hardy trio of early coastal explorers Bass, Flinders and the boy Martin, who all travelled this part of the coast in a very small open boat called the Tom Thumb but I am mystified as to whom Big and Low Islands are named after.

Lunch was mentioned but as Bass Islet is home to a very noisy Tern rookery and has a smelly covering of "bird shit" we headed off a high speed to Flinders Islet, where half the group landed, whilst the rest decided to paddle out around some of the cargo ships which were moored offshore while waiting to berth at Port Kembla coal or wheat loaders.

After lunch our part of the group returned to shore in Wollongong harbour to meet up with the others, get changed and drive down to the start point to retrieve the cars.

A total of 18 km was covered in approximately 3 hours of paddling, assisted by a very slight southerly breeze, more time could have been spent poking around the islands or surfing some of the uncrowded breaks along the coast but it was still a good day on the water, not to mention the beer(s) at the pub on the way home.