



# ❖ NSW Sea Kayaker ❖

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

Issue 32

October 1997

## THE SOUTH COAST CRUISERS GO NORTH



*Above: Mark Pearson relaxes at beautiful Cedar Bay*

*Below: Norm Sanders and Tony Peterson round Cape Tribulation - Full Story begins on Page 3*





**In This Issue**

South Coast Cruisers go North	3
Flotsam	6
Letters	7
Old Sea Dog's Gear Locker	7
Shark Island	8
President's Report	9
Secretary/Treasurer's Report	9
A very large sand island	10
Training Notes	12
Pain & Gain at Mimosa Rocks	16
I seen it but .....	17

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**EDITORIAL**

Yes, you can all breath a sigh of relief. After a long period of contemplation, I have decided to hang up my poisonous and controversial pen and make way for hopefully a wiser and more politically astute editor.

What led me to this decision? Was it the ferocious hate mail from the Sydney sea-kayaking industry? The friendships I've lost thanks to the (necessary) Hall of Shame. The lives and reputations shattered in the brutal exposes of Flotsam & Jetsam? The strange and disturbing letters that continue to pour into Dear Editor? Pressure from my lady wife?

Yes - all of these factors contributed. But two years is probably long enough and I am yearning to become a normal member again; to receive a nicely folded newsletter in the post, to open it feverishly before browsing through it's treasures over a cup of tea. You miss that as Editor. Of course you enjoy reading the articles as they come in, but one eye always seems to be looking for typo's - not quite the experience of reading a whole 'fresh' newsletter. I really do look forward to the time when I find myself 'up in lights' in the Hall of Shame.

I put my hand up for this job after a year when the newsletter was becoming an endangered species - I believed then and believe now that the newsletter is fundamental to the health of the club - many members have joined on the strength of it alone - only later to find out how enjoyable club events can be. Membership continues to grow - hopefully there is

somebody out there just itching to take on this role, maybe someone who has hated my 'style' and is full of new ideas for future editions. I wish him (or even better HER) all the best and look forward to their work. It's a satisfying job, and I've enjoyed my two terms.

To you all - why not take the time to write about your paddling experiences - in informing and entertaining the club you might find the journey was enhanced by the telling. I'd like to thank those members' who did make the effort. Special thanks to Norm Sanders and David Winkworth, whose purposeful writings have formed the backbone of just about every edition. Thanks also to Jim Croft for his assistance and contributions from the Net. To Arunas Pilka for his excellent work on labelling and postage. To everyone else who gave up evenings and worked hard preparing the newsletter for posting. Special thanks here go to Chris Soutter, who has donated both Deloitte Touche and Tomatsu printing facilities and his own assistance for the last seven issues. A great effort.

Thankyou also to the Club Executive, which, although usually a mean and tight-fisted bunch, allowed my last newsletter to go out in a blaze of colour.

And thanks again for the positive feedback - keep it going for the next Editor. See you on the water.

# Members' Hall of Shame

Felons	Crimes	Editor's Comment
None	None	.. thought I'd be lenient this time!!



# THE SOUTH COAST CRUISERS GO NORTH

by Norm Sanders

I don't know who had the idea first. Paddling along a pristine tropical rainforest and lounging around on the Barrier Reef has an attraction for everybody. This trip finally boiled down to Tony Petersen, Mark Pearson (AKA Fishkiller) and me.

Tony and I were always definite starters, but Fishkiller needed a pass from his wife. Fortunately, the lovely and sympathetic Kerrie readily agreed. Fishkiller has a young, vigorous family, was moving into a new house, and must make a good impression at work lest he be downsized. All this meant he could only be away for three weeks.

Never mind. Tony and I would drive up to Cairns in Tony's 4WD Hilux, towing a trailer with the three Inuit Classics on board. Fishkiller would fly up from Canberra to meet us. O.K., so where exactly did we want to paddle?

We have all heard stories about the overcrowded Whitsundays and other tropical tourist destinations. It seemed that the only undeveloped area left would be far to the north, starting where the good roads end: Port Douglas. A paddle from Port Douglas north along the Daintree coast would be scenic and would have good possibilities for obtaining water.

Water availability is a very limiting factor in touring by kayak. We could only carry about 20 litres, enough for some 4 days in the heat. Since we chose August for our trip, there would be little rain and we would have to depend on coastal streams.

How far north should we paddle? Cooktown was the obvious answer. The climate changes abruptly at Cooktown. It is much drier to the north, less scenic and increasingly difficult to get water. Another major factor was road access. Tony could take a bus back to Port Douglas and then return with the Hilux to pick up the kayaks. The road was dirt, but in good condition. Access was far more difficult further north.

Tony got some charts and we found two islands off the coast which looked interesting: Snapper Island and Hope Island. Most of the offshore reefs are submerged at high tide. These two islands offered the only chance of spending some time away from the mainland.

We packed our tents, sleeping bags, a few clothes and 21 days worth of pad-

ding food (mostly noodles) and departed Canberra on the morning of 1 August, 1997. It was -4 degrees at 0700 and we had to scrape ice off the windscreen before we could leave. We were very glad to be heading towards sunny Queensland.

*Norm approaches the magnificent haven of East Hope Island*



is a zoo. Tony got very depressed, having lived in the area in the early 1980s. The next day we got a few items at a huge, urban shopping complex and met Fishkiller at the airport. He stepped off the plane looking crisp and fresh, every inch the prosperous Canberra public servant.

By 2230, we were setting up our tents in a caravan park at Condamine, Qld. Unfortunately, the cold hadn't let us out of its grip. We were north of Brisbane, but well inland. It got down to -1 degree that night, which encouraged us to be on the road at 0630 to get warm. A long day of driving put us in the tropics at last. We camped at a roadside rest at the edge of the ocean near Bowen at 2200.

It was a relatively short drive to Cairns the next day. We camped at Trinity Beach and winced at the Los Angeles type development in the area. The place

We had no idea of the details of launching at Port Douglas and drove up to investigate. Things looked pretty bleak. The weather had finally turned good and Port Douglas was crammed with tourists heading out to the reef. There was no accommodation available, even for tents, according to the tourist bureau. We had dinner in town and the friendly cook/waitress (a kayaker) told us to try the 4 Mile Beach Caravan Park.

They had one on-site van left, which we snapped up. This was a stroke of luck, because we found that we could load up the kayaks next to the van, put them on the trailer and drive right down on the beach. Then, we could leave Hilux and trailer at the caravan park for \$3 per day until we returned. All problems solved!

We were farewelled away from the beach

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

by the crowd which had collected. It was 1000, 5 August, 1997. Cooktown was 150 km away. There are a few individuals in the kayaking movement who adhere to the "No Pain, No Gain" philosophy. They streak from Point A to Point B in the shortest time possible, heads down, reveling in the screams of their joints and muscles. Not for them a serene paddle along a paradise coast. Several of these individuals have pointed out that Paul Caffyn paddled from Port Douglas to Cooktown in two days as he made his epic circumnavigation of Australia. Big deal. Did he savour the aroma of the rainforest in the mornings? The rainbows of colours on the reefs? If speed is the object, it only takes 45 minutes on the plane from Cairns to Cooktown.

We cruised along in the sunshine, soaking up the white clouds in the blue sky, the sparkling, clear water and the dark green of the shoreline. One of the reasons we had picked August was to take advantage of the southeasterly winds which prevail at that time of year. Now we hoisted our sails and devoted ourselves to sheer pleasure.

We were crossing a wide bay at the mouth of the Daintree River, which, with its legendary crocodiles, we wished to avoid. Our course to Snapper Island took us about 10 km offshore from the river mouth, a very safe distance. We reached the island at 1430 after covering 28 km without any suffering at all.

The island is a National Park and has camping sites which require the permits which we had obtained in Cairns (although nobody ever checked.) After we set up camp, Tony and Fishkiller went off to catch supper. We had planned to eat a lot of fish, to go with the noodles. Tony had regaled us with tales of monster fish, easily capable of capsizing a kayak. That night, I had noodles and peas.

Next day we paddled off on a voyage of exploration around the island. On the north side, we encountered a commercial kayak outfit named Crocodylus Tours. They had paddled 3 double Roscos from

Cow Bay, about 8 km. away. We were greeted by these friendly natives, who were mostly bikini clad backpackers. Eat your heart out, Paul Caffyn. Tony scored a cup of coffee and a cigarette. I won a pancake and Fishkiller went fishing. He lost two lures after catching a number of small, ugly fish. I had a packet of Fettucine Carbonara for dinner.

On 7 Aug., day three, we were up at 0645 after listening to the ABC weather on the transistor radio. Emanating from Cairns, it was the best broadcast weather briefing I have ever encountered. The

camping on a beach ridge, but no water. Tony went trolling and hooked a 60 cm mackerel which escaped. Dinner was instant potato and canned "steak and onions." (I was trying to avoid the noodles as much as possible.)

The next day, the fourth of the trip, we were on the water at 1000. Fishkiller had recovered somewhat. It was calm at first, then a light southeasterly came up which was enough to fill the sails.

Another perfect day. We had planned to stop at Cape Tribulation to visit the store.



*Tony Peterson displays a Giant Trevally caught at dawn*

announcer talked directly with the weather bureau and covered the synoptic situation, present conditions, short and long range forecasts and coastal weather. It was good, solid information, without the distracting attempts at humour which pollute so many weather bulletins.

We left at 0945. Fishkiller had succumbed to the flu overnight, a relic of his parental duties. He was pretty miserable and was not able to enjoy what Tony and I called a magic morning. There was a light, warm sailing breeze ruffling the water. We ghosted along past the dense, green wilderness. We finally landed at a little beach just south of Cow Bay so that Fishkiller could lay down. There was water, but no place to camp, so we eventually paddled on to Alexandra Bay near the mouth of the Bailey River, 15 km north of Snapper Island. We found good

We paddled around the Cape and encountered hundreds of tourists wandering around on the beach. Buses disgorged more even as we watched. Tony and Fishkiller went looking for the store while I minded the kayaks. They returned an hour and a half later with an ice cream and a Snickers bar for me and a tale of woe. They couldn't find the store and had to settle for a resort kiosk where they had chicken and chips. We departed Cape Tribulation at 1500, paddling on to Emagen Creek to camp. We had covered 21 easy kilometres from Alexandra Bay. My dinner was rice and canned tuna. Fish at last!

We got up to watch the dawn on Day 5 and then went for water up the creek beyond the 4WD track. I had a Sweetwater Guardian filter along, but we decided to take a chance on unfiltered water. We

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

had no problems, but I later heard of people who had caught giardia from Em-magen Creek.

We were on the water at 1030, paddling in a sunny calm. Fishkiller finally managed to catch an edible fish which we stopped at Cowie Point Beach to clean. We were soon buzzed by an ultralight which then came in to land. The pilot had flown up from Cairns that day, landed at Cedar Bay, been chased off the beach by Park Rangers and was now on his way back. The Rangers had also torn down some humpies belonging to the ferals before departing the area. The pilot assured us that they wouldn't be back for another two weeks.

We paddled on to Weary Bay, at the mouth of the Bloomfield River. Captain Cook named the bay after days of struggling to keep the Endeavor afloat following the collision with a reef. We had now done 18 kilometres from Em-magen and located a good campsite among the casuarinas. There was no water, but we still had a goodly supply. Noodles and surprise peas for dinner.

Day 6 was calm and oppressively hot at first. Then a good sailing breeze came up and we cruised the 24 kms. to

Cedar Bay. We disturbed a nude female feral on the south end of the beach and politely paddled on with eyes averted. We camped in the northern corner of Cedar Bay to be near running water. Two ferals bearing gift coconuts wandered by. In return we gave them some fish hooks but couldn't help out with cigarette papers, which we had none of. Noodles and dried beans for dinner.

Day 7 was spent lazing around Cedar Bay. We visited Cedar Bay Bill's tomb, went to get water and talked to a bunch of kayakers on a commercial trip from Cape Tribulation to Cooktown. They were using gigantic New Zealand doubles called Sissons -- the widest kayaks I have ever seen. It was fortunate for them that the wind was from the South-east. Deb instant potatoes with onion and surprise peas for dinner.

We were up at 5 AM on Day 8, packed up in the dark and were on the water just after dawn. Our destination was East Hope Island, about 14 kms. offshore. Hope Island was named by Captain Cook because it offered a haven for the sinking Endeavor. The sky was clear, the wind a light south-westerly and the paddling was marvelous. Later we hoisted sails in a 10 knot southerly. West Hope Island lay across our course. We tried to cross the long reef to the north of the island but the tide was too low and we were forced to back-track to the southern end.

50 gph. I not only filled all our available water containers, but enjoyed a gin and tonic (with ice) as the sun went down. We scrounged water from other boats as days went by, which meant that we could lengthen our time on the island. Fish (!) and pasta for dinner.

We stayed on the island for five days, lounging, snorkelling, hiking, paddling and generally enjoying life in the tropics. Fishkiller and Tony caught many huge fish, including Giant Trevally, most of which they released. They kept enough for dinner each night, to make amends



*Tony demonstrates how to avoid nasty fungal infections in the Wet Tropics*

Then began a glorious paddle down the passage to East Hope. This is a treasure island, excruciatingly beautiful. It is a complete, discrete island about the size of a city block, with white sand beaches, a fringing reef, palm trees and a luxurious campsite well back in the trees. We set up camp and then ventured forth to explore the island. We found two osprey nests, one with a chick, reef herons, terns and a host of other birds.

Later in the afternoon, three yachts anchored just offshore. One was a 46' cat from Miami which was sailing around the world in a race which had started in Lisbon, Portugal. The skipper and I had mutual multihulling friends back in California. I asked nervously if they could spare some water. Not a problem. They could desalinate

for their previous failures.

Towards the end of our stay on the island, the wind came up from the South-east and rain squalls periodically swept by. When we finally left on Day 13, the wind was a steady 25 knot southeasterly. We were on the water at 0845 with reefed sails. The seas were 1.5 meters and steep. We made good time, but it was hard work. At one stage, a ship came straight towards us, but finally turned away. On shore, the rainforest had given way to grasslands interspersed with trees. Our goal was Rocky Island, which we reached at 1145 after sailing 22 kms from Hope Island.

Rocky Island was just that, a little rock outcrop just offshore from a 4WD infested beach. We set up camp on the leeward side of the island, but willy willies

(Continued on page 8)



# Flotsam & Jetsam



## Hail Cretebix©

Semolina, the much vaunted 'paddlers food of the nineties', is officially OUT! Unmasked by John Calwell as a starchy malnutritious pretender in Issue 30, serious paddlers have been searching for a suitable replacement ever since.

Needing a breakfast to sustain him over a long North Queensland trip, the innovative Mark Pearson decided on trusty old Weetbix. But Weetbix biscuits contains a fair amount of air - space would be a problem - so Mark took the time to blend 75 Weetbix into a fine powder - reducing the bulk by about 60%. After the trip, Mark reported "the bran-eating dullards who were with me slagged it off at first because it does look a bit like concrete mix, but show me another cereal where two weeks supply can be contained in a 28 by 10 cm Ricoh Toner canister!" Mark continued "of course, when the bran-eaters ran out of their pellets after only a week, they suddenly agreed that my nutritious and far tastier Cretebix© (patent pending) was a good idea after all!"

## Hail Cretebix© 2

Mark Pearson also reported some serious eco-concern he had about the effect the bran had on the environment. "seriously, those guys seemed to spend most of the day defecating ... it was truly revolting! I'd hate to have been in a group following us ... it'll take years for some of those wilderness sites to recover!"

Mark then pointed out another outstanding advantage of eating Cretebix© "without any of the symptoms of constipation, I was noticeably less regular than usual - in fact, in an amazing coincidence, 60% less regular! This meant that not only was I kinder to the wilderness, I also had total freedom to enjoy my paddling without having to worry about an unexpected urge to drop a load". So there you have it - undeniable proof that nutritious, eco-friendly Cretebix© should be the first choice breakfast for sea-paddlers everywhere!

## Back on the road again

Jim Croft has asked Flotsam to pass on his thanks to the many kayakers who had called to pass on their condolences for his injured arse (see 'Paddler hits rock bottom', last issue).

In a candid interview with a Flotsam reporter, Jim admitted to a period of personal turmoil after the event "although the physical injury was bad enough, it was the mental trauma of having been so brutally assaulted by the ocean that really hurt. I admit I went off the rails for a while, drinking heavily and paddling nothing but TK1's on dirty lakes ... behaviour for which I apologise, but I'm ready to give the ocean another go!"

His intensive rehabilitation program now complete, Flotsam wishes Jim all the best. It will be good to see Jim's muscular rear-end back in it's rightful place - a sea-kayak seat, once again providing the grunt for the famous Croft power stroke!

## Yet more accolades

By all accounts the Inuit Classic (recently confirmed by the prestigious NSWSKC Newsletter as "Sea-kayak of the Year") performed flawlessly on it's first long expedition in North Queensland. Despite some negative forecasts prior to the trip from increasingly desperate detractors, faults seem hard to find in this design. Classic paddler Tony Peterson reported "although I knew this kayak was unrivalled in agility, handling and surfing ability, I think it could be renamed the TARDIS given the amount of gear it swallows up - I'm amazed that there are still some people out there who haven't bought one yet...."

## Stranger Danger

David Winkworth would like to thank the many volunteers who responded to his advert and visited his home to participate in the 'clingwrap hot mould' seat design experiment. David commented "It was very worthwhile indeed ... the ladies were very enthusiastic about my research .... I've actually got more data on ladies bottoms than I know what to do with! The puzzled Vice-President added "I did find it a bit odd that the club seemed to have so many female members I'd never heard of ... and even stranger that most of them had obviously never been near a kayak before...."

## Bitter and twisted

Arunas Pilka remains bitter at the response to his Ulladulla to Jervis Bay paddle, which was cancelled due to lack of interest. "What's wrong with people these days" fumed Mr Pilka "I lay on a lengthy trip

guaranteeing hours of hard competitive paddling into strengthening headwinds along a bleak coastline and nobody's interested .... what more do they want?"

## The Search goes on

David Winkworth is still on a quest for the ultimate name for his self-designed kayak, now nearing completion. Having discarded *Crest* and *Catcher* as limp-wristed efforts not worthy of the new design, David has decided on more of a sporty, macho, even jingoistic connotation for the marque. "I'm looking seriously at the *Scud* or the *Shark* at the moment" David said "and given the boat's unique length I'm thinking *Scud 17.5* or *Shark 17.5* sounds pretty good too. Or maybe the *Cracker 17.5*, because this boat is really, really good, believe you me .. or maybe it's better in metres, *Cracker 5.25*, that's not bad at all, or what about the *Gimlet*, now that's got a real ring to it hasn't it, or how about...."

## The Big Steal 1

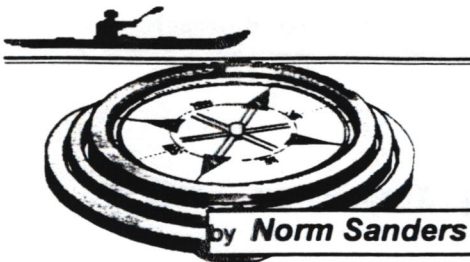
Colourful business identity Jeff Blamey has done it again! Long known as the 'Arthur Daly' of the seakayaking world, Mr Blamey recently conned Jurkiewicz Adventure Sports into selling him a brand new Dagger Apostle for only \$1000, then, after outrageously using OUR Newsletter for free advertising, resold the boat for \$1,390 to an unsuspecting Sydney buyer! Asked whether he had any misgivings about the ethics of the scam, a defiant Mr Blamey said "not at all, it's business, now bugger off or my Terry'll sort you out..!"

## The Big Steal 2

Despite the above experience, Jurkiewicz Adventure Sports holds no grudges against the NSWSKC in general, and to prove this will hold a sale night on Tuesday 2nd December between 6.00pm & 7.30pm at 47 Wollongong Street exclusively for the club. Everything in the shop will be discounted by 20% with even better specials on selected items. It is hoped that the opportunistic Mr Blamey will not 'rub salt into the wound' by showing up looking for more bargains....

### The Fine Print

Disclaimer: In the event of a scarcity of genuine news, Flotsam reserves the right to publish partially or wholly fictitious items for the entertainment of members. The individuals who appear in Flotsam items are in all cases real persons.



# THE OLD SEA DOG'S GEAR LOCKER

The OSD is still marvelling at his latest piece of gear, a breathable dry top made by HotNDry Drysuits of Ulladulla. The proprietor, Erwin Fischper, came to the OSD with the idea of making a dry top for kayaking to add to his line of survival, diving and water ski suits.

The ever-helpful OSD contributed some thoughts and, in due course, tested the finished product in Ulladulla Harbour. What a treat! Painless Eskimo rolls, in the coldest water and weather. No sweat paddling, due to the breathable Milair fabric. No more water up the sleeves when bracing in a wave. (Or water running in the holes which he had to punch in the elbows of his CAG for drainage.) He later took the dry top on the epic South Coast Cruisers trip to the Barrier Reef and actually wore it comfortably on two very windy days. Why oh why, he asks, did he not discover the dry top sooner.

There is a very good reason. Price. Most dry tops are well over \$200. Some of these don't even have latex cuffs – only neoprene which will leak. HotNDry dry tops are truly dry and only cost \$160. (From HotNDry, Ulladulla, or Batemans Bay Power and Sail.)

HotNDry also make a wonderful line of inexpensive dry bags (also designed by the OSD, who hastens to point out that he makes no commission on these items, having created the designs for the benefit of all kayakers.)

The OSD would like to update his results on the road testing of the new Princeton Tec Solo headlamp. He has decided that the Petzel Micro is his headlamp of choice and has since gone back to the Petzel for general camp use. There seems to be an ongoing problem with the bulb contact

in the Princeton Tec, which requires constant attention in the form of frequent scraping of the electrical connections.

Radios are also on the OSD's mind. He carried his 27 Mhz transceiver all over the Barrier Reef and heard absolutely nothing on the air. It turns out that everybody up there is on VHF, Channel 16. This is a pity, because VHF gear is much more expensive. However, anyone planning an extended trip in the far north could find a VHF radio handy in case of an emergency not serious enough to fire off an EPIRB. Using an EPIRB is a good way to invite a million dollar rescue bill and an appearance on the evening news.

That's it for now. Happy, warm, paddling.



## DEAR EDITOR

Dear Sir, I understand, from comments you have made over recent months that this edition of the NSW Sea Kayak Club Newsletter is to be your last as Editor, after 2 years in the position.

May I congratulate you on a job well done. You have produced a consistently high quality product over the last two years and I am proud to say that I belong to a Sea Kayaking club that has such an interesting magazine.

We should remember that apart from our training days and our club paddles, it is the magazine that is the primary binding agent (sounds a bit like a recipe?) for members. We have many members who we never or rarely see on club outings and it is much to your credit that they maintain their membership as their only club contact is the newsletter.

Now, lest all this praise gives you a swelled head, let me say that you are not without your faults or bias (*I was*

*tempted to cut this letter off here, but what the hell - Ed*) ..... there's many a time I have opened my copy of the magazine and cringed as read my name in the Hall of Shame. Mr Editor, this stern rebuke each issue drives us "Hall of Shame" regulars to drink! We sink deeper into despair with each issue (and have another drink) and wince as we read your incisive comments to each other. We are even thinking of forming a therapy group called Cave of Depression Anonymous!

To continue...

I live in hope that for this issue you will take the time to proof read my contributions after scanning them in. It seems computers have a mind of their own in re-arranging text!

And another thing....

It will be a relief after you've gone to see the end of this pathetic Editorial Inuit Classic Bias (although I fear this may not

be the case). I mean it really is embarrassing! I show my copy of the magazine to non-member sea kayakers and reel from comments like "I thought you belonged to a sea kayaking club, these are bathtub boats!" or..."These Inuit things are for junior members are they?"

Also, Mr Editor...you should realize that this "All things White and Inuit" bias is exposing your underbelly to accusations of graft and corruption. The next lines in the song could be

"For paddlers short and tall  
We like boats short and dumpy  
'Cos the President made them all!"

Your gold watch may be a few years away yet! To conclude, thank you for many entertaining issues of the club's magazine.

David Winkworth

# Shark Island Report

by Kenji Ogawa

On Sunday 18 May I woke up early and went out for a walk to suss out the weather. I was a bit nervous as it was the first time I had organised something for kayakers and I wanted everything to be perfect. It was raining and wondered if anybody was going to turn up after all. It slowly dawned on me that a few drops of water from heaven would only increase a true kayaker's sense of adventure!

And so we packed and drove to Double Bay and paddled across to Shark Island in our friendly neighbour's Canadian canoe.

When my wife, two daughters and I arrived on the island there was already half a dozen people there, the rain had eased and the sun was threatening to shine. I knew it was going to be a fabulous day.

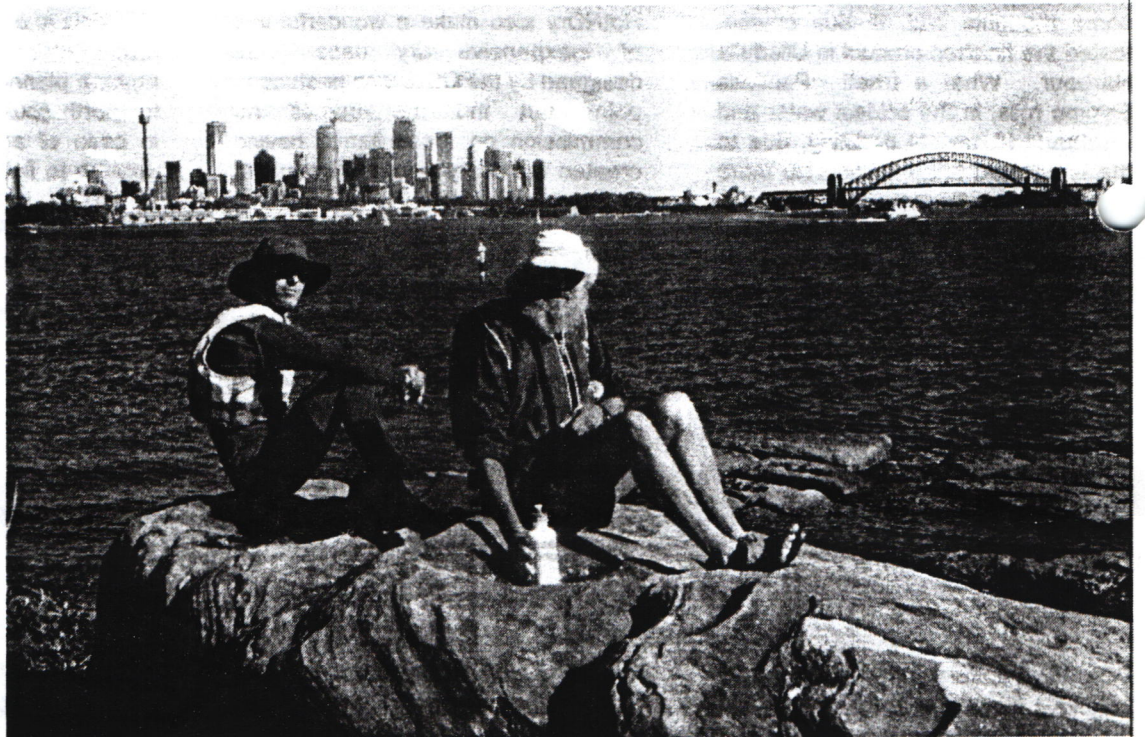
Kayaks came from all sides until a total of sixty five boats were on the island. The small beach was absolutely full with no space anywhere to land. Norm Sanders came from Tuross Heads

with his Inuit Classic, Larry Gray in his Pittarak and ex Olympian Helen Jacobson paddled a surf ski from Manly.

Larry gave a short talk on his trip to Greenland and demonstrated some of the new eskimo rolls he had learned in

something looks so simple it rarely is.

As this event was so successful and was supported by so many paddlers from so many clubs we decided to make it an annual event in Sydney Harbour exclusive for kayakers and their families. See



*Norm Sanders and Andrew Eddy take in the splendour of Sydney Harbour*

Greenland. They looked so simple and the ease with which Larry performed them was quite remarkable. My Japanese instinct tells me that when

you same time next year.



*(Continued from page 5)*

kept swirling around and hammering the tents. Tony's fly split and Fishkiller broke a tent pole. It was a windy night, and the tents kept flapping, "Like sleeping in a shooting gallery" I noted in my diary. The locals say the stretch from Hope Island to Cooktown is the windiest part of the coast.

On August 18, Day 14, at 0745, we eagerly left Rocky Island for Cooktown. The trip was now an anticlimax after the joys of Hope Island. The wind was still howling and we made good time. The sky was overcast, but the air was warm. Fishkiller

didn't believe the charts, so I had to get out the GPS to convince him where Cooktown was located. I had been entering positions religiously in the GPS, but found the gadget absolutely useless (except for settling arguments.)

Just around the point from Cooktown, I ran over a lazing dugong. It exploded under my bow, scaring us both, with no damage to either. We arrived at Cooktown and landed almost on the exact spot where the Endeavor was careened. We too found succour, in the form of Magnums from the kiosk. We also found a

motel just across the road. We checked in to a ground floor unit and carried the kayaks to our front door.

Next day, Fishkiller and Tony took the bus south — Fishkiller to Cairns and Tony to pick up the Hilux and trailer at Port Douglas. Tony returned to Cooktown that night at 11 PM and we left the next morning for home. It was a painless ending to an absolutely enjoyable trip.







# President's Report

gain. It doesn't seem possible that a year has passed already. We've had some very successful Club paddles and a great number of exploits by individual Club members. Training, under the guidance of Dave Winkworth, has continued to upgrade our skills. The contact list has brought together many new friends. The newsletter goes from strength to strength through the magnificent efforts of that Newsletter Negus, Fishkiller.

All in all, the Club seems to be functioning quite well. Think about it. Is there any way to improve the Club? Anything the Club should be doing that it isn't? Bring your thoughts to the AGM and let us all hear them.

Over the year I've dealt with a couple of bureaucracies on behalf of the club. I carried on considerable correspondence with National Parks about the way the Honeymoon Bay Campground is being run. Whether or not this made any difference will be revealed when we arrive at Honeymoon Bay for the AGM.

The other issue was the rumoured move by Waterways to frame laws for Sea Kayaks. At the moment the situation seems to be that they are looking mostly at commercial operators. In my conversations with Waterways, I get the impression that they are relatively satisfied with the status quo regarding

private sea kayakers.

Nominally, Sea Kayaks are just another small boat, for which there are already guidelines. However, we'll keep an eye on the situation. At the very least, Waterways has now learned that the NSWKSC exists and is concerned about the welfare of sea kayakers.

That's about it. See you at the AGM

*Norm Sanders.*

## Secretary Treasurer's Report/ Financial Statement

G'day

This issue has gone out to all members on last years membership list as well as this years. This means all of you that haven't paid this years membership have got one issue free, but this is the last one so check to see if your name is on the up to date list and if you are not there get your renewal into me as soon as possible.

The club's financial statement appears in this issue (if Fish Killer can master the technology this time). As you can see we are in a good financial position. This is due in no small part to the contribution of free photocopying by Chris Souter and Deloitte, Touche Tomatsu.

I have received some correspondence lately, firstly a letter from Bob Glenister which is reproduced in this issue. I urge those that can offer Bob support or assistance to do so for this worthy cause.

Secondly I have received a press release from the organisers of the Auckland Sea Kayaking Symposium. The release is reproduced in this issue. I have indicated to Vince Maire that closer to the date I would supply him with a listing of current members so that he can send out information closer to the date. If anyone has any objections to their name and address being given out please contact me and I will withhold your details.

The last piece of noteworthy correspondence came from someone organising a Sea Kayaking World Cup. The event is to be staged in October 1998 on an island to the north of New Guinea. Space constraints preclude inclusion of any more information in this edition but I will see to it that something goes into the next issue.

See you all at the Rock & Roll weekend.

**Arunas Pilka**

	<b>Cash at Bank as at 1 September 1996</b>	<b>\$2,380.03</b>
	<b>Revenue for Period</b>	
<b>Add</b>	Advertising Revenue	\$210.00
	Interest	\$8.17
	Memberships	\$5,085.00
		<b>\$5,303.17</b>
	<b>Expenses for Period</b>	
<b>Less</b>	AGM - Donation to Speaker	\$50.00
	AGM - Hire of Generator	\$87.29
	AGM - Misc. Expenses	\$91.70
	Firework for Royal Banquet	\$15.00
	Government Taxes	\$13.33
	Info Line Fees	\$66.05
	Insurance	\$500.00
	Labels	\$33.30
	Membership Refunds	\$15.00
	Newsletter Postage	\$357.43
	Photo Scans	\$293.50
	Prepaid Envelopes	\$157.95
	Registration with Consumer Affairs	\$30.00
	Stamps	\$189.30
	Toner	\$39.00
		<b>\$1,938.85</b>
	<b>Cash at Bank as at 31 August 1997</b>	<b>\$5,744.35</b>

# The Dingo, the Turtle and a Very Large Sand Island

by David Cregan

A Monday morning late in July, saw two of us depart the Urangan (Hervey Bay), boat harbour, in a Mirage 19 and a Dagger Apostle. Departure was delayed because we needed to do some last minute shopping (the major supermarkets were closed on Sunday and after a week's hiking in central Queensland's, Carnarvon Gorge, we needed to restock, and leave our car in a secure car park).

We were heading across to Fraser Island to paddle up the coast of Platypus Bay on the north-western side of the island for a week's holiday. We paddled across to Moon Point on Fraser Island via Woody Island on very calm seas. Woody Island is a part of the Great Sandy National Park and is the site of an old wooden light house at Middle Bluff, (now in disuse) dating from the 1890's. Whales were

seen breaching and the sound of their tails slapping the water could be heard cracking across the distance

An incoming tide slowed our trip across from the mainland. Our first camp site was reached at Coongul Creek late afternoon after a leisurely, uneventful trip of 4 hours and we camped in a grove of casuarinas on a small sand dune between the creek and the beach. A lot of these creeks are dry at low tide and attract large numbers of sea-birds and waders including sea-eagles and Jabirus.

The peace of our quiet campsite was disturbed early in the morning by professional fishermen chasing schools of mullet along the coast with four wheel drive utilities and small dinghies. We were to see these hard working men and women nearly every

day of our trip. From the first day, we slipped into a pleasant routine and spent a few hours paddling, reading and beach combing. The weather was warm enough to swim and the seas were calm. The only blight was my battle with a recalcitrant MSR XGK stove that

Rubbish that was carried in, but not out by four-wheel drives. This is regrettable because there are a number of rubbish tips or large bins near most of the major designated camping areas.

Each day, we could see the whale



Yuthumba Creek, Fraser Island, provides good campsites on both sides of the inlet which dries at low tide

had a violent aversion to sand. A major problem on this, the largest sand-island in the world!

Most days ended with a splendid sunset - and happy hour was celebrated in a civilised manner. Isn't it wonderful how much essential gear a 19' Mirage can carry? As the trip progressed 'happy hour' seemed to held earlier and earlier on the premise that "it's five o'clock somewhere in the world".

As we progressed along the coast we had some great campsites at Awinya Creek and Bowal Creek, all with running water, some with creeks deep enough for swimming. In spite of it being a national park and a World Heritage area, there were unsightly piles of bottles and other rubbish left on the beach.

watching boats heading out from Urangan to the northern end of Platypus Bay to view the humpbacks on their way to the warmer waters of north Queensland. After the first day, we saw no further whales, however, there were large numbers of the common dolphin, the rarer striped dolphin and stingrays to be seen as we paddled close-in-shore. We managed to disturb endless schools of tiny bait fish which shimmered across the water like handfuls of thrown gravel.

According to local residents, humpback whales have visited Hervey Bay for at least 35 years. From mid-August to mid-October on the return journey from the Great Barrier Reef breeding grounds to their Antarctic summer feeding

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

areas hundreds of whales enter Hervey Bay for one or two days rest. We camped for two nights on the northern side of Yuthumba Creek.

We discovered there is a formal camping ground on the southern side which apparently gets very busy at peak holiday season, and it has fresh water showers, fire places and taps for replenishing water containers. Yuthumba Creek dries completely at low tide but, its sheltered anchorage is used by a large number of shallow draft vessels. While we were there, the creek was home to two large sailing catamarans, a very well equipped, ocean going, house boat (a great mother ship for extended sea kayak trips?) and a beautiful junk-rigged ketch.

We had very strong easterly winds against us as we returned later in the week along the coast towards the mainland. Although the swell was not big, the wind made paddling hard work and we soon developed the technique of paddling close inshore, in the lee of the high sand-hills immediately adjacent to the beach. We set out on the Sunday to cross back from Moon Point

to the mainland but were soon battling the wind and, a very short, sharp, 1.5 metre swell and had gone a couple of kilometres when we decided that at our rate of progress we would not reach the mainland before dark.

There was some discussion that we should head back to the landing site at Moon Point and put the sea-kayaks on the car barge and be back at our car before dark. Honour however, was to be maintained, we had paddled this far and we should finish under our own power and try to cross early next morning before the wind came up.

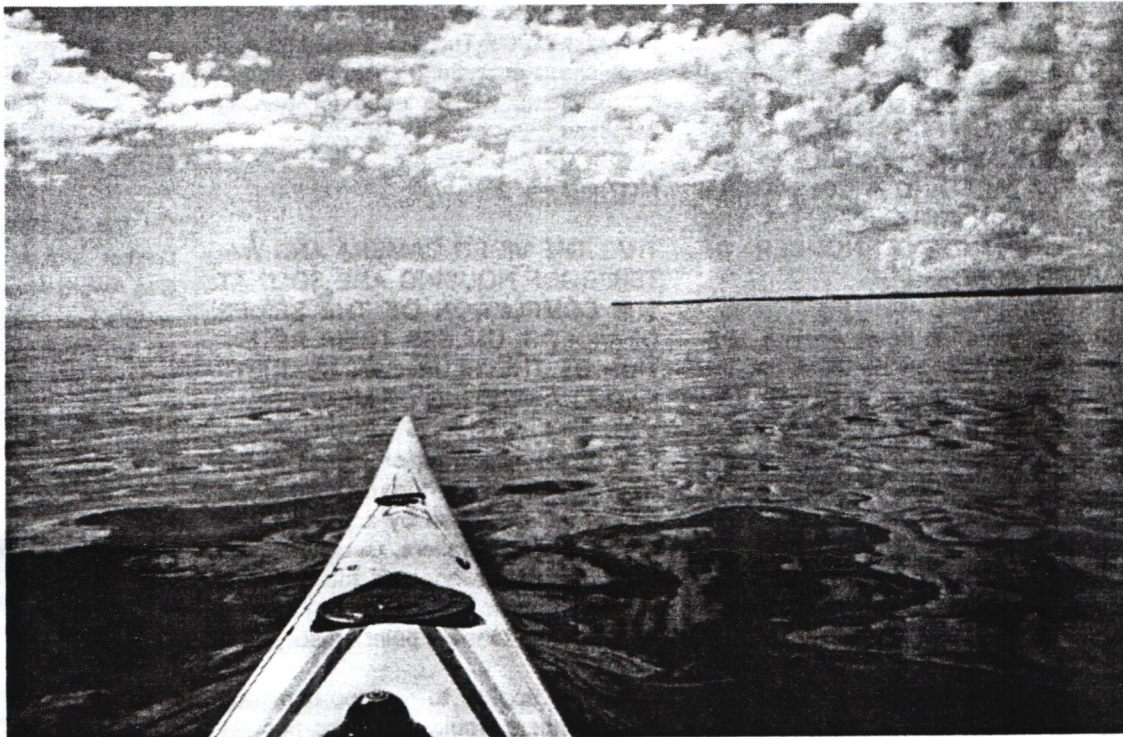
To meet us at our camping site at Sandy Point was a scene from a Geek fable, we were met by a very inquisitive dingo and a large turtle. The dingo wanted to chase sticks (where did he learn that?) and the turtle, high and

dry, completely ignored us, while awaiting the in-coming tide to float him/her away to safety in the deep.

The wind blew strongly all night. The dingo patrolled the outer edge of the campsite and we counted our Mars Bars. The barge idea might still have some currency in the morning. Early next day the turtle had departed, the dingo supervised our packing and we set off during a lull in the wind and had gone about a third of the way across to Woody Island when the wind came in from

day, and, after spending a happy time amusing the locals with that old conjurer's trick of pulling a never ending amount of gear out of the various hatches of our two sea-kayaks, we packed our car and headed south for home.

Fraser Island is a very beautiful place. It can be very busy during the school holidays when there a large number of four-wheel drives and numerous camp sites in use. While the north western shore along Platypus Bay lacks some of the more dramatic



*The obscure object of our desires, Woody Point (Fraser Island) in ideal conditions*

the south east with increased strength and once again the sea built and we were to suffer a repeat of the previous afternoon's conditions. To add insult to injury, as we slopped along through the nasty swell we could see in the distance to car ferry crossing from the mainland to pick-up vehicles at Moon Point.

We pushed on with aching arms and eventually went ashore for a brief rest on Datum Point at the northern end of Woody Island before pushing off to cross the final, five kilometres to the boat harbour. Alas, with the wind and now the tide against us, what should have taken a leisurely 3 hours from Sandy Point turned into a 5 and half hour epic.

We finally arrived on-shore at mid-

coastline of Nadgee or Hinchinbrook Island, its beaches have a quiet beauty and there are some superb lakes and heathlands to visit if one wants to spend some time out of the kayak, exploring on foot. The exposed, eastern coast of Fraser has some dramatic headlands and requires sea-kayakers to have strong surf paddling experience. Campsites are numerous, there are a couple of small villages with stores and fresh water is readily available.





# Training notes

by David Winkworth

## NOTICE OF MOTION FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 29/11/97

At the upcoming Annual General Meeting I intend to put three (3) motions to members all related to the purchase by the Club of a video camera and waterproof housing for training purposes. After each motion I have detailed my reasons. Please read them **carefully** and come along to the AGM at Honeymoon Bay and have your say.

### MOTION No.1

THAT THE CLUB PURCHASE A QUALITY VIDEO CAMERA CAPABLE OF USING "HI-8" TAPE AND A COMPATIBLE WATERPROOF HOUSING, FOR THE PRODUCTION OF A NUMBER OF TRAINING VIDEOS.

Each year, the Club holds several dedicated training weekends such as the Rock n' Roll Weekend, the Next Step weekend and the Surf Skills Weekend. In addition, we have informal training at many other weekends - usually when we camp at a single location.

However, I generally feel that the skill levels of members in sea kayaking could be greater and that the production of training videos on a wide range of sea kayaking topics would be beneficial. Many members do not attend training weekends and paddles regularly and they are thus not extending their range and skills. Also, quality training often requires much time with small groups and this is difficult to do on weekend get-togethers.

I envisage that the training videos would be available to members to hire or buy for low cost - as they wouldn't cost anything to produce once we have the equipment. Members would then be able to view them and practise skills at their leisure either alone or in small groups.

The videos would be "low budget" production using simple cardboard sheets and text for graphics. The videos would vary in length with the different topics. Topics would range from "Fitting out and personalising your boat" right through to "advanced rolling skills." ... and everything in between.

The videos produced could also be sold to other paddling clubs both in NSW and interstate. I believe NSW Sea Kayak Club

copyright would apply.

I believe it is necessary for these videos that a camera capable of using Hi 8 tape is used. This would ensure that all tapes dubbed from the master tape are acceptable quality for hire or sale. Also, a compatible waterproof housing would mean that the camera can be taken out to sea for INTERESTING footage and also underwater for filming roll manoeuvres. I estimate that the all up cost would be under \$2000. The club should be able to purchase everything sales tax exempt as the items will be used for training purposes.

### MOTION No. 2

THAT THE VIDEO CAMERA AND WATERPROOF HOUSING ARE SOLD AT THE COMPLETION OF THE SERIES OF VIDEOS, UNLESS THEIR RETENTION BY THE CLUB CAN BE JUSTIFIED AT A MEETING OF MEMBERS.

One of the strengths or pluses of the NSW Sea Kayak Club in my mind is that we are not burdened by items such as club boats, club trailers, club house etc which all require ongoing maintenance and require members to give up valuable paddling time to wield paint brushes.

The same applies to a video camera I feel. Members would say "Who has the Club camera"..."Why don't you bring the club camera on weekend paddles" I don't think we need that sort of bickering. Let's use it to produce what we want and if it's retention can't be justified I feel we should sell it and the funds put to better use.

### MOTION No. 3

THAT THE CLUB WRITE TO THE AUSTRALIAN BOARD OF CANOE EDUCATION AND THE NSW GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION TO SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE TRAINING VIDEOS.

Well, naturally Motion Nos 2 and 3 hinge on Motion No. 1 being approved by members. I suppose it is up to the Club members or Executive as to how much control it has over the finished videos. If financial assistance is sought from the Board of Canoe Education, they may want unrestricted copying rights in return

for a cheque at the outset. There may be a case for application to the Federal Government as well as or instead of the NSW Government. The Club does have the funds at the moment for the equipment I've proposed but if a dedicated training institution is going to use the tapes (and the Board would), why shouldn't they contribute something?

So, that's it. Please discuss these motions with your paddling friends and come along to the AGM at the Rock n' Roll/AGM Weekend to vote on them.

## ADVANCED SEA AWARD ASSESSMENT

On the October Long Weekend, Fraser Bakker and I conducted an Advanced Sea Award Assessment on south coastal waters between Bunga Hd and Montague Is. In addition to a Victorian paddler, NSW club members Andrew Eddy, Doug Fraser and Bruce Payne were successful in gaining the award. Congratulations to you all!

During the weekend Doug Fraser's alter ego Doug Headwind was present because we certainly copped some headwinds! Still, it was good paddling with plenty of wildlife and surf action - a 6.2 metre double Pittarak standing on its nose in a 2 metre wave is quite a sight. A female paddler ended up with a few bruises in this encounter, and so did the Pittarak, with big splits around the bilge. Could we please have some better construction in ocean boats? This one was "out of it's depth!"

A couple of issues emerged on the weekend that warrant the placing of this piece in the "Training Notes" section...

Firstly, rolling, re-entry and rolling and bracing. It's one thing to practise these skills in flat water such as a lake or river and quite another to HAVE to do them in steep 2 metre seas. So, the message is PUSH YOUR SKILLS!!!

If you are a proficient roller in relatively calm water, it's time to move into the rough stuff. Try it in strong winds and try it with half only of your spare paddle. Doug, Andrew and Bruce will give a demo and assist you in practice at the Rock n' Roll Weekend. On the subject of bracing,

*(Continued on page 13)*

(Continued from page 12)

if you can do a high brace or sculling high brace down into the water as far as your shoulder, you should be working on getting your head into the water now. Similarly, if you can scull right down to water level AND HOLD IT, you should now be working on sculling to the surface from an upside-down roll-set-up position instead of coming directly upright. PUSH THE SKILLS!

We'll be having a Skills Session on all of this at the Rock n' Roll Weekend. Valuable stuff for kayakers. Don't miss it! It's for all skill levels.

If you want to practise this, find some water about a metre deep. In this depth, you can push off the bottom if you go too far instead of having to roll or wet exit. Do it this weekend!

The second issue I want to mention is paddling fitness. Before you all jump up and down and say you don't want to look like Arnold Schwarzenegger let me say neither do I! In fact bodies like that are useless for most sports. I guess I'm looking towards bodies like Paul Caffyn! Perfectly normal...yet he was cutting successive 100 km days in his round-Australia paddle. OK, so he developed a lot of paddling fitness during the trip but you do get my meaning.

Now, there are essentially 2 sections to this ramble on paddling fitness. I'll call them Style/Speed and Fuel in the Tank! That's got you curious eh?

### le/Speed

We should all be looking regularly at our paddling style. Sometimes it's easy to slip into bad stroke habits and it can often be hard to identify the problem yourself. So, have a friend check your style from time to time, talk to club members who race kayaks and come along to Dirk Stuber's skill session on Advanced Paddling Techniques at the Rock n' Roll Weekend!

It's important that your efficient style carries through from calm water paddling to strong headwinds. Anyone can move a kayak along in calm waters but smooth efficient paddling in a 20 knot headwind is a bit different! Have a look at the various club paddle grading levels in this magazine. Grades 2, 3 and 4 specify distances of up to 15km, 25km and 40 kms respectively.

There is ALWAYS wind on the ocean so these distances are effectively increased in headwinds. Remember Jervis Bay a few years ago? You obviously need good style for these situations, you also need some reasonable speed (which comes with style) to finish the day's paddle before midnight and most importantly you need some Fuel in the Tank!

### Fuel in the Tank

When I finish a day's paddle, I always ask myself: "Do I have enough energy left to paddle back to the day's start or halfway back or whatever?" This is the Fuel in the Tank and there's always got to be some there otherwise you're in big trouble on the ocean.

Suppose you arrive at a planned landing after a long distance of non-landable

coast and find the exit non-negotiable? You've got to go somewhere and it means lots more paddling like it or not. Total exhaustion is dangerous, unfair to your paddling partners and it leads to disaster.

So, Fuel in the Tank. What can you do? Obviously, attention to style efficiency is important...so is nutrition. Carry plenty of your favourite energy foods AND water. If you're serious about your paddling and you paddle more than once a month, you may want to look at some general fitness exercises. The very best is getting in your boat at every opportunity and cutting those miles but not always practical or possible I know. Try some swimming and/or go to a nearby gym and get the resident trainer to develop a sports specific program for you. That is, one that is basically aimed at endurance, NOT strength or power.

Try it for a few weeks. You'll be amazed at the results. For those that are interested, in a future issue we'll have a look at weight training principles for strength, power and endurance. I've got some good reference texts on the subject.

Happy Paddling

David Winkworth

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE BY DIK BROWNE



COURTESY OF DAVE WINKWORTH



# LEGALLY SPEAKING

## THE GEAR THAT NSW WATERWAYS SAYS YOU MUST HAVE WITH YOU ON THE WATER

by David Winkworth

The other day I picked up a copy of the NSW Waterways Safe Boating Handbook dated April 1997.

On the Safety Equipment pages in the booklet, waters are divided into "Enclosed" and "Open," and vessel sizes are classified as "under 5m" and "5-8m." From here they move out of average sea kayak sizes which don't concern us. Safety equipment for both the above classifications is identical.

I called NSW Waterways to check on the definition of Open Waters. It is any waters not enclosed by a harbour, river or bay AND any waters where the vessel is more than 400 metres from the nearest shore. This gets interesting when we look at the gear that must be carried. I'll list the gear for the 2 classifications and the few exemptions that apply to kayakers. You might be surprised!

### ENCLOSED WATERS

PFD 1, 2 or 3. (Most of us wear PFD 3's. PFD 1's have big neck and chest flotation to keep the wearer's face out of the water they are also very uncomfortable to paddle in). To continue: Bucket or bailer. Bilge pump optional. Waterproof Torch. (if operation at night) Anchor, chain and line. Navigation lights (a white light only for kayakers) Sound signals (a loud whistle would suffice I guess).

OK, not too many problems there. We could leave off the anchor and not upset anyone I think. Responsible sea kayakers should have all the other gear. Let's move on to the next category....

### OPEN WATERS

The gear listed below is additional to that mentioned above.

PFD 1. Marine Radio. Compulsory when operation 2 nautical miles or more off the coast. EPIRB recommended. Flares. 2x red smoke. 2x orange smoke. Orange V sheet. Drinking water. 2 litres / person. Map or chart of area. Compass. Waterproof torch. Required day and night.

The exemptions for canoes/kayakers are: "Occupants MUST wear a PFD except when the craft is: (a) propelled by paddles or oars in enclosed waters during daylight (b) not being used as a tender (c) so constructed as to stay afloat if capsized and (d) not more than 400m from the nearest shore.

To be completely legal, your 27MHz marine radio is required to be registered annually for a recurring fee of \$37.00. If you use a VHF radio the annual fee is \$39.00 and you must complete a radio operator's course.

I spoke to the Australian Communications Authority. They were VERY keen to get my \$37.00 a year but couldn't tell me any benefit I would get for my money. "I guess it's just another tax, mate," I was told.

Now, many of us regularly operate more than 2 nautical miles offshore. In fact, just crossing a coastal bay often puts you much further out than this, so we are very much in the ocean and in open waters category. I, and some club members I paddle with, have problems with the carrying (let alone wearing) of a PFD 1 and the carrying of flares. A PFD 1 is terrible to paddle in, inhibiting a wide range of paddle strokes, hard to turn round while wearing one and really bulky while strapped to the back deck where it can seriously add to windage and tracking problems in wind. Putting one in the back hatch is ridiculous - are you seri-

ously going to open the hatch in conditions that warrant the wearing of one?

A bulky PFD 1 strapped to the back deck would also affect rolling properties of a kayak for some paddlers. Earlier this year I did some Sea Instructor training in W.A. It is law also over there that PFD 1's are carried on open waters and all paddlers attending the course were shit-scared of Boating Officers booking them for failure to have one.

Now, the few Boating Safety Officers here that I know are all nice guys and I have never been pulled up along my stretch of coast but Sydney/Wollongong/Newcastle is a different matter. There are always a few officious individuals in any bunch.

I was going to write to NSW Waterways on this matter but I then thought it may be better to discuss the issues first at the upcoming AGM before putting a club viewpoint to the Government.

Please have a think about this issue and also about the carrying of flares. My experience is that they are next to useless and we are fortunate to have Laurie Ford from the Maatsuyker Club in Tassie with us for the AGM weekend.

Come along and participate - you may be interested to hear what he has to say on the subject of carrying of flares! If you would like to enquire with NSW Waterways about any issues, you can call them on 131236, 0830 - 4.30 7 days a week.

Good luck!

David Winkworth



## Letter to Norm SANDERS President NSW Sea Kayak Club Inc.

Dear Mr Sanders,

I write as a new member to your Club. It is hard for me as a parent to describe the steep learning curve one goes through upon being informed your child has cancer. The horror, despair, anger frustration the uncertainty of your child surviving, and having to re-arrange your whole way of life around what seems a hellish situation is one I hope in the future less children and their families will have to go through.

My 5 year old daughter Rebecca is nearly half way through a 2 year Chemotherapy Program. Rebecca has already lost her hair and is suffering the many side effects of such treatment. Rebecca attends hospital continually for treatment and has a Central Line in place, this is a line that is surgically inserted into a vein. It goes directly to the heart. This allows the majority of medication to be injected directly through the line, instead of a needle directly into the veins it saves a great deal of pain and trauma for the child. I am lucky my child has a good chance of beating the cancer. So many other children are worse off. Rebecca was diagnosed with Acute Lymphatic Leukemia in September 1996. Rebecca has a 70 to 80% chance of beating the cancer. Over 700 children in Australia are diagnosed with cancer yearly, 200 in N.S.W.

Fortunately, the Nurses, Doctors and staff of the New Children's Hospital are wonderful and special people. How they manage daily with so many children and families is a credit to them all. This is why I am driven and determined to complete an endurance sea kayak trip from Sydney Harbour Bridge NSW to Surfers Paradise QLD and in doing so raise monies (proceeds divided between) and awareness for the Westmead Children's Hospital Department of Oncology/Clinic (40%), Cancer and Leukemia Research & Support Fund (40%), Camp Quality (10%) and Rebecca's Public School, Hornsby North Public School (10% of monies raised).

As a result I need to obtain assistance, financial pledges sponsorship and donations of equipment needed for such a trip. Companies who support this cause will benefit through an association with the cause, local, regional and national media coverage, advertising of company logo's etc on sea kayak and motor vehicle's used in the event and any merchandise that is prepared for the trip. To date we have received a great amount of interest and support from many areas, for example 2DayFM (pledge to cover the event), Surf Life Saving QLD & NSW (Village Roadshow/Austereo Radio Network media contacts), Bureau of Meteorology, Clubs and businesses etc. The appropriate letters of authority have been received from the various areas involved. The organisation and media coverage of the event is under way. A major press release will be sent out in the next few weeks. Whilst sponsorship interest and confirmation is increasing, we still need more, you can never be enough for sick children, especially Cancer Kids.

The aim is to commence the trip in March 1998, starting from the Sydney Harbour Bridge and ending the trip at Surfers Paradise. No time limit will be forced however the trip will be aimed at completed between 10-20 days A suitable back up team will follow me up the coast by road.

My background gives me a strong foundation for training and completing such an event. We have very professional and experienced personnel and services support team already. One such person is Mr Larry Gray, adventurer/kayak designer and film maker (well known to your Club) and Colin Dabinett of B-Line Boats & Canoes Warehouse, Hornsby. I have great Public Relations people assisting me and between us some great ideas. As a result, I feel confident of every success and our teams main goal is ensure the utmost attention to completing the trip safely. Training has commenced The waterways around the Sydney Metropolitan area will be used extensively. The kayak and motor vehicle used to convey the sea kayak will be seen very often by the public. This gives companies that are or become involved, opportunities for over eight constant months of advertising and media releases etc prior to the event. I am also going to use the Hawkesbury Classic as a training run.

The trip is not directed at righting any wrongs - it is about hard work and uniting people and companies to a special cause. Our event is showing an enormous amount of potential already. So much so, planning is being given to making the event a annual one (however we will get this one under our belts first!). Our target is around the \$30,000 + mark (after 10 weeks we have already reached 1/3rd of this amount), with additional donations of equipment to the Oncology Ward/Clinic and Rebecca's Public School. We are also running a Raffle.

My request from you is to consider informing all your members of our event and extend an invitation to them to paddle out to see us in groups as we pass various areas on our way North. Perhaps they could arrange a fundraising paddle to meet us on the water. Those services or clubs that donate/assist will be legible to go in the draw for our "hopefully" unused safety equipment (GPS, EPIRB etc). This will be done at a Presentation Night in March 1998. All person's and company's who have supported the Event will be invited and will be further recognised and praised for the efforts. The monies raised will be handed over and prizes drawn for our raffle. If you are interested in supporting such an event, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time, I look forward to hearing from you.

**Bob Glenister**  
27 Carrington Road  
Hornsby NSW 2077  
10th August 1997  
Ph. 9476 6690  
New Member NSW Sea Kayak Club



## Pain & Gain at Mimosa Rocks by Doug Fraser

There we stood, on the beach at Mimosa Rocks, watching as the twin Pittarak was slowly moving towards the rocks still stuck in the surf zone. Suddenly it was picked up by a breaking wave and the two occupants, Kate and Darren, were thrown out. The five of us on the shore ran into the surf to try and recover the kayak and its passengers. Another two metre breaking wave picked up the craft and drove it onto the sea floor. By the time it had surfaced a couple of the rescuers had reached it and were dragging it away from the rocks. On reaching the beach however, it was clear that it had been damaged and was in fact, holed on both sides. The two occupants made it to shore, Kate bruised from the wild ride she had been given in the surf. I looked at the damaged craft and thought, "Gee this is great, I hate trips where nothing happens!"

Yes this was the ACF Advanced Sea Proficiency weekend held on the October long weekend, organised by Frank Backer and Dave Winkworth. The candidates were myself, Stumpy Payne, Andrew Eddy and Andrew Lewis of Victoria. Kate and Darren were also from Victoria and were attending to be assessed for their sea proficiency. We had set out from the Wallaga Lakes Caravan Park that morning and had paddled south past Bermagui to Mimosa Rocks National Park. In keeping with my reputation we had a headwind of about 15kn all the way. This was accompanied by seas of about 1m which made the 29km quite hard going. For part of the way Andrew Eddy had volunteered to be V towed by Stumpy and myself. In the choppy conditions this proved to be quite difficult as the tensions taken by the two towers were invariably different, causing rapid deceleration when the slack was suddenly taken up. This episode gave Stumpy

and myself blisters, which just added to the general aches and pains we were feeling by that night.

As usual the beach at the night location showed the signs of paranoid paddlers, all making sure their boats weren't the closest to the ocean that night. Some almost made it into the camp site. Unfortunately due to the size of the surf, Dave decided not to run his night rescue activity, which apparently was going to involve a degree of healthy bastardisation. We were so disappointed we went to bed early.

The next day saw Andrew Lewis, Kate and Darren remain behind to repair the broken Pittarak while the rest of us set off for the 39km open water navigational leg to Montague Island. The forecast predicted that we would now have a northerly headwind, however, thankfully this never really eventuated. After a failed attempt to find a rather ill-determined submerged reef just south of the island, we decided to head for a small inlet just to the north of Mystery Bay to the SW. On cue, a stiff southerly change came through, but at least this time we were not battling straight into it. The inlet itself was lovely, however after eight hours and 44km the first action of the candidates on exiting their boats was to have their legs collapse and fall promptly back into the surf (*this dismounting 'style' was first developed by Arunas Pilka - Ed*).

The next morning was calm and saw the sitting of the exam. This went a bit longer than anticipated as we didn't realise that we only had to do one quarter of the questions. Anyway with that finally completed the next southerly change accompanied by dark skies and rain came in to make sure that the last day wasn't going to be easy. The seas rose to about 2m and

we headed south for Wallaga Lake.

We were to meet up with the Victorians at the mouth of the inlet, however a couple of kilometres short Dave made us all re-enter and roll at sea, just to make sure we would be dribbling sea water from our nose for the rest of the day.

Finally we made it into the Caravan Park where we enjoyed a hot shower. Once we were cleaned up we then had a debriefing session where a number of valuable lessons were brought out. All the candidates achieved their respective qualifications, which was just as well because we were exhausted. All in all it was a valuable activity to have undertaken and I would recommend all paddlers to strive to achieve the qualification.

### Lessons Learnt

If you are unsure about landing don't hang around in the surf zone as you are guaranteed to eventually pick up the big one! Either go back out to sea and gather your thoughts (or courage) or come in - broaching is usually a safe option. (*good advice, especially if you are in Pittarak, but why not just simply purchase an Inuit Classic and take on 'the big one' with total confidence - Ed (I'm really going to miss writing these smart arse comments!)*)

A hand pump is too difficult to use by yourself in any sort of sea (which is when you are likely to come out). A foot or electric pump is needed.

Dave has succumbed to KDS (Kayak Designer Syndrome) and is beginning to sound like Norm.

Pittaraks rule, OK.



## WHISTLING UP A STORM!

The Club has acquired a few boxes of whistles (not off the back of a truck!) for sale to members. If you have a whistle on your boat or PFD and it is not a STORM or THUNDERSTORM whistle then give it to your kids and get one of these!

The STORM whistle is without doubt the loudest whistle in the world. I caution you against blowing this whistle near people without warning them to stick their fingers in their ears.... it is that loud! I have proved its worth in the surf zone. It can

easily be heard over the roar of surf.

The THUNDERSTORM whistle is slightly smaller than the STORM and not quite as loud. These whistles are used by US Military and Police Forces and security forces worldwide or so the blurb says.

We have them in black, orange and yellow....the STORM will cost you \$10.00 and the THUNDERSTORM \$8.00 each. I have seen them in the shops for \$18.50 so it's not bad value.

We have 24 STORM whistles and 12 THUNDERSTORM whistles in this batch. Give me a call if you want to reserve one or take pot luck on there being a few left at the Rock n' Roll/AGM Weekend.

So, if you are going to have a whistle at sea .. and you should .. make it one of these because now everything else is just plain junk!

David Winkworth



# 1997 CLUB CALENDAR

Call Andrew Eddy on (02) 9888 2073 (h) to include new events

Recompiled October 1997

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
<b>Regular events</b>		
Tuesday (evening) ①	The Canberra pod usually go for a paddle on <i>Lake Burley Griffin</i> for an hour or so, sometimes followed by a barbecue. Meet at Black Mountain Peninsula at 6.00pm. Contact Arunas Pilka (06) 248 7828 (h) or (06) 283 5404 (w).	Canberra
Thursday (evening) ②	Nevil Lazarus and friends paddle on <i>Middle Harbour</i> regularly on Thursday nights, leaving from Roseville Bridge Boat Ramp at quarter to seven and paddling to Balmoral Beach and return, a fast trip of about 18km. Nevil would welcome other club members to come along, so if you are interested give him a call at home on (02) 9498 1706 or at work on (02) 9624 2511	Sydney Area

## NOVEMBER

8-9 ①	<b>Introductory kayak skills.</b> This is a weekend camp at Patonga caravan park, on the Central Coast, held in conjunction with the Lane Cove Valley Canoe Club. Saturday will be focussed on offering new and inexperienced paddlers an opportunity to practice the basic paddling techniques, in readiness for forthcoming grade 1 and 2 paddles. Capsizes, wet exits, assisted and solo reentries, forward and reverse paddling, support and turning strokes. More experienced paddlers are welcome to come and practice or assist, either in the lagoon, or in the waves on Patonga beach, close by. <b>Kayak games</b> are a key part of the weekend. On Sunday, those who feel confident and able can come for a short trip along the cliffs of Middle Head and Warrah Lookout, around Lion Island and back. Contact Andrew Eddy (02) 9888 2073 (h)	Sydney - Central Coast
29-30 ①	<b>The NSWSKC Annual Rock and Roll Weekend.</b> This is the club's premier get-together skills and social event at Honeymoon Bay in Jervis Bay. The format will be similar to previous years, with seminars and coaching clinics on a variety of topics in skills equipment and seamanship, as well as the learn-to-eskimo-roll sessions. For more details, see the article elsewhere in the newsletter.	Jervis Bay, NSW South Coast
29 (Saturday night) ①	<b>The NSWSKC Annual General Meeting</b> will take place late on Saturday afternoon in the camping area at Jervis Bay. The club executive will be elected for the 1998 club year. This is a great opportunity to have your input into the running of the club. Come along, discuss, vote, cheer, whatever. Please forward nominations to the secretary-treasurer, address on the front cover of the newsletter.	Jervis Bay, NSW South Coast

## DECEMBER

7	<b>The Twenty Beaches</b> ocean kayak race, run by Manly Warringah Kayak Club, is an open ocean race between Manly and Palm Beach, direction depending on weather conditions. MWKC invites NSWSKC members to participate. Entry fees and minimum equipment standards apply. Contact Don Andrews (MWKC) on (02) 9971 6842 (h) for further details.	Sydney
20 Saturday ④	There is a disc-shaped oceanographic buoy <b>about 5 km off Bondi beach</b> . We will set out in the evening from Bondi beach, paddle out in the gathering dusk, find the buoy and record its position by various navigational techniques and, after dark, play with different in-water paddling skills on the ocean before returning to Bondi for a cuppa. Paddlers will need to be competent and confident at BCE "Sea Proficiency" level and have a fully equipped kayak, including lights to Waterways requirements. Contact Andrew Eddy on (02) 9888 2073 (h) for further details.	Sydney

## FEBRUARY

21-22 ③	Feast on paddling & pancakes during Lent. The 6 <sup>th</sup> annual <b>Pancake Day Paddle</b> is on. We will camp at picturesque Mystery Bay and spend the Saturday paddling out to Montague Island (about 10km each way - be prepared to have lunch in your boat as we are not allowed to land). On Sunday after a breakfast of pancakes we usually spend the day surfing and exploring the local coastline. Contact Arunas Pilka on (02) 6248-7828 (h) or (02) 6283-5562 (w) to let him know that you are coming so that he can cater pancakes.	Mystery Bay, NSW South Coast
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*Continued next page: calendar grading system*

# 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.

<b>Essential:</b>	Well maintained <i>sea</i> kayak with bulkhead(s) and buoyancy.
	Fitted declines
	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.

'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	<b>Beginner</b> - Closed or protected water - instruction available. No experience required. Might not be influenced by bad weather.	For grades ① & ② <b>Wind</b> <b>Seas</b> <b>Add(for each)</b> <10kn    <1.5m    0 10-15kn    1.5-2.5m    0.5
②	<b>Novice</b> with some paddling experience. <15km paddling day(s) primarily along accessible coastline or on protected water. Pre-requisite: able to perform assisted rescues.	15-25kn    >2.5m    1.0 >25kn    >3.0m    1.5
③	<b>Proficient</b> . <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 <b>Wind</b> <b>Seas</b> <b>Add(for each)</b> >20kn    >2.5m    1.0
④	<b>Intermediate</b> . <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	<b>Advanced</b> . 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 No weather modifications. Paddlers know their limits.
⑥	<b>Expedition</b> . Potentially very challenging conditions. Only for experienced advanced paddlers. Probably invitation only.	

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:

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

### Club Membership List

Surname	Firstname	Street	Suburb	State	Postc	Home	Work
Abraham	Ray & Shirley	62 Baker St	DORA CREEK	NSW	2264	(02) 4970-5387	
Andrews	Don	4 Pukara Pl	CROMER	NSW	2099	(02) 9971-684	(02) 9971-276
Baer	Walter	5 Crabbes Ave.	WILLOUGHBY	NSW	2068	(02) 9417-222	(02) 9910-002
Bertolli	Alex	The Beach House, Shingly Beach	AIRLIE BEACH	QLD	4802	(079) 46-6306	
Betteridge & Mercer	Sharon & Robert	35 Roberts Ave	RANDWICK	NSW	2031	(02) 9398-820	015-105385
Bingham	Stephen	13/1 Waruda St	KIRRIBILLI	NSW	2061	(02) 9954-123	(02) 9683-047
Blumenthal	Simon	25 Roma Rd	ST IVES	NSW	2075	(02) 9144-169	(02) 9624-251
Boardman	Ross	27 Pillapai Ring	EROWAL BAY	NSW	2540	(02) 4443-385	(02) 4443-385
Brandon	Frank	40/40 Penkivil St	BONDI	NSW	2026	(02) 9387-3091	
Bremers	Mike	72 Fullerton Cres	RICHARDSON	ACT	2905	(02) 6292-340	(02) 6283-205
Briggs	Greg	1 Lansdowne Street	GREENWICH	NSW	2065	(02) 9439-626	(02) 9926-850
Brown	Ian	57 Victoria St	MT VICTORIA	NSW	2786	(02) 4787-142	(02) 4787-887
Bugden	Michael	7 Valley Cl	BAYVIEW	NSW	2104	(02) 9979-562	0418-297395
Bull	Norman	12 Rosen St	EPPING	NSW	2121	(02) 9876-249	(02) 9329-131
Buras	Bruno	25A Bakers Rd	CHURCH POINT	NSW	2105	(02) 9979-599	(02) 9979-599
Carmody	Patrick	34 Squires Cres	COLEDALE	NSW	2515	(02) 4267-471	(02) 9364-652
Carswell	Gordon & Lesley	P.O. Box 144	TATHRA	NSW	2550	(02) 6494-1920	
Chalson	Ian	46 Kilmarnock Rd	ENGADINE	NSW	2233	(02) 9520-550	(02) 9543-700
Chidgey	Phil	Villa 4, 18-22 Paling St	THORNLEIGH	NSW	2120	(02) 9980-6729	
Cooper	Bret	3 Flower Pl	WODONGA	VIC	3690	(02) 6024-430	(02) 6040-252
Cowin	Neil	PO Box 622	MILSONS POINT	NSW	2061	(02) 9953-5290	
Cogan	David	PO Box 105	O'CONNOR	ACT	2602	(02) 6250-221	(02) 6266-522
Crouch	Michael	5/8 West Promenade	MANLY	NSW	2095	(02) 9260-720	(02) 9260-720
Crowe	Mick & Kate	11 Eagle Circuit	KAMBAH	ACT	2902	(02) 6231-944	(02) 6281-835
Crozier	Robert	25A Winnermere Rd	EPPING	NSW	2121	(02) 9869-732	(02) 9427-363
Cummings	Graham	P.O. Box 42	WARRAGAMBA	NSW	2752	(02) 4774-236	0419-220214
Dabinett	Colin	9/5-7 Water St	HORNSBY	NSW	2077	(02) 9476-737	(02) 9477-717
Dale	Michael & Leonie	79 Valley Road	WENTWORTH FALLS	NSW	2782	(02) 4757-341	0418-395825
Davies	Richard & Win	4 Kalinga St	CAMBEWARRA	NSW	2540		
Deane	Roy & Diane	1/43 Stuart St	MANLY	NSW	2095	(02) 9977-022	(02) 9250-970
Dickson	John	6 Koongara Rd	ROSEVILLE	NSW	2069	(02) 9417-1537	
Edmond	Gary	St John's College	CAMBRIDGE	UK	CB2	ITP	
Foley	John	11 Gregory St	PUTNEY	NSW	2112		
Ford	Warwick	121 Queens Pde East	NEWPORT	NSW	2106	(02) 9979-546	(02) 9905-058
Fraser	Doug	28 Loureiro St	CONDER	ACT	2906	(02) 6294-104	(02) 6265-563
Galt	Ric	6 Tamarama St	TAMARAMA	NSW	2026	(02) 9389-136	(02) 9387-478
Garrett	Peter	43 McWhae Crt	WANNIASSA	ACT	2903	(02) 6231-983	018-674310
Gill	Nicholas	23 Officer Cres	ANSLIE	ACT	2602	(02) 6257-612	(02) 6268-831
Glenister	Bob	27 Carrington Rd	HORNSBY	NSW	2077	(02) 9476-6690	
Greathead	John	34/25-29 Devonshire St	CHATSWOOD	NSW	2067	(02) 9412-280	(02) 9374-554
Grose	Roger	ABSG, HQ Trng Comd, Suakin Dr	GEORGES HEIGHTS	NSW	2088	0419-479182	(02) 9960-928
Harding	Ian	2/37 Wallis Pde	NORTH BONDI	NSW	2026	(02) 9365-165	
Head	Bob	13 Bellvue Pde	CARINGBAH	NSW	2229	(02) 9525-024	(02) 9923-600
Hennings	John	22 Illawong Ave	CARINGBAH	NSW	2229	(02) 9540-107	0411-258637
Heron	Stephen	35 Hambledon Ave	BAULKHAM HILLS	NSW	2153	(02) 9686-696	0412-445966
Hewitson	Paul	35 Yanderra Cres	NARRARA	NSW	2250	(02) 4324-192	(02) 9651-161
Hockley	Cheryl & Neil	Lot 3, 419 Pitt Town Dural Rd	MARAYLYO	NSW	2765	(02) 4573-673	0418-169210
Holster	D. John	PO Box 4600	NORTH ROCKS	NSW	2151	(02) 9873-185	(02) 9873-185
Holten	Paul	635 Merrylands Rd	GREYSTANES	NSW	2145	(02) 9896-635	(02) 9896-635
John	Sundra & Salo	7 Lenox St	NORMANHURST	NSW	2076	(02) 9875-425	0418-447942
Jones	Doug	12 Warrina Ave	BAULKHAM HILLS	NSW	2153	(02) 9674-603	(02) 9934-510
Kenna	Jennifer	13 Calevla Cres	ORANGE	NSW	2800		
Kennedy	Paul, Selma, Sarsja & Ineke	"Sarneke" Bald Hills Rd	PAMBULA	NSW	2549	(02) 6495-6871	
Knopke	Leanne	65 Forrest Rd	MIRANDA	NSW	2228	(02) 9525-770	(02) 9229-561
Lamonda	Mary Lou	82 Ingleside Rd.	INGLESIDE	NSW	2101	(02) 9913-355	(02) 9913-355
Lang	Alice	23 Warrabri Pl	WEST PYMBLE	NSW	2073	(02) 9880-217	(02) 9956-697
Langmaid	Wayne	2/227 The Round Dr	AVOCA BEACH	NSW	2251	(02) 4381-0342	
Lazarus	Nevil	80 St Johns Ave	GORDON	NSW	2072	(02) 9498-170	(02) 9624-251
Lipscombe	John	c/- MSA Wallaroo, HMAS Waterhen	WAVERTON	NSW	2060		
Litchfield	Ian	RMB 1111 Yarralong Rd	WYONG CREEK	NSW	2259	(02) 4352-2242	
Luck	Geoff	35 Packer St	WEETANGERA	ACT	2614	(02) 6254-062	(02) 6240-575
MacDonald	David	37 Nandi Ave	FRENCHS FOREST	NSW	2086	(02) 9401-950	(02) 9647-103
MacDonnell/Morey	Philip/Carolyn	585 Great North Rd	ABBOTSFORD	NSW	2046	(02) 9712-2927	
Madden	Rick	c/- No 2 Squadron RNZAF	RANAS ALBATROSS	NSW	2540	(02) 4421-135	(02) 4421-119
Madsen	Jan Alsing	112 Russell Rd	NEW LAMPTON	NSW	2305	(02) 4957-3667	
Mason	Paul	74 Dooring St	DICKSON	ACT	2602	(02) 6248-628	(02) 6280-793

### Club Membership List

Surname	Firstname	Street	Suburb	State	Postc	Home	Work
McConchie & McDermott	Ian & Marie-Louise	PO Box 21	SHOALHAVEN HEADS	NSW	2535	(02) 4448-720	(02) 4448-84
Meert	John	3 Crofts Pl	SPENCE	ACT	2615	(02) 6258-729	(02) 6203-736
Mill	Jeanette	60 Hawdon St	ANSLIE	ACT	2602	(02) 6257-709	(02) 6250-950
Miller	Jack	5 Bay Dr	MOGAREEKA	NSW	2550	(02) 6494-1070	
Morris	Jeremy	L 13. St James Hall, 169 Phillip St	SYDNEY	NSW	2000	(02) 9332-452	(02) 9335-300
Mudie	Ron	PO Box 455	BEGA	NSW	2550	(02) 6493-202	(02) 6492-940
Murray	Ron	265A Victoria Rd	GLADESVILLE	NSW	2111	(02) 9982-216	(02) 9817-559
Murrell	Jan	16 Epacris Pl	RIVETT	ACT	2611	(02) 6288-632	(02) 6281-825
Natras & Williams	Paul & Andrea	18 Carramar Rd	LINDFIELD	NSW	2070	(02) 9416-484	(02) 9259-457
Natras	Christopher	70 Forrest Pde	TOMAKIN	NSW	2537	(02) 4471-823	(02) 4474-159
Nawa	Kenji	164 Morrison Rd	PUTNEY	NSW	2112	(02) 9807-691	(02) 9807-691
Nelly	Stephen	13 Elm Lea Dr	BUNGENDORE	NSW	2621	(02) 6238-179	(02) 6299-386
Neyne	Bruce	Unit 24, 22 Ridge St	NORTH SYDNEY	NSW	2060	(02) 9922-291	(02) 9960-925
Pearson	Mark	5 Miena Place	DUFFY	ACT	2611	(02) 6288-360	(02) 6289-617
Pearson	Robert & Merry	55 Collins St	NORTH NARRABEEN	NSW	2101	(02) 9913-7799	
Peattie	Wendy	4 Cannes Dr	AVALON	NSW	2107		
Pilka	Arunas	29 Westgarth St	O'CONNOR	ACT	2601	(02) 6248-782	(02) 6283-556
Pratley	Hudson	12 Carrington St	CROOKWELL	NSW	2583		
Pratt	David	PO Box 422	MILSONS POINT	NSW	2061	(02) 9901-312	(02) 9957-411
Preema	Alex	5 Evans Cl	BOWENFELS	NSW	2790	(02) 6351-326	(02) 6352
Raitery	Ron	2 Thurlow Ave	NELSON BAY	NSW	2315	(02) 4981-4726	
Rattenbury	Peter	24 Spearing Pde	GWYNNEVILLE	NSW	2500	(02) 4226-5986	
Raven	Peter	PO Box 385	CONCORD	NSW	2137	(02) 9745-187	(04) 12-031216
Reynolds	Rohan	PO Box 753	JAMISON CENTRE	ACT	2614	(02) 6254-783	(02) 6254-783
Richardson	Michael	337 Condamine St	MANLY VALE	NSW	2093	(02) 9907-074	(02) 9907-976
Ross	Duncan	2A Pindari Ave	ST IVES	NSW	2075	(02) 9449-296	(02) 9795-050
Rutledge	Rodney	14 Sherwood Ave	YOWIE BAY	NSW	2228	(02) 9526-128	(02) 9352-935
Schien	Michael	10 Joanne St	WOONONA	NSW	2517	(02) 4284-5152	
Shaw	Graham	5 Ryle Pl	FLYNN	ACT	2615	(02) 6258-859	(02) 6258-587
Shields	Daniel	2/31 Mosman St	MOSMAN	NSW	2088	(02) 9968-496	(02) 9226-1
Singer	Andrew	2/341 Victoria Ave	CHATSWOOD	NSW	2067	(02) 9816-119	(02) 9415-2
Smith & Chance	Alan & Gwen	11a Rowley St	BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS	NSW	2216	(02) 9567-245	(02) 9581-76
Smith de Bricout	Rory	4 Barana Pl	KAREELA	NSW	2232	(02) 9589-203	(04) 19-229883
Soutter	Chris	12 Ringrose Cres	ISAACS	ACT	2607	(02) 6290-220	(02) 6202-700
Spiers	John	11 Seaman St	GREENWICH	NSW	2065	(02) 9436-158	(02) 9936-870
Stuber	Dirk	23 Cornock Ave	THIRROUL	NSW	2515	(02) 4268-100	(02) 4295-225
Stupans	Peter	PO Box 580	GLEBE	NSW	2037	(02) 9922-507	(02) 9417-786
Taylor	Doug	6 Raine Ave	NORTH ROCKS	NSW	2151	(02) 9872-2356	
Taylor	Ian	123 Bellinger Rd	RUSE	NSW	2560	(02) 4626-675	(02) 4625-140
Thomas	Carl	155 Hopetoun Ave	WATSONS BAY	NSW	2030	(02) 9388-722	(02) 9388-722
Thompson	Bruce	140 Uper Clontarf St	SEAFORTH	NSW	2092	(02) 9949-623	(02) 9977-500
Thompson	Rob	84A Innes Rd	MANLY VALE	NSW	2093	(02) 9949-397	(01) 8-973
Tobias	Robert	20 Park Ave	MOSMAN	NSW	2088	(02) 9969-794	(02) 9286-825
Todhunter	Margot	2/29a Moonbie St	SUMMER HILL	NSW	2130	(02) 9716-095	(02) 9373-813
Trevithick	Bev & Gary	6 Bangor Rd	MIDDLE DURAL	NSW	2158	(02) 9652-179	(02) 9269-920
Trueman & Bramsbury	Stuart & Sharon	7/67 Ocean St	WOOLLAHRA	NSW	2026	(02) 9327-502	(02) 9333-026
Turner	Matt	11 Murrowal Rd	STANWELL PARK	NSW	2508	(02) 4294-257	(02) 9247-315
Tyrrel	Anthony	32 McIntyre St	NARRABUNDAH	ACT	2604	(02) 6295-815	(02) 6207-460
Vandyke	Kim	116 Prince Charles Rd	BELROSE	NSW	2085	(02) 9451-915	(02) 9950-085
Verity	David	46 Stanley Rd	EPPING	NSW	2121	(02) 9876-537	(02) 9624-251
Vickers	Michael	PO Box 860	BATEMANS BAY	NSW	2536	018-042861	018-527382
Vogel	Roelof	2 Vivian St	BELLEVUE HILL	NSW	2023	(02) 9362-052	(02) 9742-722
Wallace	David	12 View Rd	WALKERVILLE	SA	5081	(08) 8344-807	(08) 8203-632
Webb	Ron	28 Waiwera St	MCMAHONS POINT	NSW	2060	(02) 9929-265	(02) 9930-796
Weever	Monte	23941 Sunloft Dr	EAGLE RIVER, ALASKA	USA	####	(907) 696-3456	
Weir	David	13 Tuckwell Rd	CASTLE HILL	NSW	2154	(02) 9899-1736	
White	Tony	83 Wood St	MANLY	NSW	2095	(02) 9977-343	(02) 9957-411
Whyte	David	12 Fossey St	HOLDER	ACT	2611	(02) 6288-044	(02) 6264-433
Wicks	John	PO Box 311	EPPING	NSW	2121	(02) 9876-678	(04) 14-781214
Wilson	John	4 Fitzroy St	CROYDON	NSW	2132	(02) 9747-402	(02) 9558 835
Winkworth	David	21 Tura Beach Drv	TURA BEACH	NSW	2548	(02) 6494-136	(02) 6495-97

# I seen it but I don't believe it!

What I have here is a most embarrassing moment that I would like to share with you, mostly 'cause it just doesn't hurt to laugh at yourself once in a while.

I work full time as a tour guide, have paddled for a long time (over twenty five years) and thought I was beyond making really foolish mistakes (which goes to show I was due for a good dose of humble pie - in fact the whole pie).

I took a group out for an absolutely fantastic moonlight paddle two nights ago - dead calm, total silence, sparkling magic in the water from the bioluminescence and the moon making diamond dancing patterns on the top of it all. The clients, and myself for that matter, were just breathless from it all. Wild.

We decided to stop at a wharf to have a nice cup of hot coffee and fresh muffins while enjoying each others company and the stars in the sky. I didn't have quite enough painter on my boat to tie the last double kayak up properly, so I absent mindedly pushed it under the wharf leaving it there to rest while I pulled the stern up onto the landing to make sure it didn't float off.

We sat chattering away and googing at the stars, for about a half an hour or so. All the time I kept an watchfull eye on the tandem under the wharf, making sure the rising tide didn't float it up too close to the bottom side. All appeared cool, lots of room from what I could see at the stern where it went down under the wharf.

Well guess what - Time to leave and I

went to pull the kayak out and be damned, I couldn't get the boat out!!!

I could have died from embarassment - thank goodness the light on the end of

the wharf was poor and hid my tomato colored complexion. I couldn't believe I'd done that!! Worse yet - the tide had about a foot higher to go yet.

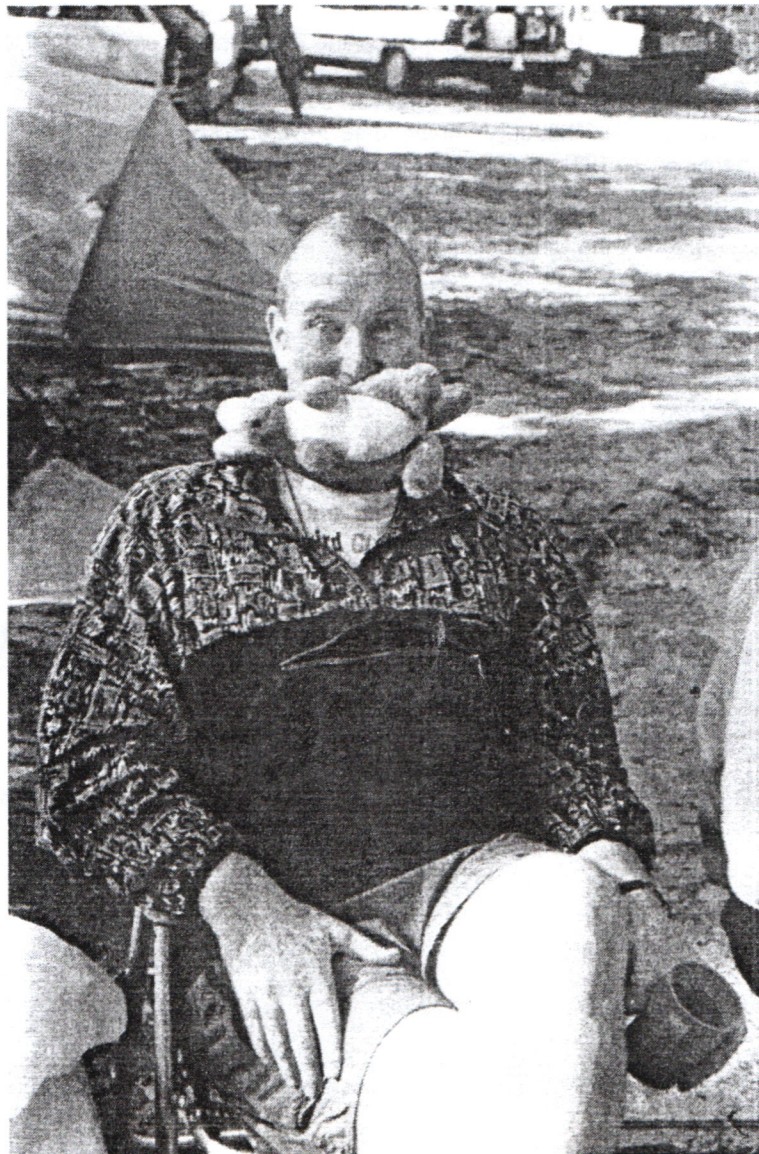
I had visions of this 'stake' punching right through the bottom of the boat and besides, I didn't think my clients would be keen on waiting until the tide dropped to continue their tour. More than a few moments later and a whole lot of quick reverse bailing of the boat (now that is a switch, trying to get water into the kayak and why does it take so long to fill when you WANT it to go in??) I was able to float the kayak, semi submerged out from under the wharf to the cheeky applause of my clients. Aw shucks, this is always how we do it - a little half time kayak trip entertainment!!

Anyhow, I'm curious if any other guides (or paddlers) have a similar humorous, humbling experiences (or other moments) they would like to share.

Moral of the story -

1. Just when you least expect it, expect it.
2. Try some other half time entertainment - it's easier on the ego.

## FAREWELL GARY EDMOND



*The club bids a fond farewell to Gary Edmond this month as he heads off to commence a scholarship at Oxford University. This final picture taken at last year's Rock'n Roll weekend shows Gary still trying to intellectuallise despite having a stuffed rabbit in his mouth. Although Gary will be certainly be missed, nobody's quite sure why .....*

What I didn't see in the dark was a piece of 4X4 was protruding down from the underside of the wharf, and was now pushing on the bottom of the kayak, inside of the forward cockpit. The boat was literally staked to the water!!!!!!

Solution - Petition the local councils to put in higher wharves to avoid me embarassing myself.

Wayne Langmaid



# Internet Mail Order Paddling Gear

Faced with the prospect of paddling through the Canberra winter, in July I purchased some cool weather paddling equipment. After checking store prices, the internet seemed the next best option. Although expecting to find good prices in the U.S., I discovered what I considered to be the best value for money with an outfit called DES (Direct Equipment Supplies) in the U.K. The information following is correct as per their internet site as of 21 October 1997.

Their equipment consists primarily of accessories including: cags, neoprene shorts/trousers, various spraydecks, dry bags and other odds and ends. What caught my attention was the variety of cags/paddling jackets which ranged from 14.95 U.K. pounds to 69.95 U.K. pounds, they now range from 16.95 to 76.95 pounds (conversion about A\$2.15 to the pound). At the lower end of the market was coated nylon and at the upper, breathable three layer fabric with double spraydeck seals and latex/neo-

prene wrist and neck seals. I opted for the extreme semi-dry at 59.95 pounds and later on a pair of neoprene long trousers at 29.95 pounds. I was very pleased with the quality when they arrived in the mail two weeks after ordering having seen similar cags in Australia priced over \$300.

For those interested, the internet site is <http://www.des.uk.com> (fax 0161 4345057 or address: 51 Fog Lane, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 6AR). The site is easy to navigate with guidance on sizes and full descriptions of items. Postage may be included in the deal depending on the weight of the item. Every month also has a special deal - I bought an extra short sleeve cag for my son at 10 pounds as the deal of the month with a purchase over 30 pounds.

DES were very helpful and readily send emails to clarify any order. Initially they were having trouble with email orders and I had to fax the

details but this worked well. The email orders now appear to be problem free. I use a low limit credit card for internet purchases in case of security problems but have experienced no heartaches so far. In theory, customs could demand duty and/or sales tax on purchases but they didn't worry with the size of my orders. Even if they had, the items would still have been very good value.

**Peter Garrett**

If undeliverable return to

NSW Sea Kayak Club Inc  
29 Westgarth St  
O'Connor, ACT 2602

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