

No. 114 December 2004 - January 2005

THE SEA CANOEIST NEWSLETTER



Padding by the Columbia Glacier, Prince William Sound Alaska. Photo: Malcolm Gunn

**The Journal of the Kiwi Association
of Sea Kayakers (N.Z.) Inc. - KASK**

KASK

KASK, the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (N.Z.) Inc., a network of New Zealand sea kayakers, has the objectives of:

1. promoting and encouraging the sport of sea kayaking
2. promoting safety standards
3. developing techniques & equipment
4. dealing with issues of coastal access and protection
5. organizing an annual sea kayak forum
6. publishing a bimonthly newsletter.

The Sea Canoeist Newsletter is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (N.Z.) Inc.

Articles, trips reports, book reviews, equipment reviews, new techniques, letter to the editor, and moments when the word 'Bugger!' was said singularly or often {referred to by some as incidents} are sought to enliven the pages of the newsletter.

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KASK Annual Subscription

\$25 single membership
(\$75 for 3 years; \$125 for 5 years)
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LRB3 - KASK HANDBOOK

For a copy (or trade orders) of this mother of all sea kayaking handbooks, contact Paul Caffyn, RD 1, Runanga, 7854. West Coast.

e-mail: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz

Price: \$24.00

New members: gratis

Make cheques out to KASK (NZ) Inc.

THE LRB3, or the Little Red Book 3rd. Edition, is a mammoth compilation on all aspects of sea kayaking in New Zealand, by many of the most experienced paddlers in the Universe. Following a brief introduction, the handbook is divided into six sections:

- Kayak, Paddle & Equipment
- Techniques & Equipment
- The Elements
- Trips and Expeditions
- Places to Go
- Resources

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EDITORIAL

Orca Video Clip

A video clip has been circulating worldwide, showing three sea kayakers with a huge, enormous killer whale leaping out of the sea and capsizing one of the paddlers who rolls upright. The disparity of scale led me to believe it was a montage, very much like the image of the bloke hanging on a ladder under a helicopter with a huge great white shark leaping up towards him. And this was confirmed by Peter Treby of the Victorian Sea Kayak Club:

The Crunched-by-Orca-and-Roll clip turns out (of course), to be a mock up for a Japanese Powerade commercial. See:

http://www.guingamp.maville.com/galerie_humour/galerie.asp?Niveau=Detail&IdentGalerie=658&IdentTypeGalerie=3

Still, good to keep in mind when practising rolls!

Expeditions

Conrad Edwards and Alison Turner paddled foldboats along the Cambodian coastline over the Xmas holiday period and fortunately missed the worst of the effects of the Boxing Day tsunami.

The pre-planning phase of this trip is include in a photograph on page 6.

There are two expeditions heading to the Preservation Inlet area in February, the first led by Stanley Mulvany and Susan Cade, and two weeks later a team of mostly Wellington paddlers, the lentil curry munchers, with a carnivore group including the editor, AJ and Nettie. With plenty of digital cameras amongst the groups, there should be some good reports in the next newsletter.

An advertisement for mother ship paddling in Fiordland and Stewart Island is included in the n/l.

Brent Harrison has written briefly of some of the highlights on an August 2004 trip to Prince William Sound, Alaska, with pics by Malcolm Gunn. Fiordland has great scenery but it lacks the monstrous calving glaciers and

abundant marine/on shore wildlife of Prince William Sound.

KASK SURVEY

Thanks to all those who took the time to fill in the questionnaire enclosed with newsletter 112. And thanks for all the personal notes of thanks to both Vanessa Hughes, Administration Officer, and myself. There were some beaut comments: 'Do not circum to political sensitivity' 'I leant my KASK Handbook out two years ago and never got it back. So it must be good!'

Vanessa worked up a 70 page powerpoint presentation of the results of the survey. If anyone is keen to view this, email either Vanessa or myself. Iona Bailey has summarized the results in to a text file for this n/l.

2005 KASK FORUM

Please send in your registration form that was included in the last n/l, or download a form off the KASK website.

KASK AGM

Two motions have been received for the AGM. The first to replace the constitutional roles of secretary and treasure with that of an Administration Officer, and the second to increase the annual individual subscription to \$35 and the family sub. to \$40.

WEBSITE

Sandy Ferguson has updated the KASK website and will be acting as webmaster while Susan Cade is paddling in Fiordland for all of February.

THANKS

To the contributors.
To Alan Hall for the mailout.
To Susan Cade, Cathye Haddock and Peter Simpson for the n/l 113 mailout.

DEADLINE

15 March for material for newsletter No.115

KASK

KASK SURVEY REPORT by Iona Bailey

People applying for or renewing KASK Membership for 2004/2005 were asked to complete a Questionnaire with their Application Form. This survey document was developed by Susan Cade, Iona Bailey and Vanessa Hughes at the request of the KASK Committee, in an attempt to understand members' perceptions and preferences on a range of issues. It is hoped that the results of this survey will give the Committee some clear direction for future planning of KASK activities. The results of the survey have been analysed by Vanessa up until 17 December 2005, in the form of a Power Point Display. I will attempt to précis this analysis for the KASK Newsletter.

The questionnaire aimed to obtain information regarding the following issues:

1. The Constitution, whether a change was required and if so what change.
2. The Newsletter, whether this was supported by members and what suggestions could be offered for changes to improve it.
3. The Handbook, again whether this was supported and suggestions for improvements.
4. Training, whether KASK should be involved in training members and to gauge support for various training options.
5. Collating and sharing information, where again options were offered.
6. Other activities including representing members on relevant issues, seeking funding for KASK activities and Discount Cards.

7. Website, gauging member preferences and suggestions for changes.

8. Forum suggestions for forum activities.

9. Advertising trips by local networks, to gauge support for this idea.

10. Ideas for future projects.

11. Suggestions for KASK initiatives relating to environmental issues involving sea kayakers.

12. Basic demographic data concerning respondents such as age, sex, and sea kayaking experience.

216 out of 231 new members/renewals completed the questionnaire. This represents a 93.5% response rate. We do not know why 15 people did not complete the questionnaire. Although the high response rate indicates that the results of the survey are likely to represent the views of the KASK members, it must be pointed out that the total number of KASK members for 2004/5 is likely to reach 800+. Therefore we must be slightly guarded in our analysis of the results.

Overall, the feedback from members was positive in all the above categories. However it was noted that in the latter stages of the survey, fewer respondents offered comment. For instance whereas 90+% of respondents answered questions relating to Items 1 to 6, only around 70% of respondents offered suggestions for items 7 to 11. This most likely represents waning interest as the questionnaire was quite long. It does however potentially represent reduced validity of the data for these items.

83% of respondents felt that KASK was achieving its objectives either very well or quite well. Most of the rest were unsure. Despite this 89% were in favour of maintaining the present constitution. Most of those suggestions for change relate to KASK's relationship with commercial operators and safety/training issues.

88% of respondents rated the Newsletter as either very good or good, with most of the rest undecided. Only 31% (68) offered suggestions for improvements of whom 19% (13) wished more equipment reviews, 13% (9) requested the humour be left out. A few people asked for fewer trip reports and a few for more trip reports! 15% (10) asked for more colour or pictures.

No respondents were unsupportive of the Handbook with 96% rating it as either excellent or very good. There were some good ideas for improvements from 14% (28) which included improving quality and presentation, keeping up to date with new technologies, equipment, training ideas and adding more trip location information.

Biographic Notes:

Susan Cade is the current President of KASK 2004. She is an active member of the Wellington Sea Kayaking Network and has considerable experience as a sea kayaker.

Iona Bailey is a current member of the KASK Committee, a General Practitioner specialising in Travel Medicine in Tauranga and is actively involved sea kayaking in the Bay of Plenty.

Vanessa Hughes is the KASK Administrator and resides on the West Coast.

TRAINING

CSKN Training (Canterbury Sea Kayak Network)

Date: 24 Jan 2005

by: John Kirk-Anderson

Question: How do you treble the number of sea kayakers attending a network paddle?

Answer: Offer free training!

Peter Sullivan, John de Garnham, Stephen Counsel and John Kirk-Anderson, all members of the Canterbury Sea Kayak Network (CSKN), made an offer to run coaching at the end-of-month paddle.

Started by the late Ray Forsyth, and continued by Peter Sullivan, these trips have become a regular for a small number of network paddlers. Catering mainly to beginners, the trips were restricted by many of the participants doing little other paddling, and hence their skill did not improve. This limited where the trips could go, and so discouraged other paddlers from joining in.

CSKN holds an informal forum every year at Okains Bay, Banks Peninsula, and for many it is their only chance to work on skills in a supported environment. In an effort to encourage the beginner/intermediate paddlers to extend themselves, an offer was made to train those prepared to put some work in.

It was emphasised that if paddlers required specific skill training, or more personalised coaching, then professional instructors would be happy to meet their needs. As this training is free, the coaches reserved the right to only put effort into those who do the same. The four coaches were volunteering their time, and they wouldn't be wasting it.

Despite this line-in-the-sand approach, 30 paddlers have come forward and attended the first session, conducted

in a windy Lyttelton Harbour, on forward paddling.

The most rewarding aspect for the coaches was that more than half of those paddlers did not attend other network events, despite being involved enough to get the CSKN e-mails. Hopefully they will find that the network has relevance to them and they will make it their own organisation. Already there has been a request for a sharing of contact details, which is exactly the role of the network.

The Okains Bay forum, scheduled for Feb 19 and 20, is free to all (a camping fee applies) and it will continue on with the training for those already involved. The forum is always informal, and other sessions will be run as the participants desire.

A waiting list has already started for those who missed out on this training, but it is likely to be next year before they get the chance.

In the meantime, students of the CSKN bootcamp will be out doing their "homework" - going paddling.

John Kirk-Anderson

NATIONAL SEA KAYAK AWARD UP & RUNNING

The December 2004 NZOIA Quarterly magazine has the above headline above a two page update on national sea kayak awards, written by Andy Thompson. John Kirk-Anderson wrote about this in the last KASK newsletter.

The 2005 calendar for Sea Kayak Instructor Level 1 assessment dates is listed as:

Auckland, 20/02/05
(closing date 20 /01)
Christchurch 26/02/05
(closing date 26/01)
Dunedin 26/02/05
(closing date 26/01)
Auckland 30/04/05
(closing date 30/03)
Christchurch 07/05/05
(closing date 7/0)
Dunedin 30/04/05
(closing date 30/03)
Auckland 12/11/05
(closing date 12/10)
Christchurch 12/11/05
(closing date 12/10)
Dunedin 12 /11/05
(closing date 12/10)

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SPRAYSKIRTS

Neoprene or Welded Nylon

In recent months I have heard from two paddlers who have a problem with some sort of acid reflux, considered probably due to wearing tight neoprene sprayskirts. With the Australian paddler, it was so bad, he usually brought up his breakfast or lunch after a few hours paddling.

I tried a neoprene sprayskirt back in the dark ages but found it too constricting and used skirts supplied with the Sisson kayaks made of a green duck (sort of fine canvas) material. These had a piece of shockcord which could be tightened around the chest to keep water out during surf landings.

Ingrid Visser, formerly of Abel Tasman Kayaks, imported several German made welded seam nylon sprayskirts, and after a brief trial, I have been using these ever since. The brand name is Zolzer Essen. The website for ordering is: http://www.zoelzer.de/shop_eng/discl.htm

Both paddlers who had the acid reflux are now the proud owners of new welded nylon sprayskirts and I will follow up with them to check if the reflux problem is now behind them.

AN INTERVIEW with TAISHO KANEKO

by Vincent Maire

Taisho Kaneko is a 30-year old sea kayaker from the Saitama Prefecture just north of Tokyo. Taisho first visited NZ three years ago and discovered sea kayaking. On his return home he took up the sport and is now a proficient and capable sea kayaker. He joined the Auckland Canoe Club's Northland trip and impressed everyone with his skills and friendly attitude. Taisho has taken a year off from his work as a computer technician to explore NZ's sea kayak and forest trails. He has a degree in Marine Science but has never worked in this field. Vincent Maire interviewed Taisho while he was having his kayak repaired after a collision with Roberton Island.

VM: Why are you back in NZ?

TK: When I was here three years ago I decided three months was not long enough to explore the country. I also like tramping and want to do more of that as well. I plan to spend a year here and to find work on organic farms.

VM: Why did you take up sea kayaking?

TK: It is like tramping in a kayak. I joined a kayak school in Japan and do my paddling with this group. The school is called Rain Dog and it publishes a very good sea kayaking magazine. The website is <http://www.h5.dion.ne.jp/~raindog/>.

VM: How many sea kayakers are there in Japan?

TK: About one thousand. But it is a growing sport. In Japan it is a sport for all ages but mostly older people do it. I am one of the younger ones in my group.



Taisho

VM: What are your favourite destinations in Japan?

TK: Sanriku is on the north-east coast of Honshu. There are many bays, peninsulas, beaches, caves and rocks. It is also very exposed. Another popular place is the Izu Peninsular, which is near Tokyo. I also go to the west coast of Honshu to a place called Sanin which is near the town of Tottori. Another great place to explore is the Uwa-Sea off the southern coast of Shikoku near the town of Uwajima. My home ground is Chiba, south of Japan.

VM: What happened at Roberton Island?

TK: I hit a rock with the bow of my Arctic Raider. I had to paddle about

100m to find a landing place and the front hatch was more than half full of water. I pumped out the water, taped the bow then filled my 10-litre water pouch with air and put that in the hatch. I also put in some dry bags.

VM: Will the boat live to paddle another day?

TK: Yes, Gordon Robinson is repairing it for me.

VM: Where else do you plan to kayak in NZ?

TK: I will return to the Far North after the boat is repaired. I also want to explore Great Barrier Island, Milford Sound and Stewart Island. I have already paddled around the Coromandel Peninsular. I also want to do more tramping.

VM: What have you liked best about the trip so far.

TK: It was very nice to paddle with local sea kayakers on the Auckland Canoe Club's Northland trip. I would like to meet more kiwi sea kayakers.

Taiko would like to hear from any sea kayakers who would like to have him join a trip. He can be contacted on taisho_k@hotmail.com

Well organized chaos. Conrad Edward's new kitchen area submerged with folding kayaks and kit during preparation for his late December trip to paddle the coast of Cambodia. Photo: Conrad Edwards



NEW ZEALAND TRIP REPORTS

A Trip to George Sound by Belinda and Stan Mulvany

There is a rough track across middle of Fiordland from Lake Te Anau to George Sound. It is not your average 'Great Walks' track and it passes through some pretty inhospitable terrain. The route was first described by Richard Henry (Resolution Island fame) and Robert Murrell in 1899. Belinda and I were keen to explore the region over Christmas and New Year.

On Christmas day we left in our kayaks, from Te Anau Downs, paddling up the Middle Fiord of Lake Te Anau. It is about a 25 kilometre paddle. The day was fine with grand view of snow-clad mountains beyond Lake Hankinson. It was an easy paddle but about 3 kilometres from the beach at the end of the North West Arm, the wind suddenly sprang up and we had to power paddle in strong wind and breaking waves.

There is a 500 meter track from the beach across a small hill to Lake Hankinson and it took us two hours to carry across all our gear and the two

kayaks. Then it was another hour paddle up Hankinson and the river to the hut. There was a blue sit-on kayak tied up to a tree at the hut belonging to a Christchurch couple. Belinda was pooped and went to bed without dinner. By now the rain had come on and it continued next day giving us an excuse to have a rest day. Kevin and Naida decided to push on to Thomson Hut and I went for a stretch of the legs in the rain to Lake Thomson. Unbeknown to us a giant Tsunami was sweeping across the Indian Ocean claiming countless lives.

On 27 December the rain had stopped and it brightened up a bit so we set off leaving our kayaks up on the bank and surplus gear stored in them. In five minutes we arrived at a walk wire across the river and the track is good on this section to near Lake Thomson. An hour later we crossed back to the true left of the river below the outlet of Lake Thomson on another walk wire. From here on it is a rough track that meanders across large slippery rocks and one has to be very careful not to have a fall on these. It took us another two hours to reach the Thomson Hut. This is a delight perched on top of a large rock outcrop overlooking forest. We had lunch here before carrying on across the Wapiti River thundering in a gorge near the hut.

The track rises gently for about an hour and climbs away from the Wapiti River. Then beside a waterfall on the

left it climbs steeply for about a 100 metres. The track is very rough and wet and deteriorates further along. It levels off and passes through a bog with low trees and logs spanning many of the deep pools. Here we found our Leki poles invaluable in maintaining our balance as we crept along greasy logs and for probing the depth of the bog holes.

This area was bad but worse was in store near the ominously named "Deadwood Lagoon". Here there were open areas of bog between scrub and there were some man-eating swamps here. It is all slow going and we eventually reached Deadwood lagoon which is nice enough. Continuing up the valley for about 200 metres the track/stream veers left up the hillside towards Henry Pass. There is a nice camping area about 15 minutes from the top and Kevin and Naida was just about to set up camp when we arrived.

We decided to push on to the Pass. Here there was a good view of the Marguerite Peaks and a cool wind was blowing through from the west. We set up camp on a dry flat area 50 feet below the pass on the east side of the Pass. Here a weka paid us a visit. We were to see quite a few wekas on the trip.

Next day dawned overcast and we set off down into Katherine valley. The track descends under an overhanging cliff some of the way and then heads

View from Henry Pass towards George Sound





The hut at the head of George Sound

straight down again very wet under foot. In the valley floor there was a good camping spot where the track levelled out. Then there was some good travelling and it was here we saw a family of wapiti including a fawn. We had startled them and they ran across the river and stopped to peer at us.

The valley then constricted and there was a big drop of about a hundred metres to a lower level. The most noticeable feature of this section was a huge area of dead trees caused by a rock avalanche at some time in the past. It must have been years ago as all the rocks were covered in lichen. By now the weather was definitely packing up as there were northwest winds racing across the peaks and a sudden arrival of gale force winds heralded the onset of rain. We pushed on to Lake Katherine and we had only just reached it when the rain started. After a bite to eat we carried on around it and pushed on down the valley to George Sound arriving here a bit damp. For the next 24 hours it poured down.

The DOC hut at George Sound is the oldest one on the route and has an open fireplace and is difficult to heat. We were the only ones there and looking at the hut book not many parties make it there. The previous party came by sea in October. We had a rest day in any case and by evening it has stopped raining so I went for a walk along the beach towards the Katherine River. Here the Alice Falls were in spate across the Sound. There were

lots of small fish jumping in the sea. DOC has removed the dingy from the boat shed probably due to the fall out over Cave Creek. There is not a lot to do at George Sound if you do not have a boat, as there is nowhere to walk to but the track in.

We left early next day in overcast weather and retraced our steps to Henry Saddle. It was a south-easterly so was sheltered to the west but on Henry Pass the rain started and from here on it was cold and wet all the way to Thomson Hut, which we arrived at, 10.5 hours after leaving George Sound. There was a man and his son there and he was not very enthusiastic about carrying on in the conditions. We had some noodles before retiring.

Next day it was a leisurely start for Hankinson in dry weather. We spent the night there before kayaking out on two January. The south-easterly was still blowing which made it hard for us but further down the Middle Fiord it died completely for a while so we carried on. We had thought of camping half was down but the sand flies were a deterrent. On the last leg across the breath of the main lake a strong southerly suddenly arrived and we had to power paddle across a beam sea. We got quite wet in the breaking waves and it was a relief to reach boat harbour.

A trip to George Sound by kayak/tramping 25/12/04-2/1/05 by Belinda and Stan Mulvany

(photos by Belinda and Stan)

NEW ZEALAND TRIP REPORTS

**Marsden Bay to
Helena Bay,
Northland, January 2005
by Giselle Clements**

Vincent Maire had organised a group of mainly Auckland paddlers for several days' paddling, starting from Helena Bay and moving south. One of the group, Evan Pugh, let it be known that he was planning on starting from Marsden Bay in Whangarei Harbour to meet the group at Helena Bay; anyone interested could join him. I hadn't met Evan before but decided to join him; Ryan Whittle from Auckland came too - these two are strong paddlers and my stamina would be tested.

Evan said we'd be leaving nice and early on Jan.2 to catch the outgoing tide. I'd brought my set of small wheels which alas were quite ineffectual in carrying a loaded kayak from the youth camping area at One Three Point to the slipway. Evan very graciously and with much effort pulled my load as well as the other two kayaks with his larger trolley. By 5.10am we were in the water being guided by the lights of the refinery.

As I probably wasn't quite awake yet I blew off the cobwebs by slamming the bow into a large post while adjusting my sprayskirt. Good one, Giselle, but no damage done! After several days of strong swells, the sea was now benign and we gazed east to a golden sky as dawn came. To the north, loomed the dark outline of Mt Manaia. Part of a Maori legend relates that during a feud between high-ranking Manaia and his wife the gods turned them, including their two daughters, into stone. Another legend tells of five mountains who wished to travel across oceans like Kupe; during an eruption, the mountains loosened themselves from the shores of Hawaiki and Manaia was the first to arrive at Whangarei Harbour before dawn - for

then their powers of motion would be taken from them. The other four mountains came to rest in other parts of the country.

We passed a shallow area, Calliope Bank, on our left near the harbour entrance. This was named after a frigate which was returning to Auckland in 1848 after being blown far offshore from Cape Brett. Approaching Whangarei Harbour, Calliope was struck by a squall which split her mainsail but she managed to gain shelter round the headland. No sooner had she done so then she came to gentle stop on a sandbank. She had to be towed to safety leaving her name for posterity attached to the sandbank. We passed Mair Bank to our right which was also named after a Captain Mair who, after being knocked overboard by the boom of his ship, was rescued from the surf near this bank.

Other more serious boating mishaps occurred, one in 1862 when a ferry boat was overturned near breakers - the rowers were distracted by a sermon given on board! Two passengers drowned while one woman had a lucky escape when her crinoline filled with air, thus acting as a life-buoy. We passed Busby Head named after James Busby a settler of the 1840s who had a reputation for fair trading with local Maori.

Bream head is a prominent basalt headland; this area was the scene of another tragedy when the cutter Thistle(ship's boat powered by oars or sail) struck rocks in 1868, was completely wrecked and two passengers drowned. Very recently one lucky paddler, Dan Hawthorn, was confronted by a Bryde whale, one of several, off Bream Head. To the south east, we could see the Hen & Chicken and Marotere islands as we skirted Ocean Beach which that morning was devoid of surfers. The coastline became more indented with lots of white water visible as a gentle swell broke against rock contours.

We could spot numerous caravans and tents alongside sheltered bays which for the time being are free from private mansions. Camping areas are

disappearing from Northland's east coast and Vincent Maire through KASK has been making submissions to DoC for facilities for sea kayakers.

From Ngunguru Bay, we could see the distant Little Barrier & Great Barrier Islands to the east. "I'd like to paddle back from Great Barrier sometime," said Evan.

After a very long day of 59kms with short stops, we cruised in at last onto the long narrow spit at Whananaki inlet. We found a neat camping area amongst the pines; I had to rely on the generosity of the other two for water as I'd only brought a small bottle. Instead of extra water, I had a full bladder of wine which I couldn't persuade the others to share!

The surf was still low the next day as we set off for Helena Bay to meet the main group. This bay was originally settled by Swiss migrants who became successful fruit growers, particularly of grapes. In the early afternoon, our large group of about 27 assorted kayaks including some doubles took off south aiming for the Whananaki Holiday Park. There was plenty of excitement for those seeking it, amongst the rock gardens. Those of us who were new to the area marvelled at the power of the swell as it rose and was deflected by the ridges, ledges and shoals of this rocky coastline.

It was near Whananaki inlet, that the Capitaine Bougainville caught fire in stormy conditions in 1975. Lifeboats capsized and sixteen people drowned. We didn't encounter stormy conditions but instead the hassles of a retreating tide. With just a few kayak trolleys, we took turns ferrying our gear across the mudflats, a playing field and onto a sealed road in order to reach the town's school which was being used as a campground.

The tide was more to our favour in the morning; some people were able to launch from the mudflats next to the campground. South of Matapouri Bay, we explored the rugged coastline and there was at least two capsizes; happily, with an outgoing tide the danger

of being swept against inshore rocks was minimal. Our Japanese visitor paddled through at least one gap where no-one else dared to go; 'like washing machine', was his laconic comment. This coastline is renowned for diving and surfcasting.

At Tutukaka, during the 1980s, an American woman set up a commune-type establishment whose followers were encouraged to emulate the dolphin's lifestyle and were underwater birth techniques were taught. Small coastal ships called scows were common at Ngunguru during the kauri-milling days. They also provided much of the trade to waterside pubs and coastal settlements. There was no tidal creek, shoal or mudflat that was too shallow to take a scow.

On entering Ngunguru inlet we observed the occasional large breaker to the right which attracted a few kayak surfers; the rest of the team chose to avoid the main breakers and entered the river channel fairly dry. It was quite a long paddle upriver but a short haul from the slipway to the campground. It's unfortunate that this holiday park has been auctioned and so the camping public will lose yet another holiday place.

The next day was one of relaxing and getting to know other people and gear. Some people paddled upriver and walked to an overgrown cemetery which I didn't visit; I had some battle scars i.e. blisters from rubbing and twisting against backrest of seat and cracked lips. One paddler had his parents at the campground and with their assistance we had an excellent barbecue; thank you, Vincent, for arranging this. As the marine forecast wasn't promising for later the next day, Evan decided the three of us should leave the main group and get away early with the outgoing tide.

We had a following wind part of the way south until we rounded Bream Head; from there the wind funnelled in front of us but we had the opportunity to peep into a cave - a short reprieve from the choppy sea. We arrived at the entrance to Whangarei Harbour with the tide still coming in

but even so the strong headwind was a test for sore muscles. As we approached the One Tree Point slipway, I was reminded to watch out for large marker poles! That day we covered 48kms.

Once out of the water, Evan phoned Vincent and learnt that the main group had decided to flag the rest of the trip. Rain and wind were forecast which did indeed eventuate. Thank you, Evan and Vincent, for the opportunity to see some awesome Northland coastline.

Giselle

NEW ZEALAND TRIP REPORTS

Wind and the Sounds by Evan Pugh

featuring Ron Moore, Phil Alley and Evan Pugh

December 1 2004 The three of us travelled from the Waikato, caught the ferry in perfect conditions and stayed at the Linkwater holiday park for the night. The plan was to paddle from the Mahakipawa Arm of Pelorus around to Anakiwa in Queen Charlotte but as the tide was fully out and miles of mud flats we started from Ohingaroa Bay in Mahau Sound.

8am we paddled away from our start point into a strong NW wind and struggled around Putanui Point, turning the corner and heading up Kenepuru Sound to be confronted with waterspouts appearing and attacking from our left with explosions of water nearby. A couple of times when hit with the fierce winds in the bay we would be bulldozed towards shore in a big hurry while bracing frantically. Once past this area we had a good tailwind that shoved us along to Goulter Bay then we about turned and camped the night at Ferndale Reserve near St. Omer after taking a look at the shipwreck around the corner. My new tent stood up to the strong winds dur-

ing the night and we had covered 28km for the day.

Morning came and away by 7am and paddled into a strong headwind back along Kenepuru and right into Hikapu Reach again into headwinds stopping for a break on the way on a sheltered beach. We had a look at Chance Bay, Phil paddled off down Nydia Bay and met up with Ron and I at Jacobs Bay where we set up camp for the night. It gets dark at 9.45pm but the sun goes down at Jacobs at 4.15 but a nice camp spot 29km for the day with NW winds.

It was 7.30 before we headed off in the morning and was flat calm for the first hour before the headwinds got us for the rest of the day, we paddled around Tawero Point and due East then down into Tennyson Inlet, we stayed at Matai Bay having a wash in the cold stream and washing some gear as we had time to dry it all today. Today covered 25km and again windy and saw a few penguins on the way.

Sunday the weather forecast was for gale warnings SW winds, but it was flat calm and we were on the water at 6.30am we paddled down to Worlds End where I presume sailing ships got lost going the wrong way, We went into Ngawhakawhiti Bay where the Nydia track is next to the bay for a look then about turned and headed back out of this lovely area for a stop at Elaine Bay.

Past the Islands and onto Waiona Bay for the night. We had done 29km for the day but two of us paddled out and around Maud Island adding another 15km total 44km in a fairly settled day with the wind picking up SW. We had a bit of rain in the evening and a weka had munched my sponge while the gale force winds didn't turn up.

Day 5 listening to the weather forecast - some Wellington houses lost there roofs and it had blown in camp, Ferries had been cancelled so we decided to stay where we were, as our next step was around the capes. We paddled for mussels (to eat) and had a great cook up; 10km today winds from the W sheltered in our bay but windy outside.

Up and away by 6.30 am, shock horror a tail wind gave us a great push out to Post Office Point and followed us around the southern end of Forsyth Island through Allen Pass, across to Tawaroa Point and South to Titirangi Bay, A tailwind all the way, it was great through this more rugged coastline and we landed on the beach to find the camping ground. After heaving our gear and kayaks up the sand dune we pitched our tents on the grassy campsite, paid our \$5 each to the farmer, washed all of our gear, showered and enjoyed the afternoon sun, walk and wekas. Today windy and 27km.

In the morning the weather forecast was again for strong 25 to 30knot NW turning to SE which was always the forecast but we decided to proceed leaving the bay at 7am then around Alligator Head and across to Cape Lambert, stopping on a beach 1km into the bay. Carrying on to Cape Jackson across Port Gore, the tide was going out giving us a helping hand but the wind was SE giving us a mixed variety of confused waves in some areas but not as bad as we expected in the morning.

Rounding Cape Jackson, past the seals on the shore, we paddled into calm water and landed on the world's smallest beach a couple of kms down into Queen Charlotte Sound. The beach would not be there with the tide in but a beach is a beach. I landed on the largest of the small waves and was driven straight for the rocks. I put the brakes on big time and stopped short of the rocky cliff. We had to lift our kayaks onto the rocks while we had a break as the waves covered the complete beach. We were sheltered all the way down to Cannibal Cove where we spent the night in this lovely site, SE wind and 33km today.

Our main objective was complete and even though we had been in this sound before, it was sight seeing time and of course in the morning it was windy NW winds but calmed down for an hour before turning SE. We paddled to Motuara Island, walked up the track to the viewing platform that gives you

an incredible 360° view, then back across to Cooks Cove. On leaving Cooks Cove it turned from warm, calm and sunny to a southerly 20 knot wind which we battled against steep waves and wind towards Blumine Island, half way across I realised we were paddling towards Pickersgill Island that looks the same and we changed course. It rained while we set up the tents, stopping instantly when we finished, so we sat watching the water and the logging ship go past. The logging ship go past - whoops hadn't realized that, it was only an hour after we landed so probably would have run us over as we probably would not have heard it coming in those conditions and they would have been lucky to see us. They don't use the Tory Channel as they can't manoeuvre enough so will keep an eye out for them next time. 16km for the day and it got cold that night and bad weather was forecast but didn't happen.

Day 9 and guess what it was windy NW turning to SW later, we paddled north and around Blumine Island then across to Spenser Bay. Heading south we saw a pod of dolphins jumping in the distance and paddled on to Ratimera Bay in Ruakaka Bay to camp. Two Aussies in singles were there and decided to paddle off towards Picton as the weather was settled at this stage but they got half way out of the bay and the sou-wester came back to life.

We could see the white water and waves from 2km away out in the sound with boats struggling to make ground. Whatever the wind speed was it was pretty nasty out there and continued for a couple of hours. The Aussies made a good choice and came back to set up camp as none of us wanted to be out there. Today 20km and we paid our camp fees here in one hit, rather than at each DoC camp site.

The last day on the water - 6.50am (it gets light at 5am) calm as it could be, we paddled the 24km to Anakiwa, finishing with a slight tail breeze to shoo us off, but the wind did pick up later of course. We had completed the loop and Phil ran back the 3.5km for

the van, we packed up went back to Linkwater and washed most of our gear as it was only early.

The trip was a ripper with some great camping spots, scenery, wildlife and isolated spots, the climax being getting around the capes which we did with ease in the end. We spent a lot of time paddling into head winds but that was just luck of the draw. It was pretty cold on some of the nights for this time of the year but we hardly had any rain and enjoyed the journey.

The wekas, I love animals and know the wekas and will hand feed the real friendly ones raisins.... But even though we were real careful they stole the soap, some slices of bread, pieces of chocolate, and wrecked my sponge. I caught two of them in my tent (unattended for 3 minutes). They tried stealing a whole large bar of chocolate and a big bag full of goodies but tripped over. One even snuck up and pecked the back of my leg but they keep all the food scraps down which hopefully reduces wasps and rats so just remember the little buggers can be annoying but do a good job.

Evan Pugh

OVERSEAS TRIP REPORT

**Prince William Sound,
Alaska
August 2004
by Brent Harrison**

Still in bright sunshine at 9pm saw us busy packing our rented kayaks on a rocky cove close by the ferry terminal at Valdez. We had just arrived by sea after 6.5 hour ferry trip from Whittier and were eager to feel the cold waters of Prince William Sound sliding beneath us. Across the bay we could see the Valdez Marine Terminus where the 1200 mile oil pipeline from the Arctic terminated. Gigantic storage tanks held the millions of gallons of black liquid before being pumped into the holds of waiting oil tankers destined for populated USA.

Our first night saw us making camp just two hours out of town in a delightful spot - a salmon filled stream, 11.30pm and it was only just dark (61° latitude).

So the scene was set as we paddled and explored as much of the indented coastline as our 11 allotted days allowed. We experienced at close quarters the many and varied tidewater glaciers that abound in the sound. Forever alert looking for new and

Paddling amongst bergy bits calved off the mighty Columbia Glacier, in Prince William Sound. Photo: Malcolm Gunn.



previously unseen (by us) wildlife and we were not disappointed - bald eagles, sea otters, deer, marmots, puffins, stella sea lions and of course, bears (10 of them). In our kayaks we were able to get close to a mother black bear and her three cubs before she smelt the smell of us three humans, gathered her cubs and retreated into the forest. Sea otters provided enchanting entertainment as we paddled the miles past forest covered shoreline and other areas scraped naked by the many large retreating glaciers.

Hundreds of dead trees were testament to the 1964 Good Friday earthquake that rocked the area with the resulting tsunami wiping out Valdez and much of the low lying land.

Idyllic campsites abounded, a safe distance away from the bear's favourite source of food - salmon choked spawning streams - with tall trees also to suspend our food bags high up on overhanging branches.

We must have been blessed as apart from two or three evenings the bugs and flies were no match for the sandflies of Fiordland. Even the weather was on our side with day after day of flat calm seas, temperatures in the low 20's and only one afternoon of light drizzle.

Near the Coxe Glacier, horizontal grooves in the bedrock are glacial striations carved by the glacier before it began a phase of retreat. Photo: Malcolm Gunn



Heather Island. Photo: Malcolm Gunn



Packenhamp. Photo: Malcom Gunn

Before we knew it, our trip to paradise was over and we were collected by water taxi from the impressive Harriman Fiord and powered by two 200hp Yamaha outboards back to Whittier.

Personally our trip to Prince William Sound surpassed all my expectations as a paddling destination with relatively easy access from our part of the world. Collectively I think our only disappointment was not sighting any of the Orca that frequent the area (Maybe next time).

My own personal highlight had to be the picking and eating of wild blueberries to have with our morning porridge.

Party members: Malcolm Gunn, Paul Lenihan and Brent Harrison.

IN THE NEWSPAPERS

(from Sandy Ferguson)

From the Dominion Post 20/10/2004

KAYAKER RESCUED

Maritime police plucked a kayaker with hypothermia from Evans Bay yesterday morning after a training paddle almost turned to disaster.

Two calls were made to police about 8:45 am about a person trying to swim to shore pulling a kayak. The police launch Lady Elizabeth II arrived at 9 am to find the exhausted man, aged 40, 100 meters from shore unable to swim any further. He had been in the water for an hour. The man was treated at Wellington Hospital and discharged.

From the Nelson Mail, 10/1/05

Kayaker Rescues Man

A 32 year old Ruby Bay man, whose dinghy capsized in waters off Ruby Bay on Friday, was rescued by a passing kayaker. Motueka police said the man, who had been wearing a lifejacket, was plucked from the water and taken back to shore by the kayaker who spotted him in the water after he got into trouble.

ROUND AUSSIE PADDLER

by Paul Caffyn

A press release in the Australian newspaper, the 'Illawarra Mercury' in Wollongong on 7 January noted James Warne had set off from Queenscliff on 28 December to paddle around Australia.

A Special Needs Teacher at Lake Illawarra High School. He planned to travel anti-clockwise in a Mirage sea kayak. He was being supported by friends in a van on shore, Wes McCombe and Berdine Bronkhurst. They hoped to raise \$500,000 for Camp Quality over the 12-month journey.

A teacher and lover of the great outdoors, Mr Warne said the expedition

was a personal challenge for the participants but more importantly a fund raiser for Camp Quality. Mr Warne, of Wollongong, said the anti-clockwise route was necessary from a kayak perspective to have the most favourable winds and conditions.

And a recent update from Peter Treby in Melbourne:

Keeping you posted. James Warne rang into a Sunday morning radio programme yesterday (23 January 2005), which I chanced to hear while driving to a surf practice day at Pt Leo. He had reached Wollongong, and was talking on his mobile 1 km offshore. He has set a schedule to target, and plans to take a year for the whole trip. He said he had paddled 95 km one day, and had an interesting time going around the Prom. He'd seen a big shark somewhere. Sounded like the trip was going well.

From the Canterbury Sea Kayak Network Newsletter. A note of three commercial sea kayaking trips.

FIORDLAND/STEWART ISLAND SEA KAYAKING

Three adventure trips, each 9/10 days in duration. These trips will be run from the vessel Crystal Voyager which can sleep 10 people and has the advantages of a sandfly-proof galley and mess and has hot showers. The sea kayaking tour will be met each evening by the Crystal Voyager which is your accommodation at whatever destination we choose on a daily basis. This vessel is a 27 ton, 40 foot double ended, kauri planked, ex fish-

ing boat which has been extensively renovated and is an extremely seaworthy vessel.

The cost will be \$200 per person, per day, and this includes meals, accommodation and boat transport. You will need to provide your own kayak, sleeping bag and clothing.

Dusky Sound:

23 April to 1 May (9 days)

Leaving from Bluff but this can be flexible. The format for this trip is to climb the first peak ever climbed by white man when Captain Cook surveyed Dusky Sound and paddle around historic sites.

Preservation Inlet:

7 May to 15 May (9 days)

Leaving from Bluff but this can be flexible. This trip will check-out the caves where the sealers kept their seal skins at Cape Providence and the gold mining towns around Cromarty, investigate Chalky Inlet, visit Puysegur Point Lighthouse.

East Coast of Stewart Island:

20 May to 30 May (10 days)

Leaving from Bluff. Call into Oban (capital city of Stewart Island) go down past the heads to Paterson Inlet to Port Adventure then past Breaksea Islands to Lords River, then on down to Port Pegasus to spend a few days exploring this area.

For further details contact:

Denis McLachlan, Phone 03-312-4105. (7.00 a.m. is a good time or early evenings).

An essential piece of kit for foldboat paddlers - a coffee percolating machine. Photo: Conrad Edwards



CALENDAR

2005 NATIONAL KASK FORUM

Date: midday Friday 25 March - midday Monday 28 March
Venue: Cobham Outward Bound School, Anakiwa, Marlborough Sounds
Guest Speaker: David Winkworth from Australia
Overnight paddle on the Sunday night to Mistletoe Bay
Training sessions, lectures and slide shows.

Registration form included with KASK Newsletter 113.
Registration forms also on the KASK website: www.kask.co.nz
Email enquiries to:
H.Woodward@xtra.co.nz

The annual Canterbury Sea Kayak Network OKAINS BAY FORUM

The annual Mini Forum will be hosted by the Canterbury Sea Kayak Network,
19 - 20 February 2005, at Okains Bay, Banks Peninsula.

Free to all, except for camping fees, this is a chance for paddlers to get together at a very informal forum, with some structure if people want it. Coastal paddling, a sheltered lagoon, and low surf keep most paddlers happy, with some instruction for those who wish it.

Contact: sandy.ferguson@canterbury.co.nz

IN THE MAGAZINES

'Sea Kayaker' February 2005

Articles include:

- Digital navigation for kayakers (GPS and computer maps)
- Paddler profile on New York based Eric Stiller. Eric, with Tony Brown paddled from Bondi to Darwin, and he wrote the book 'Keep Australia on Your Left.'
- High Bracing drills, recovering without rolling
- Paddling the Southern Cayes of Belize
- Paddling the Kamchatka Peninsula. Written by English adventure filmmaker Justine Curgenvin, this is a great story of 400 mile paddle along the exposed south-east coast of the Kamchatka

Peninsula. Teamed up with another lass, Hadas Feldman from Israel, they arrived at the coastal town of Petropavlovsk where they were obliged by the Russian authorities to take a Russian 'guide' along with them. They chose Alexy, who had only been in a river kayak a couple of times, and spent the first few days training him to cope with surf landings and launchings. On the very first day of the trip, after a big surf landing, a Russian tank arrived after they had set up their tents and the soldiers demanded they load the kayaks and all the equipment onto the tank. After a standoff and a satellite phone call, they were tanked to a military base and held under armed guard for three hours while Alexy conducted negotiations. They were allowed to leave and dropped back, by tank, at the exact spot where they had landed. Photographs of bears and volcanoes enhance the excellent writing.

'SeaTrek' No.51

Victorian Sea Kayak Club Newsletter
Articles include:

- portable weather and tide predictions using PDA's (portable digital assistants)
- tarding up a tupperware (plastic) kayak; adding a pump box and padding
- sea kayaks and GPS
- first aid for sea kayaking

'NSW Sea Kayaker' No. 58

Articles include:

- short wave radios; better reception than VHF radios for weather forecasts
- solo crossing of Bass Strait by Andrew McAuley
- public liability insurance, risk and wavers

SAFETY

Paddle Float Rescues by Paul Caffyn

On 3 November 2004, a prospective sea kayak guide drowned off Delaware Bay, near Pepin Island, just north of Nelson. I spent a day with Nick Woods of Cable Bay Kayaks, looking at the kayak and equipment used by the prospective guide and trying to ascertain what exactly was the cause of the incident. As the coroner's inquest has yet to be held - reports to the Nelson coroner have been supplied by both Nick Woods and Paul Caffyn for KASK - I will focus only on a probable explanation for what went wrong.

The prospective guide set out at 1pm from Cable Bay for a four nautical mile paddle around Pepin Island to Delaware Bay, where he would paddle with the top of the tide up an estuary to the Cable Bay Kayak's base. The kayak was a yellow plastic Looksha, equipped with paddle float, pump, emergency pack with flares, spare split paddle, and paddle jacket in dry bag. High water was at 2.09pm. The forecast was for afternoon sea breezes. He had a hour long briefing on self rescue techniques, including the paddle float rescue from Nick before he launched in calm conditions from the beach at Cable Bay.

Early afternoon an onshore breeze picked up to approx. 20 knots with a choppy sea up to 1.5m in height. When the prospective guide had not arrived by 4.30pm, a search and rescue operation was initiated. At about 7pm, the kayak was located close to the beach in Delaware Bay, and some distance away, a body wearing a buoyancy vest and sprayskirt. Also found separately, a paddle with inflated paddle float.

Nick Woods uses a tether or lanyard, one end attached to the paddle float, and the other end secured inside the kayak cockpit to the seat, with sufficient length of cord to allow the float

to be attached to the paddle in its extended position for a self rescue (see photograph).

It would seem the prospective guide capsized in choppy conditions off the northern end of Pepin Island, exited the cockpit and attempted to self rescue by using the paddle float. Inadvertently he untied the tether securing the paddle float to the cockpit during the self rescue. If the paddle then slipped out from under the aft deck stretchy cords, it would have drifted away from the kayak. If the prospective guide has swum after the paddle, the 20 knot onshore breeze would have drifted the kayak faster than he could swim when he attempted to return to the kayak with the paddle. Then out of contact with the kayak, he lost not only the buoyancy of the kayak to drift into the beach, not also the paddle jacket and flare kit, and succumbed to either hypothermia or drowning before reaching the beach in Delaware Bay.

The lessons learned from this incident are:

- the paddle float should be secured to the kayak, either inside the cockpit or the decklines if it is stored on the aft deck

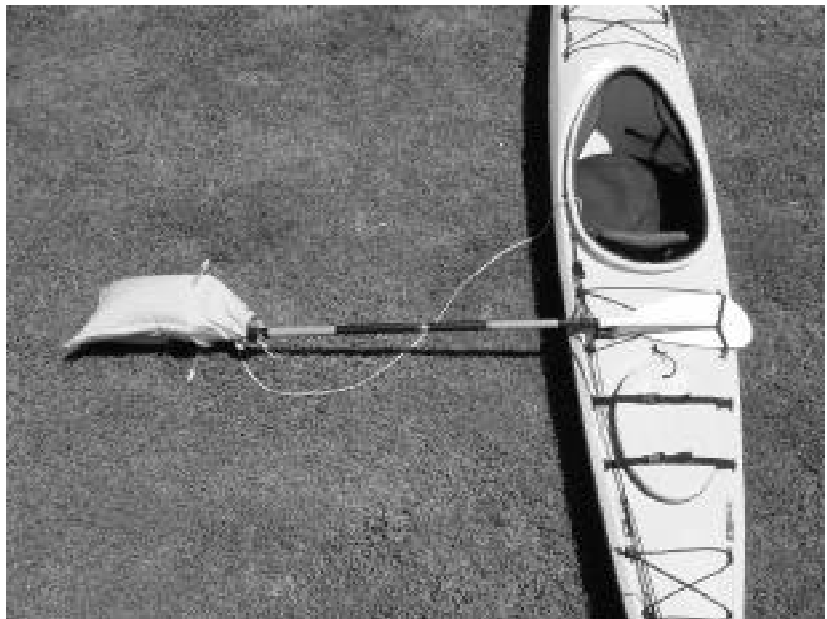
- the paddle float should not be detached during a self rescue

My recommendations included with the report to the coroner included:

- solo paddlers in the event of a capsize at sea must be proficient at self rescue, that is be able to Eskimo roll, or do a re-entry and roll, or effect a paddle float rescue.

- self rescue paddle floats should be attached and remain attached to a kayak during a self rescue

- solo paddlers need to carry/wear clothing suitable for cold water immersion following a capsize



Paddle float self rescue, showing one end of the paddle slid under the decklines, aft of the cockpit, the other end of the paddle with inflated paddle float, and tether from paddle float to the cockpit.

Comments:

If anyone has suggestions for improving the safety of a paddle float self rescue, please send your comments to the editor.

BOOK REVIEW

Title: 'Eastern Arctic Kayaks: History, Design, Technique'

Authors: John D. Heath & Eugene Arima

Contributions from: John Brand, Hugh Collings, Harvey Golden, H.C. Petersen, Johannes Rosing and Greg Stamer

Published: 2004

Publisher: University of Alaska Press

Reviewer: Christopher Cunningham

Price: US\$ 45

This review originally appeared in the December 2004 issue of *Sea Kayaker* magazine (www.seakayakermag.com). It appears here with permission.

There are some books that are destined to become classics the moment they're released. I suspect *Eastern Arctic Kayaks* will take its place alongside greats such as *Skinboats of Greenland* and *Bark Canoes and Skin Boats of North America*. The list of contributors to this new volume includes the late John Heath, a frequent *Sea Kayaker* contributor, and Canadian ethnologist Eugene Arima, also the author of several articles for *Sea Kayaker*.

This book represents a passing of the torch to some younger emerging students of traditional kayaking: Greg Stamer and Harvey Golden. The book begins with a memorial to John Heath. Heath lived long enough to get this work to the publisher but unfortunately died before it went to press.

Heath's opening chapter, "Kayaks for Greenland," is, like Heath was, brimming with a broad spectrum of information about traditional kayaks. His description of several museum specimens is accompanied by line drawings and photographs. His section on Greenland paddles is brief—only a page and a half—and without illustrations (Collings and Brand include drawings in later chapters), but it has

valuable information on stroke dynamics and scaling a paddle to fit, as well as a description of a "parlor trick" for "bouncing" a paddle off the water and using it half-submerged as a megaphone to call seals.

Heath goes into greater detail on training, paddling and rolling techniques. His line drawings illustrate a number of rolls and braces and include two drawings first published in Heath's appendix to Adney and Chappelle's classic volume, *Bark Canoes and Skin Boats of North America* (Smithsonian Institution, 1964). For anyone interested in learning a few of the many different Greenland rolls, this section is reason enough to get this book.

Heath's instructions are clearly written and will be sufficient for many to learn Greenland techniques, and for others, it will serve as a valuable companion to Heath's videos. There is also a section that instructors will find helpful in helping new paddlers get used to the capsized position, whether following the Greenland model of teaching rolling or the recreational approach of teaching wet exiting. Some of the advanced rolling techniques—using the paddle, floats, throwing sticks and hands alone—include sequential photographs.

Surprisingly, at the end of the rolling section, Heath writes: "But most Greenlanders cannot roll at all. One of the veteran seal catchers...could not do any of the capsizing maneuvers that the youngsters were performing. But he had once caught 20 seals in one day, which won him more respect...than he would have gotten as a champion kayaker."

The chapter "Using Greenland Paddles; an Overview" is the contribution of Greg Stamer of Florida. He was the winner of his age class in the 2000 Greenland championships and winner of his age class in the rolling division in 2002. He overlaps some of Heath's material on Greenland paddles, albeit with a bit more detail, but goes into great depth on the forward stroke. Stamer appears in his chapter's photographs dressed in a neoprene replica of the Greenland tuiq,

using a modern laminated Greenland-style paddle and paddling a modern composite kayak. While he seems a bit out of place in a book dominated by lashed wood and sealskin, Stamer helps the book and the growing Greenland movement bridge the gap between the traditional and modern recreational kayakers.

Harvey Golden also competed in the Greenland championships, but his efforts have been focused on documenting museum specimens and building replicas to see how they handle. More than anyone, Golden has taken on Heath's mantle and is, fortunately, remarkably well qualified for that role. His chapter describes 11 of an astounding 38 kayaks that he documented on a trip to Europe and Greenland. His drawings, with one exception, depict the skin-covered forms, so the viewer must speculate on the hidden intricacies of the framework, just as Golden did when building his replicas.

Collings presents two kayaks in a Swedish collection. His drawings illustrate elements of kayak construction and deck fittings and paddle cross-sections and joinery.

John Brand, in the following chapter, elevates kayak documentation to an art form that appears to combine elements of construction blueprints and patent drawings. Brand's material in *Eastern Arctic Kayaks* is excerpted from his long-out-of-print trilogy, *The Little Kayak Book*. Brand's descriptions of 11 kayaks appear without the copious notes that appeared in his original trilogy. Readers of *Eastern Arctic Kayaks* will see Brand's drawings labeled with letters without the notes they refer to. The drawings also appear without the tables of offsets he had originally included. For the home builder, this is an unfortunate omission, but his drawings and abridged descriptions are nonetheless valuable to readers interested in the variations on the traditional kayak theme.

The brief contributions from H.C. Petersen and Johannes Rosing are excerpted from *Kajjakk*, a small volume published in 1991, and only

in Danish. Petersen describes a number of training games played by young kayakers. He also cites some impressive numbers in describing fast passages made by Greenland paddlers. One paddler covered 85 miles at an average speed of 7.1 miles per hour, and another, Ezekias Davidson, covered about 17 miles in under an hour. Petersen suggests that a variant of the forward stroke made such speed possible: "The paddle is dipped deep into the water and the stroke is performed fast with an upward motion so the current hits the aft end of the kayak from below and lifts it upward." Heath mentioned this stroke on occasion. I've tried it without success, but I haven't followed up on Davidson's training tip: "I run out of tobacco and have to get to the store fast."

Arima, in his chapter "Kayaks of the East Canadian Arctic," also mentions the use of a special forward stroke used by the Canadian Inuit to chase down fast-swimming caribou: "When the paddle is tilted, the kayak will not have a tendency to dig in but will run on top." Arima describes a number of arcane kayaking techniques that make it clear that native kayakers were working with a degree of refinement that seems quite distant from recreational practices. I have paddled over seven knots only on a handful of occasions, and to paddle at that speed, pick up a harpoon to hit a seal or a whale in a vital organ or at a particular moment of its surfacing, all seems unimaginably difficult. But who knows—if your life hangs in the balance or you're dying for a smoke, maybe such things are possible.

That almost mystical speed and sea-keeping ability of early kayaks is perhaps the allure of traditional kayaking and the appeal of a book like *Eastern Arctic Kayaks*. This book is not merely about ancient kayaks gathering dust in museums. To be sure, it peers into those fragile dark hulls, but it also traces the thread of kayaking culture through roughly four centuries of documented history to the renewal of traditional kayaking in the present day. The legacy has much to offer devotees of skin-on-frame kayaks as well as the rest of the modern kayak-

ing community. We can, through the eyes of Heath, Arima and the others, in the words of John Brand, "see the kayaks in our museums as live things dancing over the waves as they did when their makers were young."

Christopher Cunningham is editor of *Sea Kayaker*.

AVAILABILITY

- The book (\$US45 + p&p) can be ordered from the 'Sea Kayaker' website:
www.seakayakermag.com

- I have placed an order for 10 copies from the publisher. If you would like to order a copy, advise me via email, phone or fax, with contact details and mailing address for delivery. The books should arrive by mid-February. Price approx. NZ\$60 including postage.

SOME NOTES ON THE AUTHORS & CONTRIBUTORS.

by Paul Caffyn

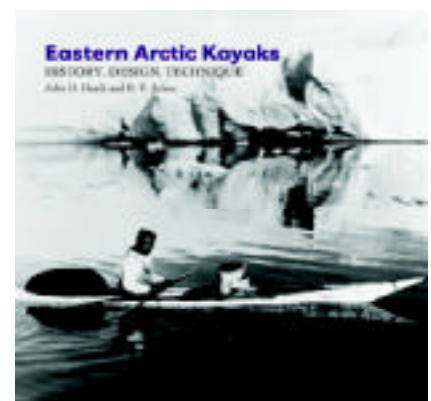
John Heath died in July 2003, unfortunately before he could see the results of his lifelong passion in the history of skin kayaks in print. Born in 1923, John began writing regular articles on skin kayaks and paddlers of the Arctic regions for 'American White Water' magazine in the early 1960's. His 1968 article 'Eskimo Kayakers of King Island' is of interest for Canterbury paddlers as a King Island kayak is held at the museum in Christchurch. An appendix on the Kayak Roll by John Heath was included in the classic work 'The Bark and Skin Boats of North America' by Adney and Chapelle.

John wrote a total of 17 articles in 'Sea Kayaker' magazine including profiles of the best Greenland paddlers. His trips to Greenland to study the locals styles of rolling and paddling led to John bringing the reigning Greenland kayak champion to the USA and they toured the country demonstrating traditional rolls and rope exercises.

Although John Brand acknowledged in first 'Little Kayak Book' that John Heath was the father of modern kayak research, John Brand, an architect, was the leading light in Great Britain with carrying out surveys of 21 skin kayaks stored in English and Danish museums. His three self published books 'The Little Kayak Book, Part II and Part III' are works of art with detailed drawings and handwritten text. Part II includes 'An Introduction fo Kayak Surveying', which was used when Canterbury paddlers surveyed the King Island kayak in 1997.

Eugene Arima, a Canadian ethnohistorian, has several significant books published on skins kayaks of the Arctic: 'A Contextural Study of the Caribou Eskimo Kayak' 1975, 'Inuit Kayaks of Canada: A Review of Historical Records and Construction' 1987, and was editor of the 1991 'Contributions to Kayak Studies', which included papers by 11 writers, such as John Heath, Gert Nooter, George Dyson & Kenneth Taylor.

H.C. Petersen was born in Greenland in 1929. Concerned in the 1950's by the disappearance of skin kayaks from the villages, being replaced by wooden dinghies, Petersen was determined not to see the traditional techniques of hunting and kayak building lost forever. His research led in 1986 to the publishing of his book 'Skinboats of Greenland.' This 215 page beautifully illustrated hardback is the classic work on Greenland kayaks and hunting techniques. His second smaller book on 'Instruction in Kayak Building' was published in 1981, with text in Greenlandic, Danish and English.



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KASK MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Current membership fees are:

- \$25 for ordinary membership
- \$30 for family or joint membership
- \$35 for overseas membership
- new members receive a free copy of the handbook
- members should endeavour to renew by 1 August
- the KASK financial year runs 1 August to 31 July the following year
- a subscription due notice and up to two reminders are sent out with the newsletters between June and October
- if a membership renewal is not received by 1 December, membership lapses
- new members who join between 1 June and 31 July automatically get their membership credited to the following year, receiving a 14 month membership
- the KASK committee puts its emphasis confirming renewals from existing members from July to October; and promoting new KASK memberships from November to February.

