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**Thanks to all the contributors.
Deadline for articles and photos for
next Newsletter: 25 Nov. 2011**

Editing & layout: Paul Caffyn

EDITORIAL

WSNZ Conference

At this recent conference – titled ‘Water Our Fatal Attraction’ – I gave a Powerpoint presentation on Paddlecraft fatalities and future safety initiatives. Quite a bit of work went into bringing the paddling incident records up to date, as well as cross referencing incidents with source information and colour coding information for ease of analysis. Trends apparent with fatalities from 1983 to present day:

- 69% occur on the sea, 14% each for lake and rivers
- 27% have involved fishing from a kayak
- 30% used recreational kayaks
- 27% used sit-on-top kayaks
- males, aged 20 – 39, majority of fatalities
- 60% solo paddlers, 40% in a group
- by region: Bay of Plenty highest, Southland, Otago and Tasman equally high
- no emergency comms carried 73%
- 75% PFDs not worn

Comparison was also made between a study made by travel doctor Iona Bailey on paddlecraft incidents 1992 – 2005 and incidents occurring 2005 to November 2011. Key trends observed:

- a 12.7% > in incidents involving tourists
- a significant > in number of tourist fatalities
- a 7% in incidents leading to fatalities
- no significant change re gender
- Sept was the worst month, but now Jan Feb & Aug

The clear leading group in the fatality stakes are males, aged 20 – 39, using recreational kayaks or sit-on-tops, and also overseas tourists using recreational kayaks.

The key safety messages ignored in 37 fatalities were:

- wearing of PFDs
- carriage of minimum two means of waterproof emergency comms
- leaving trips intentions with a

responsible party

- dressing for immersion, particularly for cold southern lakes
- checking weather forecasts

What can KASK paddlers do? If you see a potential serious incident brewing, you could mention the 6 m great white or the 5 m saltwater croc spotted off the beach yesterday, but best to pass on advice about local weather conditions and need for wearing a PFD and carriage of emergency comms.

For help and feedback in putting the PP presentation together, my thanks to Sandra Rhodda, Sandy Winterton, Sandy Ferguson, Kevin Dunsford, John Gumbley, Neil Murray and Marty Black.

At the conference awards dinner, I was shocked and stunned with the presentation of an award for outstanding contribution to water safety (See story on p. 5).

KASK Forum 2012

9 – 11 March, at Wainui on Akaroa Harbour, Banks Peninsula. This is the only national paddler gathering for 2012 as Coastbusters 2012 was recently cancelled.

A forum registration form is included pp.11 – 14, or download from: www.kask.org.nz/events

Sea Kayaker Magazines

A bereaved kayaker’s wife has 67 Sea Kayaker magazines issues, between 1992 and 2007, needing a new home - preferably in the Wellington area. For details on collection, contact Sandy Winterton:

Ph: (04) 977 1862 H

Em: sandy@energyadvantage.co.nz

Safe Paddling

A weak to moderate La Nina is forecast for the summer, which is great news for paddlers. Please keep in mind photos and stories for the KASK magazine, and enjoy safe paddling this summer.

Paul Caffyn

PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

Cover & both photos on page 2: *Guy Fawkes Night on Wellington Harbour. See story on page 7.*
Photos by: *Susan Cade.*

KASK

Water Safety New Zealand AGM 2011

by Sandy Winterton

On 18 October I attended the Water Safety New Zealand AGM as KASK's representative.

It was a fairly formal AGM conducted in an efficient manner, with most of the 36 or so full member organisations attending and a handful of associate members or other interested parties.

Alan Muir who has been the Executive Director had handed in his notice during the year and his role was being filled by Matt Claridge, the organisation's General Manager.

Various reports were presented. Matt explained that the 2010-11 year had seen the lowest ever number of reported drownings and that WSNZ had managed to attract a number of new sponsors and partners over the year. Member organisation reports were contained within the Annual report, and virtually no questions were raised concerning them.

There was a question to Maritime NZ about the mandatory wearing of PFDs on craft under 6m. While nothing has been finalised, it seems that a number of local authorities have pre-empted this, and the minister is likely to sign it into legislation before the coming summer. There was also commendation for the Plunket bath mat programme which gives all parents of new babies water safety information.

Finances as ever proved a major topic. WSNZ has decided that it is imperative to carry out research in areas that are likely to lead to fewer deaths in water, and is building up a significant war chest to maintain the programme. A report on one initiative that has interest to kayakers was presented at the end of the session. WSNZ has always received the majority of its funding from the

Lotteries Grants Board, but this year it was refused about \$300,000 for its planned Learn to Swim project. While little detail was provided at the AGM, it seems that one of the swimming organisations had put in for a similar programme which constituted competition between organisations, and the chair particularly asked for collaboration within the sector. However, WSNZ had done well during the year to expand its sources of funding and had made up for the shortfall through other channels.

There was a talk about WSNZ funding guidelines which had changed little since last year. WSNZ and a number of other organisations are keenly awaiting the recommendations of the *Isaac Report* into learning to swim programmes which they hope will give clarity and provide a basis for collaboration between the various sector groups. Two items of general business due for discussion were withdrawn pending the publication of this report. A comparison was drawn between water and road deaths. While the annual road toll of 400 or so attracts funding of about \$700 million, work to prevent the 100+ drownings receives about \$5 million per year, and there is strong competition for the funding available.

The main session was concluded with the election of three officers to the board of WSNZ and agreement that the honorarium paid to the chairman be continued.

Additional reports were then presented. Jim Lilley of maritime NZ gave attendees a personal account of the *Rena* disaster off Tauranga. Some of the content has subsequently come out in the media and other parts of it will wait until an official enquiry occurs, but it seems that the incident took place due a basic navigational error and was not due to failure of any high tech systems.

Daniel Gerard, CEO of Sport Auckland, gave a summary of their learn-to-swim initiative which has brought together many groups and focussed them on a common purpose. It has

been very successful, and has Mayor Len Brown's backing.

Chris Button of Otago University gave a presentation which is of interest to kayakers. The University has a 'flume' – a water test tank about 10 m long and 2 m wide in which they can induce and adjust a current and they can also alter the water temperature. They also have a static test tank. In essence the project is to suddenly immerse people with a range swimming abilities into water of various temperatures and find out what happens. The equipment was reminiscent of the old ducking stool test for witches. The recipient of the treatment is suspended such that they can be dunked and removed quickly should the need arise.

Water temperatures vary from 10° to 27°C. In low temperature water, the cold shock, makes people gasp and their breathing and brain blood flow is often badly affected. Trials were done with different ability swimmers in a range of temperatures, and tests carried out to assess their performance. It was found that repeated immersions and a little guidance improved a person's ability to tread water. Interestingly, this 'habituation' also resulted in improved ability to carry out relevant mental tasks such as identifying places of safety when shown a film taken from the viewpoint of a person being swept down a river. A clip of film of a person on their first immersion into cold water and one of them after a few more dips showed a greatly improved water treading technique.

Typically mental processing and anxiety both improve, heart rate steadies, gasping decreases and breathing improves with repeating the exercise. Maybe as kayakers we should be taking a dip at the end of a paddle to accustom our bodies so that when we really need it, our reactions and capabilities in the water are better. The results were very preliminary and there's a lot more research to be done on this e.g. affect of alcohol, high risk groups etc. All up – this was a very impressive result.

Cory Sweeney of WSNZ presented a report on Maori water safety. WSNZ is looking to engage Maori through educational establishments from kohangareo to wharekura, marae and activity groups that attract Maori such as surfing and waka ama (outrigger canoe). Their onus will be on everything from gathering of sea-food to sports and leisure activities. Five high priority geographical areas have been identified and a local coordinator will be sought for each one. NZ Post already has a relationship with waka ama activities, and Te Puni Kokiri and Maritime NZ are likely to have involvement.. The aim will be to tailor safety programmes to social and cultural frameworks and to reduce the high Maori drowning rate.

NEW ZEALAND WATER SAFETY CONFERENCE 2011

2011 Sealord NZ Water Safety Award for Outstanding (Individual) Contribution to Paul Caffyn

**by John Gumbley and Sandy
Winterton - on behalf of KASK**

It was with great pleasure that KASK learnt of Paul having received the Sealord New Zealand Water Safety Award at the recent NZ Water Safety Council conference. It came as a complete surprise to Paul and follows his having presented a paper on behalf of KASK at the national conference. The award is to recognise and acknowledge excellence, achievement and innovation in water safety by an individual.

The awards are intended to establish a culture of excellence at a community, regional and national level. They acknowledge organisations and individuals working closely towards implementing and building on the New Zealand Water Safety Education Framework.

Paul, as many of us appreciate, has been at the forefront of sea kayaking since the late 70s both in terms of personal achievement and in promoting safety and good practice.

Paul has been the Kiwi Association of Sea kayaker (KASK) Safety and Publications Officer for many years. He has published four books detailing his kayaking expeditions including the circumnavigation of Australia. He has also developed the KASK newsletter to a high quality two monthly magazine.

He was instrumental in and contributed to KASK publishing an excellent manual for sea kayaking in New Zealand. Paul worked with Water Safety New Zealand to publish 'A Basic Guide to Safe Sea Kayaking' and is currently working with other organisations on a 'Safe Paddling Essential Guide' intended to cover all paddle sports.

In addition to liaising with these organisations, Paul has been a delegate on the National Pleasureboat Forum for several years. Paul's expertise is called on by the media when authoritative commentary is required on sea kayaking incidents, and he is called as a subject matter expert for coronial inquests. Paul also maintains a national kayak incident database and is an expert on what causes serious

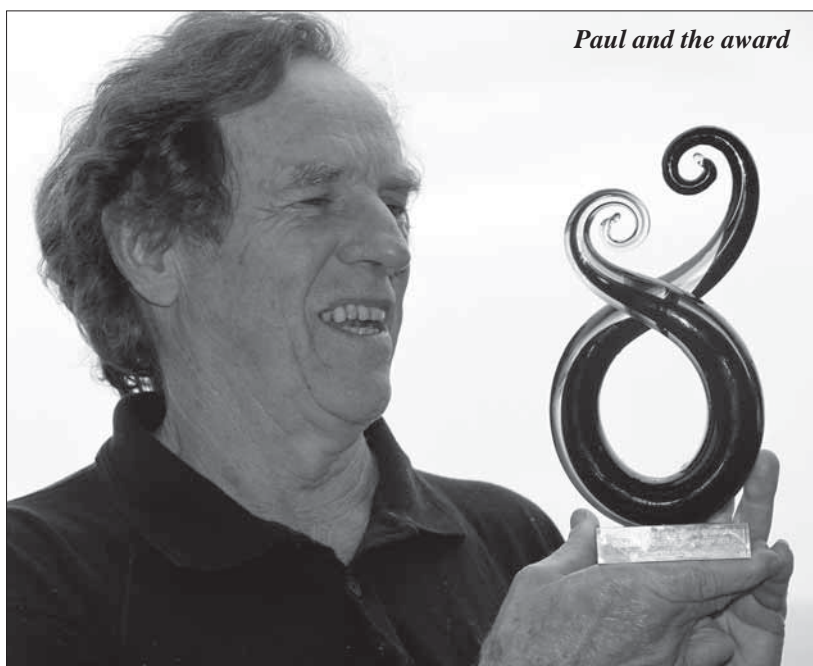
kayaking incidents to occur and how to plan to avoid them.

Paul has been closely involved in promoting and organising the annual KASK forum where talks, workshops and training sessions take place and sea kayakers' knowledge and skills are improved.

He has brought a number of overseas expert paddlers to New Zealand to pass on their knowledge and skills to New Zealand paddlers, including promoting training courses all over the country. He is a tireless promoter of the sport and of safety issues inherent in it. The KASK website has a wealth of resources free of charge, and the safety page alone offers a wide range of information including rescues, personal locator beacons, VHF radios and their correct use, towing and safety techniques.

In anticipation of KASK members being invited to a glittering celebration party somewhere not far from Runanga ... the moment the rain stops, winds abate and seas settle, we congratulate you Paul on receiving the award. Can we assume the very finest reds, tomato sauce etc. and the necessary culinary accoutrements will all be at hand.

John Gumbley and Sandy Winterton
On behalf of KASK.



Paul and the award

SAFETY

New Regulations for High Risk Adventure Activities

by John Marshall
Principal Advisor Regulatory MNZ

The Health and Safety in Employment (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2011 entered into force on 1 November, covering high risk land and water based commercial adventure activities. Some commercial kayaking operations will be required to pass a safety audit of their safety plan, and be registered with the Department of Labour.

The regulations are one output from the review of risk management and safety in the adventure and outdoor commercial sectors 2009/10. Led by the Department of Labour, the review engaged a wide range of industry bodies, such as the Tourism Industry Association, Outdoors New Zealand and the NZ Outdoor Instructors' Association, together with various government agencies and industry training organisations.

The regulations, available at the link below, will be phased in over the next 3 years: <http://www.dol.govt.nz/consultation/adventure-tourism/regulations.pdf>

The initial obligation on operators is to register their operation with the Department of Labour. This can be done online at: <http://www.dol.govt.nz/consultation/adventure-tourism/update.asp>

As the designated agency for administering the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 for the maritime sector, Maritime New Zealand will be responsible for implementing the regulations for high risk commercial kayaking operations. The regulations will not apply to certified maritime-based adventure operations that already require a safety audit under a maritime rule, such as commercial river rafting. Also the regulations will not apply to operations that don't charge fees and/or provide activities that are not taught or guided.

TECHNICAL

KAYAK TIPS from Sandy Winterton Attachment Clips for Kit

You need to be certain that gear such as paddle float and pump are tied on well enough to resist wind and wave, but untying tight bowlines in thin cordage at the end of a trip can be tedious especially with cold fingers.

Nautical shops have various clips that will act as an alternative but they have drawbacks. Maillons* and spring snap hooks are good but expensive.

Small stainless carabiners are OK, but the tiny hinge pin is sometimes badly made and the spring in them is not stainless, so they have a fairly short life.

As an alternative, fishing shops sell rust proof snap swivels which take a battering and always undo easily. The locking action comes from the resilience of the metal itself, and they have the advantage of a swivel that prevents strings getting twisted and tangled. Best of all they are cheap.

The larger sized big game type ones are often available in bags containing a few for a dollar or two apiece, and they make a reliable alternative to costly ships chandlery. Look on the web for best deals.

A rust-proof snap swivel



* Maillons (below) are a screw link, similar to a carabiner, but without an opening gate. A threaded sleeve closes or opens the screw link or maillon. Screw-links don't unscrew readily and can be secured with a spanner or thread adhesive.



KAYAK TIPS from Paul Caffyn Inflatable Seat Cushions

The photos below show two brands of inflatable seat cushions. I was a tad sceptical of using one of these 'poofter pads' but after trying one, and using it every day during our 2009 south-east Greenland paddle, I have seen the light.

These cushions provide paddler benefit in several ways:

- comfort for the bum
- raised torso paddling position
- more efficient paddling position
- adjustable to conditions; ie. deflatable

There was a wretched day in Greenland, with wicked cross-chopping seas off the cliffed coastline and big bergy bits, when I had hidden my cushion from view. I was relieved at the end of the day to hear that Conrad had completely deflated his cushion.



New Zealand Trip Reports

Sparks Fly in Wellington by Susan Cade

(see cover photo and pics on p.2)

“Remember, remember the 5th of November. Gunpowder, treason and plot.” This was the verse many of us chanted at primary school to understand the reason for fireworks night. And on that same day, many years later, a small band of Wellington paddlers gathered at Balaena to launch their kayaks and head around to see the fireworks display from the water, rather than to fight with the thousands of people jostling for the best possies on land.

The previous year had seen an eventful trip with a 15 knot tail wind on the way out to the pyrotechnics, and fierce 40+ knots against us when we attempted to paddle home. We soon decided to change to plan B, carefully turning in the rough conditions - one paddler losing their hat as it was blasted off their head and baling out on the leeward side of a point. This year no such conditions threatened.

We met early in what soon became a very chaotic car park. Once organised, we piled into Jennifer and Barry’s camper van for a meal and to talk up our enthusiasm for the outdoors.

Our six Wellington network kayaks met a bunch of somewhat larger and more urchinous paddlers from the Yakkity Yak club, and a mix of slalom boats and others, all paddling at varying paces. We admired each others’ lighting arrangements and as the sun set, headed towards the city. We passed people fishing from rocks - not a good night for catching whoppers - and had fireworks

launched towards us from shore. We saw crowds of happy people and excited kids.

As we nosed our way along Oriental Parade towards the three gun powder-laden firework barges, we discussed the best spot to watch from. Not downwind, seemed to be the main requirement, and there were photographic considerations from the front of the double.

Meanwhile a black shape loomed up heading towards us - a medium sized motorboat of some sort, but it was hard to make out anything from the silhouette. We headed right and it went the same way, so we headed left and so it seemed did the other vessel. We thought it may be a gin soaked captain deciding to tease us small fry, but things were getting a little strained. Flashback to the KASK quiz at Ohope.forum, “What side do you pass a boat coming in the other direction?” “Port to port.

As soon as the opposition craft had revealed itself, we realised it was a Coastguard boat. Their thankless task was to maintain a safe perimeter around the barges. So they shepherded us inside the ring of moored boats, that it considered were already under a 300 metre exclusion zone. Some of us felt somewhat chastened as it must be a tough job to keep all the boats in line. So we headed between the moored craft and away. Interesting that a Coastguard boat in daytime is recognisable from kilometres away, but at night, it had no identifying marks at all - a fact we passed on to Coastguard later.

Many craft were already moored in prime watching spots, so we circled and manoeuvred, eventually positioning ourselves in just about the front row seats, bows into a gentle breeze, to watch the display. I was rapt and very thankful with having some paddlers in just the right spot to use as models for taking photos and also having Sandy position the double.

Wellington does put on a good fireworks show, and we spent a happy 15 minutes transfixed by bright lights and loud noises.

As soon as the final flourish was over, boats started to up anchor and away, so we headed in towards shore and followed the gentle curve of the strand away from town.

Heading back to Balaena Bay, we passed hordes of revellers walking home and people setting off Warehouse fireworks on the beaches and in the city. We heard Andy Blake giving an arrival trip report to the Wellington Marine Radio by reporting his call sign. The particular response being “That’s your call sign, what’s your vessel name?” and Andy telling him it’s “14 sea kayaks”. We passed the slower Yakkity Yak paddlers and the slalom boats and then scrunched onto the sand.

Back on land, we made 15 point turns in the car park amongst cars, boats, gear, and paddlers; celebrated what a great night it was and parted company for another year.

The team in doubles:

Susan Cade, Sandy Winterton, Kirsty Woods, Peter Williamson

In singles, Joanna Poole, Barry Cullen, Jennifer Roberts and Adrienne.



Susan Cade

New Zealand Trip Reports

Foxton Loop 2011 by Sandy Winterton

The Foxton Loop event has been run by the Ruahine Canoe Club for many years and is an annual gathering of kayakers from all backgrounds and of all standards. Some enter for a pleasant morning's cruise and nattering over the lunch afterwards, while others do battle for boasting rights. It's fun to be among boats ranging from home made sea kayaks to top end K1s.

The forecast was for a 20 knot north westerly, and we had a decent on-shore blast heading up the estuary from the Manawatu Marine Boating Club where this year's race started. As we gathered on the shore to survey the murky river and belittle each others' chances, white caps abounded, and those few of us with sea kayaks secretly congratulated ourselves. Others who had fast but unstable K1s and multisport kayaks must have been wondering what was in store for them. Perhaps in these conditions we sea kayakers would have our day.

The briefing from Max Grant assured us that Coastguard had a boat and a jet ski present, and that the Grants would be in a third safety boat - a message simultaneously heartening and worrying. In the wind-over-tide chop, the pre-start was a bit chaotic, and a couple of people fell out before the line. KASK member and keen photographer Charles Jarvie was on the bank with a monster lens taking photos, and he captured some great shots at various stages of the race. Multisport kayakers have a fairly short spring loaded rudder, and on the steep chop at the start line, their rudders were sometimes completely out of the water. Many paddlers were in survival mode initially, and the safety boats were kept busy in the early stages.

Underway at last, we surfed down waves, but upstream, and being two hours after high tide, there was a strong counter flow to compete with. The more stable kayakers did well in the rough conditions until we encountered a calm stretch which favoured the skinny race boats. It was a long slog upstream looking for a compromise line out of the fiercest current but also away from the sloping banks and muddy bottom, where shallow water 'suck back' could slow the boat more than the ebbing tide.

After about 4 or 5 km of winding Manawatu river, we headed left up the Foxton loop canal cutting. Still against the tide, we pushed on to a turn near Foxton township - a point that has served as the start/finish in previous years. It was a relief to get around the buoy, knowing that we now had the tide with us all the way home.

However, after we came out of the shelter afforded by the willows, the wind enemy was against us for much of the way, as the loop, and then the main river snaked seaward. In the big channel there were fast runs if you could find them. It was difficult to gauge speed, but it seemed that the combined boat and current speed would have been over 15 km/hr as the boat plunged happily over long stretches of standing waves. But the roller coaster ended too soon as we hit a dead stretch where the river

widened, the current dropped and muscles began to complain.

And then, as the clustered buildings of Foxton Beach came into view, the flow picked up once more and the river turned directly into a stiff head wind for the last few hundred metres. The flow of water out of the river combined with the waves heading inland caused a weird type of chop with steep waves moving slowly upstream. It was a happy sight to see the finishing buoy, which caught some exhausted paddlers unawares and they had to dig deep to get across river to the right side of it.

The 18 km trip was achieved at a wide range of speeds as conditions of wind and flow changed. Paddlers arrived at the finish line all with tales to tell, and despite the conditions, everyone enjoyed themselves.

This event, which runs in August each year, is ideally suited to sea kayakers and more of them would be welcome. Well done to the Ruahine White Water Canoe Club for organising a super event.

Reasonably fit sea kayakers are welcome to take part in a number of the longer race events, which are suitable for a wide range of participants. The Trans Taupo event has attracted a number of KASK members and there have been two write ups about it in *The Sea Canoeist*.

Sandy Winterton with finish buoy behind. He is using an underslung rudder in the choppy conditions. Photo: Charles Jarvie



This race takes place in autumn and is suitable for experienced, self-reliant paddlers. The 44 km paddle from Tokaanu to Lake Taupo Yacht Club will be back for its 5th year on March 17th 2012.

Entries for the event can be made at www.transtaupo.co.nz. Organizers are hoping to attract paddle craft of all types for a memorable day on this magnificent lake. The course follows the southern lake edge with a number of safety check points, and craft are never all that far from shore.

The route can be reversed if the wind forecast would mean paddling into it, so the breeze is always favourable. The event is open to sea kayaks, adventure racing doubles, surf skis, waka ama, SUPs and ocean rowers. The last two years have seen winds of over 20 knots and waves more than a metre high, and although safety boats are present, participants must be able to self-rescue and be competent in testing conditions.

The trip takes kayakers from four to eight hours. To get the best out of the trip you need to be in reasonable physical conditions and armed with the skills that may be needed. Plenty of training is recommended, and it is a good idea to practise in conditions of up to 25 knots especially a quartering tail wind when the breeze is coming from 45 degrees behind.

Information is available from:
 Rob McKnight
 The Sports Central Group
 PO Box 386
 Taupo
 Email: rob@mcknight.co.nz
 Phone: 027 444 2420

Overseas Trip Report

Sea Kayaking in Milos, Greece by John Hesselning

After 50 hours of travelling, Lyndsay and I arrived at the Greek island of Milos for our nine-day stay. We had booked a package with Sea Kayak Milos that included six paddling days and eight nights bed and breakfast at Petrinela's Guesthouse.

Milos is most well known as the place where the famous statue, the 'Venus de Milo' was discovered. Due to its volcanic origin, it is one of the most dramatic Greek islands, well known for its colourful rock formations and superb beaches.

The inhabitants of Milos are economically dependent on mining and tourism. Tourism has only recently developed and the island remains untouched by hotel chains and package tourism. Mining has occurred since ancient times and currently occupies about half the workforce. This dual economy has preserved an authentic local culture that is not found on many of the other islands that are entirely dependent on tourism.

Milos is the most southwesterly of the Cyclades group of islands in the Aegean Sea, lying about half way

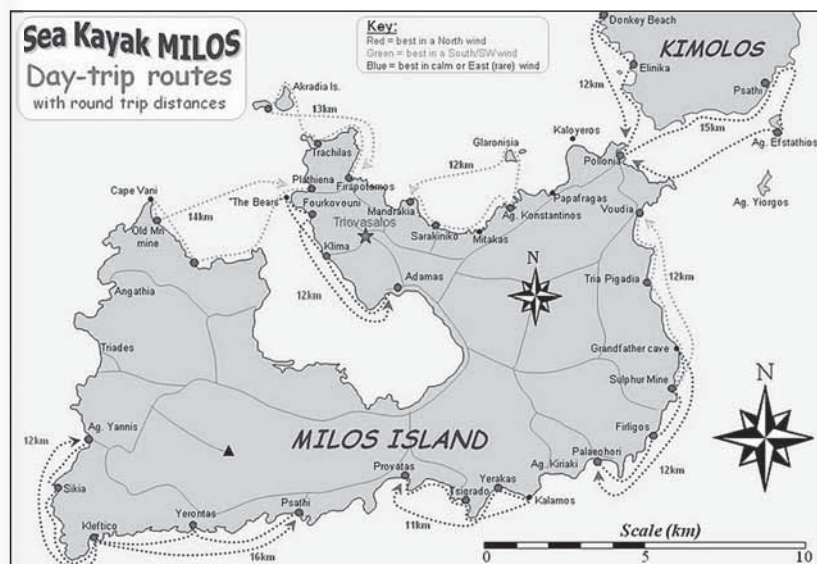
between the City of Athens and the Island of Crete. It is 160 km south of Athens, 60 km west of Santorini and 115 km north of Crete.

The island is about 20 km in an east-west direction and about 10 km north-south. It has a large bay, opening to the north that almost divides the island in two and provides a large natural harbour. The surface area is 151 square kilometres and the coastline is over 130 km long. The eastern side of the island comprises low hills and fertile valleys, which produce grains, vegetables, olives and grapes. On the western side, the landscape is mountainous and covered with prickly bushes. Most of the 5,500 inhabitants live in seven villages in the north part of the east side of the island.

Sea Kayak Milos and Petrinela's Guesthouse are operated by Rod Feldtmann, an Australian, and his wife Petrinela Vikeli, who was born and raised on Milos.

The guesthouse is situated in the village of Triovasalos, which is located away from the coast and about 150 metres above sea level. The ground floor is taken up with a Kafeneio (Coffee-Ouzo bar), also managed by Petrinela and is where we had breakfast and where Rod briefed us each morning on the proposed kayaking for that day.

Breakfast was at nine and generally we were loaded up in vehicles and headed to our put-in place by 10





*An archway in columnar basalt.
Photo: John Hesseling*

am. Each day's kayaking consisted of a day trip from a different part of the island and there being so many possibilities that Rod guaranteed that we would have a different trip each day. The location of each trip depended on the forecast wind (we didn't see a cloud the whole time that we were on Milos) and generally consisted of between of 12 to 16 kilometres paddling. There were stops for a snack (about 12:30) and lunch (about 2:30 pm). All food while paddling was provided. Snacks consisted of biscuits and fruit and lunch was generally fresh bread with feta cheese, tomatoes, cucumber, ham etc.

Dinner was the only meal not provided as part of our package but there were many local restaurants within 15 minutes walk of the guesthouse. Because our accommodation was away from the coast and because Milos is not really a big tourist destination (it is supposedly where Greeks go for their holidays), we were able to experience local life and great local food.

Kayaks that we used were plastic boats manufactured in Italy by Rainbow Kayaks. The model was Laser and they were stable and easy to paddle. Most did not have rudders but we were lucky to get one with a rudder each day we went out. Double kayaks were also available and were generally used by couples or by an adult and a child.

The parts of Milos that we paddled varied from sandy and pebble

beaches, rocky coastline with multi coloured rocks of volcanic origin, small bays with white buildings located right on the water line (there are minimal tides in the Mediterranean), numerous small islands most of which were uninhabited and abandoned and current mine sites. There was always plenty of rock gardening and caves and tunnels to explore.

On our first day's kayaking we had a 16 kilometre paddle from Plathi to Kleftico and back to Plathi along the south coast of Milos. The day included many spectacular tunnels and caves and the highlight was Kleftico with the crystal clear water and spectacular caves.

Day two was a late afternoon paddle from Mandrakia along the north coast of Milos then to Glaronisia, a volcanic island a couple of kilometres off the coast and then back to Mandrakia paddling into a Greek sunset. Our third day was a paddle along the east coast of Milos

and included a great cave called the Grandfather Cave.

We had a day off paddling on the 4th day and on the 5th day, we had another paddle along the south coast. On the 6th day we paddled from Pollonia to the Island of Kimolos, stopped for lunch and a snorkel on an island called Efstathios and then returned to Pollonia.

Our last day's kayaking was from the resort of Palaeohori at the south east of Milos and then around to the north east to an abandoned sulphur mine and then returning to Palaeohori, a paddle of about 12 kilometres.

In the end, nine days went too fast but after we left Milos we still had nearly three weeks of holiday left, which we spent in Spain and London where we caught up with Lyndsay's children. After temperatures in the 30s in Greece and Spain and even some half decent weather in UK we arrived back in New Zealand to rain, snow and wind.

John Hesseling



KASK and the Canterbury Sea Kayak Network are pleased to announce the



**2012
NATIONAL
KASK
FORUM**



Where: Wainui, Akaroa Harbour, Canterbury

When: Friday 9 - Sunday 11 March 2012

**Based at the YMCA Wainui Camp on Akaroa Harbour
Accommodation in bunkrooms.**

**A SOCIAL FUN WEEKEND WITH PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PADDLE, SHARE
IDEAS AND LEARN, ON AND OFF THE WATER**

Speakers and instructors topics include: expedition paddling; trip planning; solo and group rescues; surf landings and launchings; navigation; tidal and sea conditions; photography from a sea kayak; safety practices to reduce risk and tropical expedition paddling.

**Great opportunities to take part in practical and theoretical sea kayak training
A chance to see and share ideas on sea kayak design, gadgets and equipment
Advice on local conditions, places to go and exploratory paddles
The KASK AGM, dinner, awards
KASK Photo Competition, bring your favourite photo prints to the Forum
Post forum paddling on the Banks Peninsula Coast**

Please book early, in case extra off site accommodation needs to be booked

How to Get There:

From Christchurch take the road to Akaroa, turning right off the main road at the bottom of the hill at Barrys Bay, just as you reach Akaroa Harbour.

The Akaroa shuttle makes 2 trips a day (the second leaving Christchurch at 2.00 p.m.) so arrangements can be made to be picked up from the Barrys Bay cheese factory (at the bottom of the hill).

Two views of Akaroa Harbour on Banks Peninsula; Wainui is the bay mid-left (L) and mid-right (R)



2012 NATIONAL KASK FORUM REGISTRATION FORM

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Mobile: _____

Emergency contact while at Forum

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Forum Costs:

\$170 per person for KASK members (includes 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and Saturday dinner)

\$180 per person for non-members (includes 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and Saturday dinner)

I enclose my/our registration fee of **\$170** (\$180 non-member) per person for _____ people

Total: \$ _____

PAYMENT

Payment by cheque:

Make out to "Kask Forum 2012" and mail with your completed registration form to:

Chris Neason

PO Box 63

Cust 7444

North Canterbury

Payment by direct credit (Include your surname for the bank statement)

ANZ Bank Rangiora

Kask Forum 2012

010877 0177136 00

Please ensure a registration form **and** cheque are mailed to the above address,

or

make payment by direct credit **and** download the '2012 KASK reg.doc' file from the KASK website, fill it out and post back,

or attach and e-mail to one of the e-mail addresses below:

To Mike Neason:

E-mail:

neason@xtra.co.nz

Forum queries to Sandy Ferguson:

E-mail:

kayakamf@gmail.com

Cancellation

It is **unlikely** that the forum will be cancelled due to wet weather, as there will be a wet weather programme, including controlled paddling events.

The forum has fixed costs and variable costs that depend on numbers, so if you have to cancel, please let us know early. The organisers reserve the right to charge a fee, which could be as high as 50% of the registration if you leave cancellation to the last moment.

What are you interested in participating in or getting from the forum?

Please tick the things that might interest you over this weekend. This doesn't guarantee that any or all of these topics will be covered and that there won't be others included. It will depend on interest and availability of presenters, etc.

If registering for more than one person and you have different levels of ability, please tick all the appropriate boxes below:

Practical Skills	I'm a beginner	I have some skills	Topic Land based Sessions	Interest
Boat set up for paddling			Emergency communications and safety equip.	
Forward paddling			Wooden boat session	
Manoeuvring strokes			Boat and equipment session	
Support strokes			First Aid emergency management	
Rescue skills			Risk & safety management groups	
Towing			Navigation	
Rolling			Bugger incident sharing	
Surfing			Local paddling and area information	
			Weather and Tides	

KASK PHOTO COMPETITION

Bring along your finest prints from the last 12 months for the prestigious sea kayaking photo competition.

Entry Guidelines

Photos may be entered for any or all of the following categories (ensure appropriate category)

- Open – knock your socks off photos
- Action (sea kayaking)
- Seascape or coastscape (kayaks or people do not dominate the picture)
- Coastal/marine flora or fauna
- Kayaking bloopers / salty humour (new category)

First, 2nd and 3rd places awarded per category, and a forum paddlers' choice for the best overall photo.

Prizes and certificates will be awarded. Limit of four photos, per photographer, per category.

Format/Techniques:

Colour or B&W prints to a maximum size of A3. Note on each photo's back: category, caption or locale, name, mail address, e-mail address. No slides please; only digital or colour/B&W prints.

Submission:

Entries can be submitted on arrival at the forum, up to 0900 hrs 9 March 2012. Sorry no mail entries.

While every care is taken, KASK will not accept liability for damage to entries.

Use of Photos

Winning photos may be published in the KASK Newsletter. Photo competition entrants agree to allow their entries to appear in the KASK newsletter, and agree to enter into discussion with KASK re their use in either KASK safety promotional material or the handbook.

Display of Photos

The photos will be displayed throughout the weekend and the winners announced at the Saturday night dinner.

POST - FORUM PADDLING

There is a great opportunity for a post-forum paddle on Monday. The plan is to drive late Sunday afternoon to Okains Bay (approx. 45 minutes driving over the hill, no public transport).

Monday - day trip up or down the coast or if conditions are not suitable, surfing, more rescues and a paddle round the bay.

This campsite requires tents, food, medicinal alcohol. Showers are \$2 coin.

<http://www.okainsbaycamp.co.nz/>

Campers will need to pay site fees.

Please let us know at the forum if you will be coming to Okains Bay.

Skill Level - Please circle your skill level

- Novice** Just started sea kayaking and / or no formal skills training.
- Intermediate** Some support strokes, can do wet exit and assisted rescue.
- Advanced Intermediate** Can complete an assisted and a self rescue in moderate conditions.
Have completed day trips in a variety of conditions.
- Advanced** Can roll a sea kayak in rough conditions.
Have completed several challenging sea kayak trips.

Leadership Experience - Please circle your response

- Do you currently lead sea kayak trips in your local area? **Yes / No**
- If yes, are you happy to lead a pod of up to 6 paddlers at the forum? **Yes / No**

Topics/Events - Please circle your response

I am available to lead a workshop/instruction session/ show trip slides: **Yes / No**

If so, what topic(s)?: _____

If you have not already been shoulder-tapped or leaned on for speaking and/or instructing, please e-mail program co-ordinators:

Sandy Ferguson: kayakamf@gmail.com Phone (03) 365-8232

Note: All participants will be expected to abide by the guidelines set out by the FORUM organisers

MEALS

Your registration fee includes breakfasts and lunches for Saturday and Sunday, also Saturday evening dinner (BYO alcohol).

Please tick if you require vegetarian meals (**more** than 14 days notice required): _____

Please tick if you require gluten free meals (**more** than 14 days notice required): _____

TRANSPORT:

Please arrange your own transport to Wainui. If you do intend to take the Akaroa shuttle bus to Barrys Bay www.akaroashuttle.co.nz

Let us know here and we will arrange to pick you up.

Please indicate number in party _____

KAYAK HIRE

For local kayak hire, contact David Welch: **E-mail: david.welch@xtra.co.nz**

or

KayakWorld

Ph: (03) 366-9305

e-mail: info@kayakworld.co.nz

website: www.canoeworld.co.nz

**See also the KASK website for future updates on forum details and programme:
www.kask.org.nz/events**

New Zealand Trip Reports

South Fiord Lake Te Anau by Stanley Mulvany

On Labour weekend Belinda and I did a kayaking trip up the South Fiord of Lake Te Anau. The weather only looked good for the first two days, so we left on Friday evening from Te Anau and kayaked across to camp on an island at the entrance of the South Fiord. There is a hook of land on the west side of the island and a campsite there but unfortunately it was not very clean.

It was a bit breezy and a bit late to go for a swim by the time we arrived. On Saturday we kayaked in lovely windless conditions under a blue sky all the way to the head of the South Fiord, a distance of about 25 kilometers. We had a mild easterly near the top and ran our sails. There were lots of runabouts around as there was a fishing competition on Labour weekend at Te Anau.

We stopped at the beach at the Gorge Burn but the sandflies were bad. This is where Simon Marwick and I set off in February 2008 on our G2 expedition when we traversed all the middle fjords of Fiordland doing a vast circumambulation of Mt Irene back to our starting point in an 18-day odyssey. It's also the likely starting point of my next G4 expedition to Coronation Peak. Belinda wanted to have a look over at the start of the Esk Burn but we did not land as a permit is required from DoC, the area being in the Murchison Mountains restricted area.

We kayaked back a few kilometers and camped on a sandy beach, which caught the light evening westerly and kept the sandflies off a bit. We set up camp in the bush, had a meal and settled down for a peaceful night. However the wind got up a bit, though we were sheltered in the trees. Early in the night we heard a



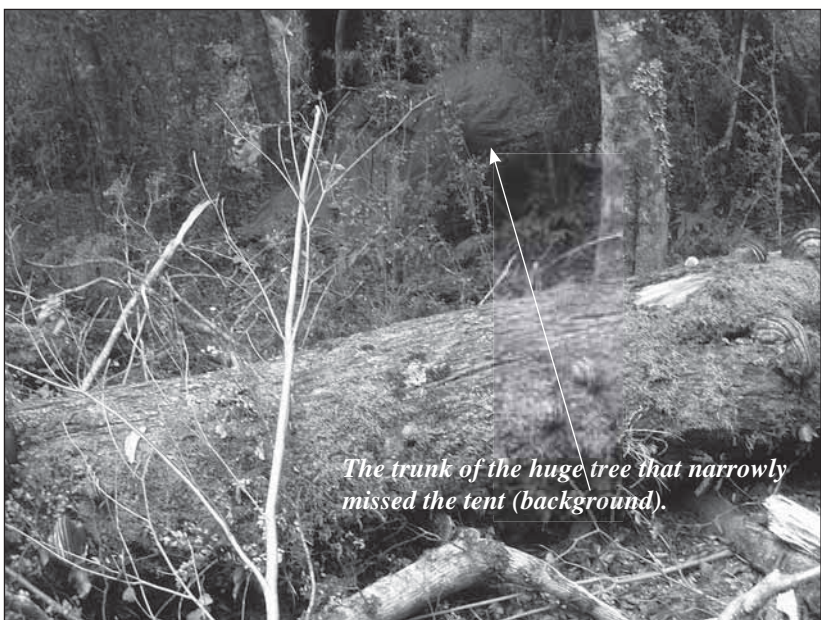
*Stanley in mirror calm conditions on Lake Te Anau.
Photo: Belinda Mulvany*

creaking and snapping and I casually said to Belinda it is probably a tree about to fall. Just then there was an almighty crash and a huge tree came crashing down missing the tent by three meters. All was still afterwards apart from us! In the morning I could see how lucky we were not to have been squashed flat! The trunk was about one metre in diameter and had a rotten base. I've camped in the bush on numerous occasions but this is the first time a tree has nearly taken me out. The moral of story is always check the nearby trees and avoid camping near any old dead trees still standing.

On Sunday we set off back down the sound with the wind gradually increasing. We ran with sails though

I had to pull mine down when the wind got too gusty as I cannot reef it like Belinda's one. It was quite rough at times especially on headlands with the increased wind strength and the backwash off the cliffs. Once out in the lake we rafted up and had a wild ride with both sails up and hanging on. Belinda was submarining part of the time as she was on the windward side. But it was fun and effortless physically. We sailed back to boat harbour in the early afternoon after a fast ride. Later we learned two kayakers had capsized on the lake out front of Te Anau in same conditions and had to be rescued.

Stanley & Belinda Mulvany
Invercargill



The trunk of the huge tree that narrowly missed the tent (background).

OVERSEAS REPORTS

West Island Bits

by David Winkworth

Bit of a mixed bag for this issue as Christmas approaches! Here on the NSW south coast, we're getting typical unstable spring weather – lots of storms, humidity and winds, which seem to have no pattern to them. It sure is a time to be extra careful with weather forecasts when venturing out onto the ocean.

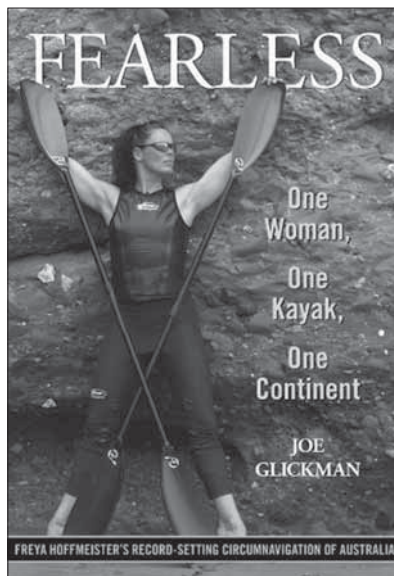
Fearless

For those of you looking for a late, late Christmas present, I see that Freya Hoffmeister's book, or more correctly a book (*Fearless*) about Freya and her Aussie circumnavigation is due out soon.

With a photo of Freya by Paul Caffyn on the cover and written by Joe Glickman, it will be available in paperback from Amazon if you can't find it at your local bookshop. I was looking over the book details on the Amazon website the other day and was just struck by the advertising hype:

'Fearless one woman - one kayak - one continent.' Yep, one kayak and one continent is all that I can handle at one time! Come to think of it, one woman at a time too!

It goes on: 'the 8,565 mile (13,790



km) trip through huge, shark infested seas – 'hair-raising encounters with crocs and great white sharks' (eh? 'don't remember that!') - 'this Teutonic force of nature.'

I suppose hype is pretty much part of our world now. Politicians do it, spin-doctors do it, even sea kayaking magazines do it! *Fearless* will be released in January.

Justine Curgenven

Continuing with a 'goodies' theme, it seems Justine Curgenven lives by the motto, 'when you're on a good thing.....!' She is bringing out a DVD *This is the SEA No. 5* next year - and why not? Her last four offerings have been full of really interesting sea kayaking stories, without preaching messages about the effect of campfires on global warming and such-like! With her frequent overseas filming trips, she must have so much material. I look forward to TITS No. 5.



Leaking Sprayskirt

During a recent day paddle, a friend mentioned to me that his cockpit was taking on lots of water. We decided to investigate the cause. After looking for holes in the hull, and split seams etc, we examined his sprayskirt. By holding it up against the sun and giving the fabric a good stretch we could see daylight through it!

Neoprene skirts do wear out! 'Problem is you often can't see it happening because of the nylon knit facing bonded to each side of the neoprene.

A sprayskirt manufacturer once gave me a tip for making skirts last longer. It was this: if your skirt is wet with salt water, DO NOT hang it out to dry in the sun. Salt crystals form as the water evaporates and actually cut the fabric. If on a multi day trip, rinse your skirt with fresh water at the end of each day, otherwise rinse with sea water and store your sprayskirt wet in the cockpit, out of the sun.

Near Miss off Sydney Harbour

Issue 84 of the *NSW Sea Kayaker*, the magazine of the NSW Sea Kayak Club, carries a feature article about three experienced club members who decided to do a day paddle/sail up the coast from Sydney Harbour to Broken Bay, a distance of about 40 kms. The plan was to have a good sail in front of strengthening offshore winds.

Outside Sydney Heads they became a little separated and encountered a yacht race heading south. The swell and winds increased, gusting to 27 knots by lunchtime.

One of the trio – Andrew – capsized under sail, failed to roll up and exited his kayak into the cold winter ocean. He could not see his friends who were ahead of him and they couldn't see him - let alone paddle back against the winds. They all carried radios but had no sched arranged. All radios were switched off.

Andrew tried multiple cowboy re-entries, re-enter and rolls - and they all failed. A thin man, he had been in the water for over half an hour and was rapidly losing manual dexterity and his cognitive processes.

Luckily for him, one of the race yachts passed close by and saw his raised paddle. They picked him up, abandoned their race and began Andrew's long re-warming process. His kayak was not picked up and was lost. His friends soon became concerned at not seeing him and checked in with an onshore friend and were told the news.

Well, that is an outline of what happened. The article, with contributions by all three paddlers,

covers the day in fine detail and goes on to detail the PLAN they all now say they should have had. Chillingly, Andrew had an operating Go Pro helmet cam, which recorded every agonizing minute for him. We might get to see the footage at next year's Rock 'n Roll Weekend! Keep a lookout for the magazine when it comes online on the club website – it's well written and worth a read.

Years ago I used to do an Instructor session called **YGYITYGYO** which stood for: You Got Yourself Into This, You Get Yourself Out!

Pretty self-explanatory really, it centered on self-reliance on the ocean and the understanding that co-paddlers may not see you in difficulty, and even if they do, they may be, in some conditions, powerless to assist. And this was the situation in which Andrew found himself – he needed a quick roll and he'd be on his way again. But his roll, his primary self-rescue method failed as did all his other self rescue attempts. That, for Andrew must have been really scary.

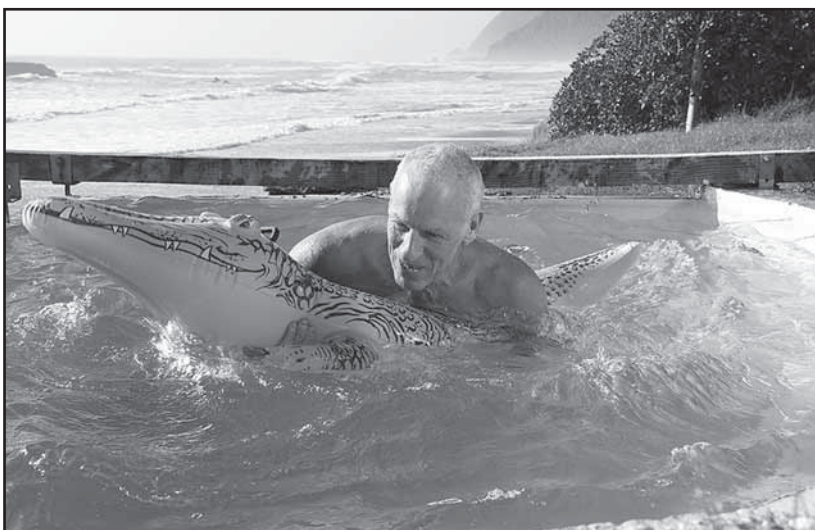
Now for many years Andrew has been the NSWSKC Rolling Champion with a repertoire of about 20 rolls. So what went wrong?

Rolling competitions are held on flat water in low volume Greenland-style boats and this day Andrew was paddling a high volume touring kayak with a deck-mounted sail – quite a different craft indeed.

This incident does highlight the need for sea kayakers to think about nasty ocean situations all alone and to practice and keep practising their self rescue procedures. YGYITYGYO is the word.

Melbourne Sit-on-top Fatalities

Another nasty incident, this one a double fatality yesterday (late November) on Port Phillip Bay near Melbourne: Two men, aged 36 and 40, on a pair of sit-on-tops went out fishing in fine settled weather. Their SOTs were powered by electric trolling motors on the stern. The weather changed and they didn't return.



Crocodile Winky wrestling his namesake in a secret location on the rugged West Coast of the South Island

Their crafts (I'm reluctant to call them kayaks) washed up on a beach and their bodies, wearing lifejackets, were found in the water early this morning near each other.

The question needs to be asked: Did they have paddles? I don't know – I haven't seen any in the press reports. One would think they'd wash ashore too. What a tragic situation. Victorian waters in Spring are cold. If you haven't dressed for immersion and you can't stay out of the water you haven't got very long to live.

Kayaks

Last weekend I travelled to the Hunter Valley north of Sydney and stopped off at Gosford to visit the kayak shops there...just for a browse you understand!

There are three big sea kayak shops there, all within one kilometre of each other. It's a competitive world up there. There were a huge range of brands from all over the world and what struck me was the increasing number of thermo-formed kayaks, and possibly a corresponding decrease in glassfibre boats. I remember a mate of mine doing a survey for *Wild* magazine in about 1990 of all the sea kayaks available in Australia. There were five!

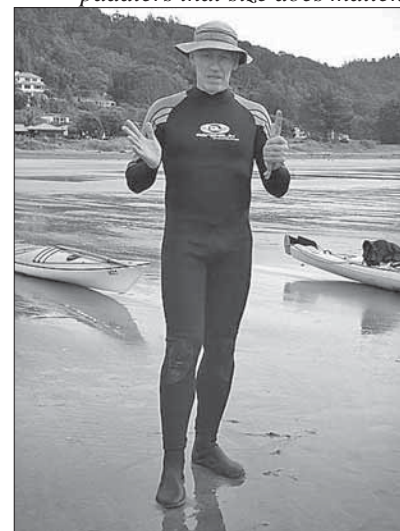
Notice the increasing number of kayaks being made in China these days? It's a way for kayak manufacturers to hold down labour costs I suppose - but one day Chinese

labour costs are going to match ours – and, no more cheap boats then!

Saw one of these 'made in China' kayaks on the weekend. Beautifully finished and flawlessly gelcoated, the hull was of foam-core sandwich construction. Now, I stayed away from that type of construction in the kayaks I used to build, simply because the outer skin would not withstand repeated hard landings, eventually letting water into the core. Yesterday I heard from a north coast friend who repairs kayaks that one of these foam-core kayaks had been brought into his shop with the hull "dinged" (thumb print depressions) just like a surfboard! Watch out!

Enjoy your Summer paddling!
David Winkworth

Dave explaining to Australian paddlers that size does matter.



DVD REVIEW

Sea Kayak with Gordon Brown Volume Two - An instructional journey around the spectacular is- lands of St Kilda

Review: John Kirk-Anderson

First, a disclaimer: The DVD's author/instructor, Gordon Brown, is a friend and I have spent time with him at his business on Skye, Skyak Adventures, while qualifying as an instructor.

This is the second instructional DVD that Gordon, one of Britain's highest qualified sea kayak instructors, has produced. He has also published a book, *Sea Kayak - A Manual for Intermediate & Advanced Sea Kayakers*

I reviewed his first DVD in the February - March 2010 KASK newsletter (No.145).

This DVD follows the same format as the previous one; a journey along a rugged Scottish coastline with instructional sections intermingling with the trip. The locations for this journey are the islands of St Kilda, a small archipelago 64 kilometres west of the Outer Hebrides. Boasting the highest sea cliffs in Britain, a dizzying number of sea birds, and pre-historic buildings, St Kilda is as isolated as it is stunning. It is a double World Heritage Site and while volunteers restore ancient homes, technicians man a missile tracking station.

Gordon's group headed out by boat and used this craft as a base while they explored the islands, on what must have been the calmest days in recorded history. As they squeezed through slot caves it is easy to accept that these coasts, stuck way out in the North Atlantic Ocean, must normally be battered by huge seas. The permanent islanders were removed in 1930, but from the earliest of times until they left fish did not form part of their diet, as the seas were considered too rough to venture on to.

I didn't really care for the journey style of instruction in Gordon's previous DVD, but this time I think it works very well. It may just be because I had paddled in some of the areas he used last time, and this was all new, but I think the environment is used better to justify the techniques shown.

Rescues, towing and rough landings are the subjects covered, and these are demonstrated in calm water before being practiced in rougher conditions. Real rescues that happened during training and the St Kilda journey are included, genuine "proof of concept". Interviews with the first kayaker to paddle to St Kilda from the Outer Hebrides in 1965 are backed by historical footage.

Many of the techniques demonstrated are recorded with up to three cameras, and the editing of these multiple angles is done very well. Some graphics are overlaid to highlight points and this is not overdone.

Once again, the remarkable skills of Gordon, both as a paddler and a coach, are demonstrated in a rather understated way. His balance exercises are fantastic, and will keep me very busy over summer. These are not of the crowd-pleasing 'headstand in the cockpit' variety, but of the type to get you back in your boat when it's all gone really bad. Gordon's one piece of showmanship had me laughing out loud; he paddles up to a rock, stands up in the cockpit and steps ashore, keeping his feet dry. The reason I laughed is he did that

very thing with my Nordkapp years ago, but then he walked along the deck from the ocean (small) cockpit and stepped ashore as the keel touched the sand! A class act. I can look forward to many bruises and dunkings as I work on his more practical exercises.

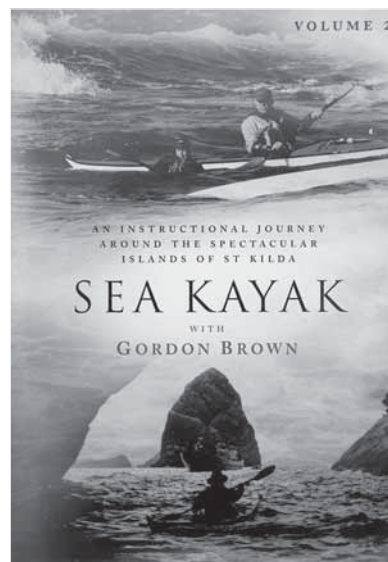
Visiting the website associated with the DVD:

<http://www.seakayakwithgordonbrown.com/Translations.html> allows free downloads about the coaching sessions and a three minute video teaser.

The website of his business, Skyak Adventures: <http://www.skyakadventures.com/> shows his day job.

In conclusion, I rate this as one of the best sea kayak instructional DVDs I have viewed. Paul will have to threaten violence to get it back!

John Kirk-Anderson



Gordon coaching from the lotus position

OVERSEAS REPORT

Canadian Canoe Heritage by John Gumbley

In September, I enjoyed holidaying in Canada which included a bit of kayaking. I hired or borrowed a kayak on both East Thurlow and Quadra Islands - some of the many islands in the Discovery Island Group on Vancouver Island's inside passage. September proved a brilliant time weather-wise, with mostly cloudless skies and mild temperatures (unlike July in which it apparently rained every day bar one). While the air temperature was mild the water was 10°C.

I found that so long as you knew local tidal conditions, the opportunity to explore was great. Surprisingly I saw few birds but other wildlife observed was fascinating in both abundance and variety, both marine and terrestrial animals. These included Orca and other dolphin species, seals, bears (I encountered a grizzly on a trail), snakes, deer and many others. The glacial geology too is fascinating.

In Vancouver I took the opportunity to visit the British Columbia Museum of Anthropology. The Museum is a great place to visit and I recommend taking the inside and outside guided tours. The museum has its full collection on display and my only criticism is that the age of artifacts is not displayed. I provide some comment on what I saw in the kayaking section and acknowledge the museum for all quotations.



Figure 1



Figure 3

Sturgeon-Nosed Canoe

Figures 1 and 2 (below) show a sturgeon-nosed canoe and its interior. These canoes were used by the Ktunaxa ("k-too-nah-ha") people. Ktunaxa inhabited the Columbia and other major waterways and lakes for more than 10,000 years. Sturgeon are distinctive two metre long fish, of ancient origin, found in the major waterways of the West Coast.

The canoes are flat-bottomed and tapered at both ends. Sturgeon-nosed canoes were traditionally made from birch bark, western pine bark, cedar wood, cedar roots, maple sap and pitch. Their light construction made for easy transport on lakes and marshland.

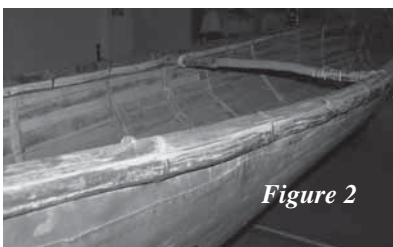


Figure 2

Pair of Kayaks

In Figure 3 (above) the lower craft is a sea kayak made from sealskin with its broad beam providing stability. This kayak is 5 metres long with its cockpit and interior shown in Figure 4 below.

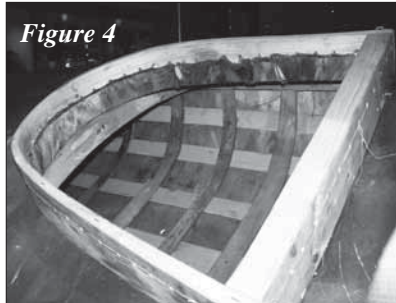


Figure 4

I saw a speck in the distance, which looked like a loon. It was under the sun. I can still see it in my mind. The sky was reddish with a silver lining and it was calm. [The kayaker] looked so much like a loon to me ... When he arrived he got out of his kayak with three dogs, which he had been carrying inside. He was also carrying some caribou and his caribou-skin bedding. He was carrying that entire load.*

Therese Muctar, Tununirmiut
*diving bird

The upper kayak (Figure 3) is made from caribou skins and designed for use on lakes and rivers with its narrow beam making it fast and manoeuvrable for hunting caribou.

When herds start going into rivers, or falling into the water to cross the river, kayakers are usually waiting in the water. The land sure gets noisy! The migrating caribou are endless just like a river to the end. So many caribou that the end is hard to see ... A kayak usually moves along the current the caribou is making when they are swimming across.

George Kuptana, Inuinait

Heat-moulded Canoe

This large canoe (Figure 5) is carved from cedar before being placed on steaming vegetation and hot rocks. Over a lengthy period of 'wet heating' timbers are placed mid-section to stretch its sides.

John Gumbley
KASK Conservation Contact
gumbleyj@wave.co.nz



Back in History- Brazil Slalom

by Alan Bye

After miles of dual carriageway from Rio the road climbs in to the hills. The road we followed is, or was then, a new road on a steady gradient. The old road is a winding road with many hairpins. The old road takes you down from the mountains; the new road takes you up to Petropolis. It is a high place on a plateau. The civic authority is proud of its parkland and city. We entered the park which was decked in flags and bunting.

Slalom poles were slung over the large lake, each numbered. The complete circuit was a kilometre. Fit young people moved to and fro ready for a kayaking event on the lake. There is no doubt; young people in Brazil are handsome and energetic. I was invited to take part. I demurred; I know my place, besides I was 56, a little old for these capers. Persuasion was put on me. The first time I visited Brazil, Sao Paulo, was in 1979 when I explained how a slalom course was laid out. Now everyone was doing it. No way would I be allowed to dodge this challenge.

I was already in T shirt and shorts, it was mid summer and a brilliant day. "We will go to the start" my friend told me, and set off upstairs in the café. Upstairs in one corner a whole side of the wall was folded back. Several kayaks of various sizes were stacked there. I selected a BAT Mk 8, tubby but comfortable. 3 metres

long it is so slow that none could expect me to win. The kayak is put on the top end of a wetted ramp ending a metre above the water of the lake. We set off at minute intervals. The paddler in front of me was a small boy with a large canoe. He paddled off after a dramatic plunge in to the lake. I reflected on what I told my host about seal launches on the 1979 visit, "Try this for fun!" Now I had to do it and it was a long way up.

My descent was fast and as the BAT 8 is fairly small I went right under. No problem, some balancing with the paddle and I set off after the boy in front. He was having problems keeping it straight while I thrashed along closing on him before the second gate. He went through first with me right behind. The next gate was off to the left in a small bay with hundreds of people watching.

I didn't know it but that is where the TV camera waited. Millions saw "The Englishman" make a mess of the third gate because I was bumped from behind by the boy in the big kayak. Undeterred I used my paddle to swing the slalom pole over my bows and go through, total cheat. Huge applause, I had proved what advantage takers the English are. Everyone enjoyed that. I finished the course quite well mainly because I had handling skills that most of the others didn't. The BAT 8 isn't a fast

boat, quite the opposite, but it turns easily.

My host was vastly amused and told me I had the third fastest time. I have the bronze medal beside me as I write. Later that night back at base I saw myself on TV, arrive in a thrash of foam, cheat busily and buzz off.

The return journey was down the hairpin road. New Zealand has some tough roads but this was in the top league. The mountain side is a maze of scattered boulders the size of a cathedral, with small ones the size of a house between. People live in the crevices and caves and live quite well. Not far from the top there was a large lorry on its side. The road edge has a concrete rim like a high kerbstone designed to cause a steering wheel stay on the road but this lorry had a high centre of gravity so it laid over and stopped. If it moved another two metres it could have fallen one thousand feet.

The load was boxes of fresh eggs and there was a mega omelette on the road. We waited as the rock dwellers gathered unbroken eggs of which there were very many. They live on the contents of many wrecks. There were no police there, it must have happened very recently. The mountain people had stalls at the side of the road. Night on a bare mountain? We kept going.

HUMOUR

Don't talk to my Parrot

Wanda's dishwasher quit working so she called in a repairman. Since she had to go to work the next day, she told the repairman, "I'll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dishwasher, leave the bill on the counter, and I'll mail you a check. Oh, by the way don't worry about my dog Spike. He won't bother you at all."

"But, whatever you do, do NOT, under ANY circumstances, talk to my parrot!"

"I must stress to you, that you must not talk to my parrot!"

When the repairman arrived at Wanda's apartment the following day, he discovered the biggest, meanest looking dog he has ever seen. But, just as Wanda had said, the dog just lay there on the carpet watching the repairman go about his work. The parrot, however, drove him nuts the whole time with his incessant yelling, cursing and name-calling. Finally the repairman couldn't contain himself any longer and yelled, "Shut up, you stupid, ugly bird!"

To which the parrot replied, "Get him Spike!"

Reformed Parrot

Recently I received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a mean attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. I tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else I could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, I was fed up and I yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. I shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. So, in desperation, I threw up my hands, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute.

Fearing that I'd hurt the parrot, I quickly opened the freezer door. The parrot calmly stepped out onto my outstretched arm and said, "I believe I may have offended you with my

rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior."

I was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As I was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird continued, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

The Italian Wedding Test

I was a very happy man. My wonderful girlfriend and I had been dating for over a year, and so we decided to get married. There was only one little thing bothering me - it was her beautiful younger sister.

My prospective sister-in-law was twenty-two, wore very tight mini skirts, and generally was bra-less. She would regularly bend down when she was near me, and I always got more than a nice view. It had to be deliberate because she never did it when she was near anyone else.

One day her 'little' sister called and asked me to come over to check the wedding invitations. She was alone when I arrived, and she whispered to me that she had feelings and desires for me that she couldn't overcome. She told me that she wanted me just once before I got married and committed my life to her sister.

Well, I was in total shock, and couldn't say a word. She said, "I'm going upstairs to my bedroom, and if you want one last wild fling, just come up and get me."

I was stunned and frozen in shock as I watched her go up the stairs. I stood there for a moment, then turned and made a beeline straight to the front door. I opened the door, and headed straight towards my car.

Lo and behold, my entire future family was standing outside, all clapping! With tears in his eyes, my father-in-law hugged me and said, "We are very happy that you have passed our little test. We couldn't ask for a better man for our daughter. Welcome to the family."

And the moral of this story is: 'Always keep your condoms in your car.'

Punishing British Humour

1. The wife was counting all the one and two pence coins out on the kitchen table, when she suddenly got very angry and started shouting and crying for no reason. I thought to myself, 'She's going through the change.'

2. Local Police hunting the 'knitting needle nutter' who has stabbed six people in the behind in the last 48 hours, believe the attacker could be following some kind of pattern.

3. A teddy bear is working on a building site. He goes for a tea break and when he returns he notices his pick has been stolen. The bear is angry and reports the theft to the foreman. The foreman grins at the bear and says, "Oh, I forgot to tell you, today's the day the teddy bears have their pick nicked."

4. Just got back from my mate's funeral. He died after being hit on the head with a tennis ball. It was a lovely service.

5. An Asian fellow has moved in next door. He has travelled the world, swum with sharks, wrestled bears and climbed the highest mountain. It came as no surprise to learn his name is Bindair Dundat.

6. Just been to the gym. They've got a new machine in. Only used it for half an hour, as I started to feel sick. It's great though. It does everything - KitKats, Mars Bars, Snickers, Potato Crisps, the lot.

7. The thing I love most about this hot weather is the short skirts and low cut tops, although, they do make me look a bit gay.

8. Following the tragic death of the Human Cannonball at the Kent Show, a spokesman said, "We'll struggle to get another man of the same calibre."

9. Question - Are there too many immigrants in Britain?
17% said yes; 11% said No; 72% said, "I am not understanding the question please."

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, trip reports, book reviews, equipment reviews, new techniques, letters 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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The 4th edition of the KASK Handbook, 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:
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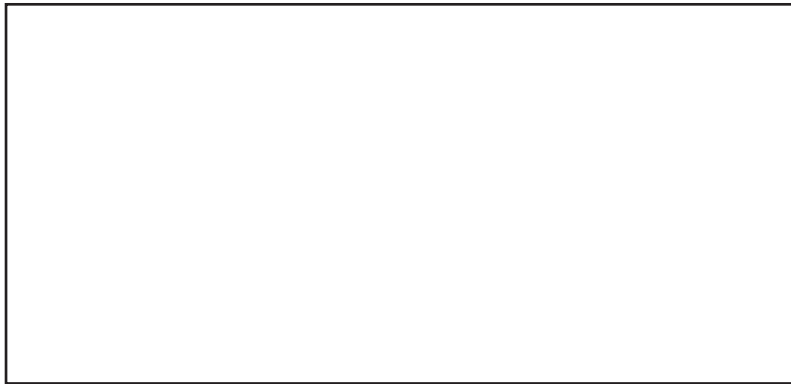


*Pre start conditions for the Foxtan Loop, showing the range of craft. There's a capsized multisporter nearest the coastguard boat.
Photo: Charles Jarvie (see story on p. 8)*



*More caves and tunnels than you could shake a stick at, on Milos in the Greek Islands.
Photo: John Hesseling*

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Paddlers enjoying glorious conditions off Milos in the Greek Islands. Photo: John Hesseling

KASK MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Current membership fees are:

- \$35 for ordinary membership
- for new members \$35 or \$50 to include a copy of the KASK Handbook
- \$40 for family or joint membership (\$55 to include a Handbook copy)
- \$35 for overseas membership (PDF newsletter only);
\$50 for new o/s members plus cost of overseas postage for a copy of the KASK 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 30 September, 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 on confirming renewals from existing members from July to October; and promoting new KASK memberships from November to February

