

# NEW ZEALAND SEA CANOEIST

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*Fiona Weatherall and James Corfe, sunburnt but with big beaming smiles after a smooth crossing of the Grey River bar. Photo: Paul Caffyn*



*Off Hokitika Beach, James Corfe observes a big set about to dump on him (thumbnail) and decides a frantic back paddle up the face of the breaker was better than being trashed. Photos: Paul Caffyn*

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Thanks to all the contributors. Editing and layout: Paul Caffyn Proofing: Lynda Ferguson	
<b>Deadline for Material for the next KASK magazine: 25 March 2015</b>	

**EDITORIAL****2015 KASK Forum**

For those of you who experienced difficulty in registering for this Auckland KASK Forum, initial teething issues with registration have been sorted. Tim Muhundan has scheduled an excellent program of speakers and instructors. And for the first time, the weekend registration fee includes dinner on the Friday evening.

The KASK AGM will be held before dinner on the Saturday night, and nominations for the committee are sought. Dedicated team players are sought who will actively contribute to the aims of KASK. Email your nominations to our efficient administrator Karen Grant: [admin@kask.co.nz](mailto:admin@kask.co.nz)

Reports for the AGM will be circulated to the KASK membership before the AGM, but as our financial year does not end until 31 March, the financial report will only be an interim report.

Nominations for the annual Graham Egarr trophy awards are sought (see page 15). On the same page, the rules for entries to the prestigious Forum Foto Competition. Bear in mind that to submit photos for consideration by the esteemed judging panel, you need to attend the forum – no mail or email entries!

**IKW**

Although the notice is short, a third International Kayak Week has been organized by Paul Hayward. To be held in the Bay of Islands at Otehei Bay on Urupukapuka Island, from Monday 23 to Saturday 28 February. It is about three hours drive up to Rawhiti, then about 30 minutes paddle out to the island.

Paul Hayward advises: 'Facilities on the island include a main building, which serves food & grog to day-trippers. They disappear at the end

of the afternoon. We'll use it for an evening meal (catered by the staff) and after the food, for slides/films/stories. Bring something we'll love!

'The toilet facilities have been upgraded recently. The bunkhouses haven't and are not 4-star. However, we've all slept in worse and they provide a mattress and a roof within 1 minute of the big building – for \$15 pp, per night. There are some 2s, some 4s and some 6s. If you prefer to tent, and don't mind a walk, book with DoC for Cable Bay and save \$5 a night – at the cost of being away from the action.

'Cost under \$60 per day, including meals, shelter and entertainment.' For more information, Paul suggests checking for updates on: [www.coastbusters.org.nz](http://www.coastbusters.org.nz) email: [paul@coastbusters.org.nz](mailto:paul@coastbusters.org.nz) or phone: 021 585 521

**South Island Circumnavigation**

I have been following the progress of Fiona Weatherall and James Corfe around the South Island with interest, using the 'tracker' link on their website. They were seeking the ultimate sea kayaking adventure challenge and the West Coast is certainly providing this. Fossil Point, at the base of Farewell Spit, was their over-nighter camp on Sunday 8 February. Fiona rang for a marine forecast, which unfortunately was a mix of gale south-westerlies or gale south-easterlies for the next two days.

The English couple were sheltering inside Whanganui Inlet from a heavy swell offshore, and running short on tucker, they hitched into Collingwood on Saturday morning to re-supply. Late afternoon I had a phone call – an American voice saying my number was the last to be called on the cellphone, which had been left in his vehicle at Collingwood by two young hitch-hikers. Could I help locate them?

As Fiona and James used the phone not only for communication but also

**COVER:**

*Maureen Charles drifting in a sea of colour on Lake Okareka. Photo: Dennis Hynes*

*See also the paddler profile on Dennis and his thoughts on how to improve your kayak photography (pages 9 & 11)*

for seeking marine forecasts and tidal information. After their camera failed at Milford, the phone had photos of their paddle up to Greymouth. Cellphone communication in the Collingwood area was patchy and the American chap said the phone's battery was almost dead.

Eventually Fiona and James were reunited with their phone by the America tourist, but I had been able to chat several times to Dave and Marilyn Ferguson who own the farm on the northern side of Whanganui Inlet. Back in 1978, I had an out-of-boat experience on the inlet's bar, and lost the stern hatch cover. Which is how I got to meet Dave and Marilyn.

For me it is so encouraging to see 'young uns' tackling a major challenge like the South Island circumnavigation. Apart from really heavily laden kayaks, their prior research and training along with their surf skills have impressed me no end. Being aware of the West Coast's reputation for heavy surf and gnarly landings, Fiona and James made a point of training in England's surf.

I just hope the couple do not finish until I am back from Auckland and

can greet them at Summer with pavlova and bubbles.

### Okains Bay Training Weekend

Sandy Ferguson has provided a summary of the recent training weekend, and advises that well over 20 have now been held.

Apart from the \$2 cost for showers, the training is provided free by the Canterbury Sea Kayak Network's skilled and experienced paddlers. Sandy advised quite a few attending were new to the sport. My thanks to Jillian Wilson and Sandy for the words and lovely photos.

### The Tasman

In early January, paddler Scott Donaldson announced he will make a third attempt to cross the Tasman, from Australia to New Zealand. He will stick to a more northerly route, and noted in a media story that he would not attempt the route taken by Andrew McAuley, because it 'certainly gets you a much quicker trip but it increases your risk profile considerably'.

That logic is debatable give the fact that Andrew was in sight of Fiordland after 30 days on the water in

2007, and Scott spent 84 days, including the last six when he was in sight of the Taranaki coast but unable to make progress into stiff winds. He called for a rescue and was winched off his vessel by helicopter.

Back in the late 80s, my two attempts to cross the Tasman were from near Port Arthur in Tasmania, to West Cape in Fiordland, a distance of some 900 miles. With two paddlers in the double kayak, my time estimate for the crossing was 9 - 11 days, assisted with a boost from the prevailing wind, swell and current. Paul Caffyn

## KASK BANK ACCOUNT NUMBERS

from Karen Grant

A cautionary note from Admin about transferring funds electronically.

From time to time KASK operates temporary bank accounts for specific purposes such as managing the finances for the next KASK forum and then the relevant account number is advertised with the promotion of the event.

When transferring funds for a KASK membership subscription or for a forum registration, please check that you have the correct account number.

The bank account details for subscription payments are posted inside the back cover of each Sea Canoeist magazine. For other bank account information, please refer to any promotional or registration material that has been distributed, or if in doubt, email me at: [admin@kask.org.nz](mailto:admin@kask.org.nz)

## KASK Committee 2014 - 2015

Ian McKenzie	- President	email: <a href="mailto:mckian@xtra.co.nz">mckian@xtra.co.nz</a>
Sandy Ferguson	- Webmaster	email: <a href="mailto:kayakamf@gmail.com">kayakamf@gmail.com</a>
Paul Caffyn	- Publications	email: <a href="mailto:kayakpc@xtra.co.nz">kayakpc@xtra.co.nz</a>
Shawn Walsh	- Committee	email: <a href="mailto:Shawn.Walsh@codeblue.co.nz">Shawn.Walsh@codeblue.co.nz</a>
Tim Muhundan	- 2015 Forum	email: <a href="mailto:tim@paddler.co.nz">tim@paddler.co.nz</a>
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KASK Administrator (Karen Grant)		email: <a href="mailto:admin@kask.co.nz">admin@kask.co.nz</a>

## KASK NATIONAL SEA KAYAK FORUM 2015 - AUCKLAND

20 - 22 February 2015 at MERC, Beach Rd, Torbay, Auckland

For registration and more info see:

<http://paddler.co.nz/kask2015>



# KASK FORUM 2015

## 20 - 22 February 2015

**Where:** Long Bay Marine Reserve at MERC, 1045 Beach Rd, Torbay, North Shore, Auckland  
(Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre)

### The Program:

- **Friday Night:** Registration from 5:30pm. Dinner at 6.30 pm-ish, with three talented paddling artists to follow (a sculptor, a painter and a creative photographer) as they share their thoughts on paddling, marine life, the ocean and how it influences their work
- **Saturday:** Numerous sessions on and off the water all day. The evening has speakers including Tara Mulvany and Jason Beachcroft following the KASK AGM and dinner
- **Sunday** is for getting wet and having fun or attend some land-based skill clinics on weather and navigation. We will also have three international coaches including BCU5 instructor Ginny Callahan, Tsunami ranger Deb Volturmo and New Zealand's own John Kirk-Anderson
- **Sunday night campout:** We end the weekend with a fully catered campout at Dacre Cottage – a 90 minute paddle.

### Cost:

- KASK member \$180 per person
- Non-KASK member \$200 per person (includes five month's KASK membership).
- Sunday Campout \$20 extra per person

### Forum registration payments to:

Account name: KIWI ASSOCIATION OF SEA KAYAKERS

Bank: Westpac

Account number: 03 1706 0010205 01

### What is Provided:

Registration includes bunkroom accommodation for Friday and Saturday nights, plus all meals and sessions from Friday evening to Monday morning. Vegetarian/Gluten free food is available. BYO wine/beer.

### Venue Information:

Please keep driveways clear at all times (unless loading or unloading). Visitor parking is available in the Beach Road extension (after the entrance to Long Bay Beach). Parking is also permitted in Long Bay Reserve car park.

### Your Accommodation:

Registration includes your accommodation at MERC, in a two storied block, with of a number of rooms, primarily dormitory-style with beds for 80 people. Bring your own bedding, pillows, teddy bears, sleeping bags etc. Facilities include male and female changing rooms with toilet and shower facilities, a drying room, cleaning store and first aid room.

For the full program and to register see: <http://paddler.co.nz/kask2015/>

**Enquires to:** Tim@paddler.co.nz or phone: (021) 276 7727



Deb



Tara



Ginney

# NEW ZEALAND TRIP REPORTS

## Okains Bay Training Weekend 31 January to 1 February 2015 by Sandy Ferguson

Another training weekend has been successfully held at Okains Bay on Banks Peninsula, hosted by the Canterbury Sea Kayak Network. These training weekends are free and the instructors give their time freely.

Myself, trying to look like a coordinator, and those who received instruction, wish to thank John Kirk-Anderson, Martin and Fiona Fraser, Daniel Farber, Steve Cooper, Dave Welch and Doug Aitken for the time they put into the instructing.

The Saturday evening session was gadgets and equipment with John Kirk-Anderson's large line-up of 'what I always take'. There was interest in the 'these are things you can make' items with at least one paddler taking numerous photos.

This year we had mixed weather, grey and very occasional light drizzle on Saturday but Sunday, as the Norwegian weather website had predicted a week previously, was a perfect nearly cloudless day. How can NZ Metservice get it so wrong by predicting heavy rain for Sunday? I did hear the comment that kayaking is on the water and wet, so how can a little drizzle upset it anyway?

*All photos: Jillian Wilson*



*Martin Fraser providing instruction on the beach at Okains Bay*

Some might think the event is unplanned and possibly that it is not actually organized. Its organization is done by offering instruction and providing what participants want and what we have instructors for, on the day. Timing is flexible and it works. High tide in the afternoon filled the lagoon and those who wanted to check a kayak or two, had flat water

to do it on. There was surf, not as big as on some years, just enough to capsize a few unwary, usually in knee deep water.

There were well over a dozen new to sea kayaking paddlers and over 60 paddlers present. Yes, I lied about being free, the showers cost \$2.



*JKA instructs Ria Wayne on how to 'wear' her kayak*



## NEW ZEALAND TRIP REPORTS

### South Island Circumnavigation by Paul Caffyn

A young English couple, Fiona Weatherall and James Corfe, launched from Sumner (Christchurch) on 8 December 2014 to paddle around the South Island. Although I did not catch up with Fiona and James until 26 January when they arrived at Hokitika, I was impressed with their research and planning for the circumnavigation. Fiona had been in touch frequently via emails to check on the prognosis for the 2015 summer weather and seeking advice on logistics.

Fiona and James met in 2010 whilst working at an adventure centre in the Isle of Man and have been happily adventuring together ever since. They both completed university degrees and have worked as outdoor instructors in the Lake District. Their first sea kayaking expedition was a four-day paddle around the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea.

James and Fiona have a website blog, which has a 'tracker' link, which allows people to follow where they land each night: <http://intothesea.wix.com/nwzealandsea>. The blog has not been updated since starting the Fiordland section, but both the kids – Fiona is 22 and James 25 – are keeping diaries.

The couple had a good run down the east coast to Dunedin with the usual high drama when dealing with the big bumper dumpers south of Banks Peninsula. But this was made up for when a big bull orca surfaced alongside James on 15 December, so close that he could feel the puff of spray from the killer whale's blowhole and see the white around its eye. James reckoned it was a recce to see if he was no threat to the pod, for next moment, a whole pod was around them, including a mum and calf, 'rolling



*James Corfe and Fiona Weatherall after arriving at Bluff.  
Photo: Tara Mulvany*

around on the sea like you see on a David Attenborough TV doco'.

On Xmas day, when landing south of Nugget Point, Fiona was startled by a huge sea lion coming out of the sea behind her and roaring at her. 'I gave him lots of space! Eventually he went to sleep and got over us been there, occasionally getting up to look at us if we got too close! We chilled out with a couple of beers! XMAS Day and we are a quarter way through whoo!'

The Mulvanys looked after the couple when they arrived at Bluff on 26 December, but at Wakapatu Beach (west of Riverton) a run of cold fronts and stormy weather left them on shore for nine on nine days. On 5 January, with the arrival of the first big summer high, Fiona and James crossed Te Waewae Bay to Port Craig, the site of an old timber mill and the start of Fiordland. They reached Green Islets in a big day from Sandhill Point, and rounded Puysegur Point on 8 January.

James and Fiona certainly made the most of fair seas and settled weather, reaching Milford on 14 January. A big slow moving low with numerous cold fronts nailed them at Milford for five days, but they paddled out to Anita Bay, just inside the entrance of Milford Sound, on the evening of 19 January.

Despite a huge ground swell next day, Fiona and James headed north, passing both Martins Bay and Big Bay. The reef-protected headlands of

both Long Reef and Awarua points forced long detours seaward, and that with the loss of that map section, led to the couple passing their evening destination at the south end of Big Bay, and landing further north on exposed coast at the Hackett River mouth.

That missing map section also led to Fiona and James landing at Hominy Cove, just south-west of Jackson Head, and barely 15 minutes paddle away from Jackson Bay and fish and chips at the Craypot Inn.

A glorious big high pressure system allowed a swift five day paddle to Hokitika where I met the couple, mid afternoon, on 26 January. Their estimated ETA of 3pm was spot on, and fortunately there is a viewing platform by the car park at the south end of town. The swell was still moderate but with the aid of the binocs, I caught a glimpse of James cresting a swell. The Hokitika River bar was alive with breakers while 400 metres to the north, I could see only two sets of breakers for them to negotiate before landing. With a signal mirror I flashed the couple to show I was on shore, and then decided to try calling Fiona on her cellphone to provide directions. And blow me down, she answered.

But it was heart in the mouth stuff to watch them slowly edge toward the back of the offshore bar breakers. I was most impressed with their cautious approach, not rushing the landing. James was in front when a



*Fiona with her cellphone in a waterproof bag, and carried in a pocket on her lifejacket*



*James and Fiona nearing a launching ramp in Blaketown Lagoon, the fishing port for Greymouth after a smooth crossing of the Grey River bar. Photo Paul Caffyn*

huge set began rearing astern, topplers which would have looped him, but he engaged turbo back-paddling and just made it over the crest before it broke (see photos on page 2).

The beach bumper dumpers were quite violent, full of gravel, but with excellent bracing skills, James and Fiona both landed successfully.

*Fiona, tired and sunburnt, nearing the end of the paddling stint from Hokitika to Greymouth*



Their kayaks were so heavy when we carried them to the back of the berm where they would camp for the night. Over a few beers and fish and chips, they related some of the highs and lows of their paddle around Fiordland and up the West Coast.

Highlights included paddling with pods of Hector dolphins and the stunning views of the Southern Alps. The low point for both kids was launching from the beach by the Whataroa River mouth. 'I was launching from through the river mouth as the dumping surf was huge. One wave caught me and sent me off course, then a larger wave hit me and I braced

into the wave, but capsized. Thinking that was strange, as I felt pretty secure, I rolled up. When upright, I noted the capsize was due to my paddle snapping in half. I looked out to sea and saw more waves moving towards me, so had to paddle my kayak like a canoe, only just making it out the back. When I got there, I burst out laughing. There's not much else I could do'.

Watching James's tussle off the river mouth, Fiona decided to launch from the beach, but she was completely trashed in the shore dump, not just once, but had to roll her kayak eight times. One bumper dumper sent

*James and Fiona on shore at Blaketown Lagoon*





her upside down up the face of the beach, with her helmet taking the brunt of the impact. It took Fiona and hour and 20 minutes before she was able to successfully join James offshore. What a gutsy kid!

Next afternoon, all three of us were very relieved by settled conditions on the Grey River bar. Following stocking up on tucker, replacing lost kit like hats, and offloading some excess weight, James and Fiona cruised back over the Grey River bar on 28 January, and had a superb run north, endeavouring to round Farewell Spit before forecast big seas. Just a few miles south-west of Kahurangi Point lighthouse, they landed and were stuck at the Cannington Creek mouth for three days, but paddled into the shelter of Whanganui Inlet on 4 February. And as of 8 February that is where they are waiting for a heavy ground swell to ease.



*James and Fiona placating the resident great white shark at the 12 Mile, north of Greymouth*

Apart from the heavily laden kayaks, the skills and technique of Fiona and James have impressed me no end. And despite some of the gnarly landings, they are enjoying the challenge immensely. Once into Golden Bay, they estimate another 12 days of paddling to reach Sumner. Fiona and James are fully aware of the traditional final landing greeting – pavlova in the mush and bubbles. Fiona

will become the youngest blonde to paddle around the South Island, ahead of Tara Mulvany by a year.

New Zealand's South Island has a reputation overseas with sea kayakers as the ultimate paddling adventure, which is why James and Fiona travelled around half of the world with their kayaks to attempt this trip. Sunburnt faces and big smiles said it all as they crossed the Grey River bar – the challenge was living up to its reputation.

To follow their daily progress see the 'tracker' link on:

<http://intothesea.wix.com/nwzealandsea>

and a facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/intotheneuwealandsea>

See also page 24, photo of James in the surf off Fox River.

## Paddler Profile - Dennis Hynes

You could call my paddling experience a game of two halves.

I first picked up a paddle back in 1973 when learning to roll in the tepid pools at Mt. Eden. I joined the Auckland University Canoe Club during my first year at university, which was great for extra-curricular activities but not so great for the studies. There were not too many whitewater rivers around Auckland, so much of our practice was in the surf out at Piha. Many a lecture was missed when the forecast was for six foot glassy waves at Piha.

When I first joined the AUCC, there were still a number of canvas and ply kayaks. A tin of ADOS glue and duct tape were a necessity on all trips, and I can recall using all I had of both on one trip, kayaking (or more accurately portaging) down the Whakatane River. The fibreglass boats the club did have more closely resembled a *Penguin* kayak (minus the rudder) than today's white water kayaks, and we made our own wooden paddles. One of our club members got hold

of a damaged fibreglass whitewater kayak, purpose-built for some overseas kayakers competing in world slalom champs held in NZ. He made a plug and then subsidized his study expenses supplying club members with the latest in kayak technology. I think the model was called the *Olymp 4*. You could always tell one of the boats out of his mould from the starring on the deck from the repairs to the original kayak. These kayaks truly revolutionized our ideas of which rivers we could run. There was no official grading of rivers, or of paddlers, back then. Our training and knowledge of rivers came from

*Dennis Hynes in Fiordland 2014*



the club members in their last years at uni and word of mouth around the kayaking community. In turn we passed on what we had learnt (often the hard way).

Over the next four years many weekends were spent running the rivers within a few hours' drive from Auckland (instead of studying): Kawerau, Mohaka, Tongariro, Rangitiki, Motu, with Fuljames Rapid a favourite.

Each year culminated in an extended road trip to the South Island, where our knowledge of what we could run was even sketchier. The Gow-an, Buller, Waimakariri, Rangitata, Ohau, Pukaki: surfing at Westport, Sumner and Taylors Mistake and St Claire. A favourite was the Clarence River running through the Molesworth station and then between the inland and seaward Kaikoura Mountain ranges. I can still recall the new years eve spent on the banks of the Clarence, a couple of bottles of whisky and green ginger wine, cigars, yodelling into the night. There was an epic trip down the Hol-



*Dennis in Doubtful Sound, on a drizzly winter morning in 2014*

lyford River when the plan was to cross Lake McKerrow and paddle down the coast to Milford Sound. Well we'd mastered pretty much all Piha could throw at us, so it should be a piece of cake right? When we saw the power of the West Coast South Island surf at its worst at Martins Bay, we turned around and paddled, portaged our way all the way back out.

Through those four years, I experienced a spate of shoulder dislocations - in those vicious eddies at the side of Fuljames, in the surf at Pakari, over the falls on the Wairoa just out of Tauranga, sneezing at the flat. We were taught the high brace and turning strokes and the big sweep roll over the back deck, all super effective due to the leverage but making the shoulder joint super vulnerable. I needed an op on both shoulders. I had the left one, which was the worst, done. After the op, the surgeon said he couldn't do anymore if I dislocated it again. So my kayaking became pretty tame and I lost interest.

Marriage followed by 18 months OE, mortgage and kids and the kayaking was put on hold for the next 30+ years. Flick forward to my mid 50s and I was invited to join a group paddling sections of the Waikato River from Taupo to the sea at Port Waikato in sea kayaks, to map the deteriorating water quality. This showed me a different face of kay-

aking, that I could do without the ever-present risk of dislocating my shoulder - well not to the same extent anyway.

I tried pretty much all the plastic sea kayaks on the market at the time, but when I jumped into a *Beachcomber*, I was sold. It responded so much more like my old whitewater kayaks than any of the others. I liked the manoeuvrability on the water and the lightness when man-handling it out of the water.

People often ask me, where do you paddle, when living in Hamilton so far away from the sea? Within two hours drive I can access the west coast harbours, Kawhia, Aotea, Rag-

lan, Port Waikato, Manukau also the Waitemata Harbour and Hauraki Gulf; the Coromandel coastline and offshore Islands, Tauranga Harbour and Mt. Maunganui, the coast and offshore islands (and rivers) all the way through to Whakatane; the Rotorua lakes; Lake Taupo; the entire length of the Waikato River and all the hydro lakes. Plus some of the more unique trips like the 30 km paddle down the Lower Waikato Waipa flood control scheme from Rangiriri through the Whangamano wetlands to Mercer, the peat dome on the Hauraki plains - the list goes on.

I never did pluck up the resolve to go through all the pain and rehab again, and get the right shoulder operated on. Instead I've continued a gym regime to support the joint with muscle rather than the loosened ligaments. Generally pretty successfully except for a dislocation during a game of indoor soccer and a partial dislocation while affecting an assisted rescue on the Tongaparutu bar.

While I enjoy paddling with groups - well smaller groups anyway - I have done a lot of my kayaking solo, on day trips when I'm not board surfing, or snowboarding, and there are no club trips I want to join. Not the solo expedition trips I read about in the KASK magazine. The ever-present risk of shoulder dislocation has made me a conservative paddler,

*Dennis in the magic karst scenery of Kawhia Harbour*



especially when on my own. I love pouring over maps and seeking out new bodies of water to explore. I find a point to launch from and paddle out and back as far as I can in the time I have available, pushing up all the side streams, and into caves and other nooks and crannies along the way. Often returning with my kayak covered in undergrowth, snagged along the way.

I came across my all time favourite one-day paddle that way. I knew nothing about the fabulous limestone formations along the south coast of the Kawhia Harbour, when I launched from the boat ramp at Te Waitere. The grin on my face just kept getting wider the further I paddled. By the end of the day I reckon the grin must have just about joined at the top of my head. I don't know how many times I have been back

there, often introducing new paddlers to the gem, but I never tire of it.

Extending the travel and trip times and the whole of New Zealand is opened up. I've paddled in the Marlborough Sounds, Nelson lakes, Lake Ellery (a little known gem south of Haast), lakes Hawea, Wanaka, Te Anau, Whakatipu, Manapouri, Monawai and even Lake Gunn on the road to Milford, Doubtful, Breaksea Sounds - didn't get to Dusky, the main goal, but that is a for a different story. Hall Arm on Doubtful Sound has to be the most spectacular, surreal place I have paddled. The sheer drops from the snow-capped mountain peaks, blanketed in thick rain forest from the snowline to water level, shrouded in misty clouds, with ever changing light, all reflected in the tannin stained water made it impossible to paddle more than a dozen

or so strokes without stopping to take another photo.

Then there are the coasts north of Auckland, Bay of Islands and on up to Pararengarenga Harbour and Spirit Bay. But you don't have to do that road travel to have amazing experiences from a kayak. I once spent over an hour, with a pod of orca only metres from my kayak in the entrance to the Tauranga Harbour and up into Pilot Bay, while they herded stingrays into Pilot Bay ahead of a massive feast.

With still so much yet to paddle, I hope to be paddling for many years yet.

Photos of Dennis by:  
John Gumbley, Maureen Charles,  
JKA and Laraine Hughes.

## TECHNICAL

### How to Improve Your Paddling Photographs - by Dennis Hynes

I take a mix of photos when on the water; most just to capture the memory, some with kayaks and some without. But I always have an eye out for those special moments that present themselves.

I use an *Olympus* 'tough' TG2 camera. It is compact, waterproof and shock proof, so I can have it at the ready in the front pocket of my PFD. I have it tethered to my PFD with a thin bungy cord (useful when caught by that rogue wave or wind gust to be able to drop the camera, grab my paddle, sort myself out and then retrieve the camera). It has a rapid start up, ready to shoot in less than one second and almost no time between shots. I have been really impressed with the range of light conditions that the TG2 handles in auto mode.

The only real limitation is that it only has four times magnification. So you need to be up close and personal, but that's the way I like it.

I am not a technically expert photographer. I take most of my photos in

auto mode. Sometimes switching to scene mode for underwater shots or special light conditions. I find most photo opportunities on the water are extremely fleeting, so point and shoot does it for me. I haven't got around to doctoring my photos with Photoshop etc. so what you see is what I shot.

My tips for paddlers to take better on the water photos (most learnt along the way through mistakes):

1) First, and to me the most important, is to be on the lookout for those photo opportunities. It takes time to get in position, get the camera out and be ready to shoot. You need to anticipate the shot, and then position you and your kayak to the best advantage.

The manoeuvrability of my *Beachcomber* is a great asset. When your kayak pod is on the move, you need to be prepared to work to get ahead of the group and then work to catch up again once they have passed.

2) Remember to watch out for your own safety. Be prepared to forgo the shot if conditions become hazardous. Many a time I've had to bolt out of a cave with the camera hanging from my mouth when I've left it too late.

3) Use a paddle leash. Two hands aren't enough to operate the camera and hang onto the paddle at the same time.

4) Lift your rudder to manoeuvre into position and then drop it to help hold your kayak in position.

5) Frame the shots in your mind as you are moving into position.

6) Take lots of photos. (Be ruthless and discard the duds and double ups or be prepared to buy plenty of storage).

7) Take time to focus and steady the camera for each shot. I've blurred many a 'perfect shot' by rushing to capture the moment. If you have the time, focus the shot first by holding the shutter halfway.

8) Swap between portrait and landscape for different effects (portrait can give extra depth to your photos).

9) Mix and match with your own kayak in/out of the shot.

10) Best to have the light from behind

11) If you want to feature kayakers in the frame, best to be up close, otherwise the kayakers rapidly disappear into the background.

12) Check often that the lens is clean. So frustrating to capture the 'perfect' shot only to find the lens has fogged up, or a big drop of water or dried salt ruins the shot.

13) Keep a soft, dry cloth somewhere you can get at so you can clean the lens.

14) Never, never leave your camera at home. I once spent over half an hour within metres of a pod of orca, feeding on rays in the Tauranga Harbour without my camera. It was only a training paddle, one I had done dozens of times before, so no need to take the camera.

15) Remember to charge the battery after every use. Take extra batteries for multi day trips.

16) I download my photos after every trip so my memory card is clear. (not so critical with the capacity of the cards today).

17) Back up your photos in case of hard drive crashes etc.

A word of caution - it is too easy to get too distracted while trying to record the moment only to find you didn't really take the time to experience the moment. Although they are great for jogging your memory the digital recordings can never match the memory in your mind's eye.

*Dennis Hynes's Photo-gallery from past KASK magazines*



*A glorious day at Mangakino on Lake Maraetai with paddlers Bev Thompson, and Evan Pugh*



*Phil Alley, John Gumbley and JKA in Doubtful Sound, winter 2014*

*Cover of this KASK magazine*



*Into the sun shot*



## TECHNICAL

After first appearing in the BASK Noosletter, assembled by Evan Pugh, Laraine Hughes noted: 'You are very welcome to use the two kit articles in the KASK mag. I know the carry handles have proved very useful on trips, and I've made several pairs for friends as gifts. I also love my tattered old deck bag and am impressed that people who have seen it, or read the article in the BASK newsletter, have made them to suit their own kayak and come up with some pretty impressive improved models. And these little useful things don't need to cost a lot of money.'

### Kayak Carrying Strops by Laraine Hughes

Required:

- 2 pieces of 25 mm webbing, 195 cms long
- 4 pieces of 20 mm plastic plumbing pipe, 120 mm long

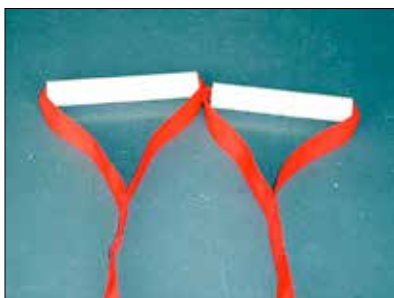
Seal the ends of the lengths of webbing with flame (lighter or match).

Thread one end of the first piece of webbing through a length of pipe.

The length of the piece of webbing, which has been threaded through should be 180 mm from the edge of the pipe to its end. Form an even V with the webbing on the other side of the pipe and pin together at 50 mm from the end. Machine stitch backwards and forwards across the webbing to join both sides together, from the pin to the end. Repeat this process for the other three ends.

Very useful for shifting loaded kayaks to and from the water

*The carrying handles for one of the strops. All photos: Laraine Hughes*



*Laraine's carrying strops in action at a launching ramp into the Waikato River*

### Deck Handbag by Laraine Hughes

I made my bag initially so I could easily access my fishing gear – hooks and sinkers box, bait bag etc.

I don't go fishing in my kayak very often now, but I find the bag invaluable for carrying things I want to be able to get to quickly – my rescue ladder, carry strops, various pieces of string, and other things when I'm not using them like my sunglasses and paddle leash. It is also very handy for carrying snorkeling gear.

Several people have observed my bag and made their own variation to suit their kayak and their needs.

- 2 pieces of 25 mm or 20 mm webbing – 1 approx 125 cm long, 1 approx 1m long
- 2 clips – appropriate size to take the webbing – or 4 carabiners if more suitable
- 2 pieces of windbreak material – the knotted variety rather than the woven variety works best
- 1 piece approx 50 cm wide x 45 cm high (bottom of bag)
- 1 piece approx. 60-70 cm wide x 45 cm high (top of bag)

Cut pieces so that the selvedge\* is at the top. Use bungee cord to close top of bag – or you could use Velcro:

1) Make the bag by sewing sides and bottom edges together – either pleat or gather the extra width of the top piece to fit the bottom piece. I suggest a French seam for a neater job and also it reinforces the edges. The top needs to be wider to allow room for the goodies stored within the bag.

2) Sew the longer piece of webbing onto the underside of the bottom edge of the bag – two rows of stitching. The length of the webbing de-

*Laraine's deck 'handbag'*



depends on what deck lines you have to either slip the webbing underneath (see photo) and clip the ends together, or you could make the ends of the webbing into loops to attach to a point on the deck with carabiners.

3) Turn the selvedge on the top of the bag over to the inside of the bag – approx 15mm.

4) Create a tunnel for the bungee cord on the top edge of the bag by stitching along the edge of the selvedge – sew only to the side seams. Insert the bungee cord. Secure the bungee at one end by sewing across it several times. Tie a knot in the other end so you can adjust the tension on the bungee later. I used Velcro on my bag, rather than bungee, but it doesn't give such a tidy job.

5) Sew the required length of webbing to the top of the bag – underneath the bottom piece of material. The length depends on how you want to secure it to a fitting on your deck (see photo top right).

6) Adjust the length of the bungee across the bag to the tension re-



*Laraine's deck handbag in more detail*

quired, then secure the end by sewing across it several times.

\*A **selvage** (US English) or **selvedge** (British English) is a self-finished edge of fabric. The selvages keep the fabric from unraveling or fraying. The selvages are a result of how the fabric is created. In woven fabric, selvages are the edges that run parallel to the warp (the longitudinal threads that run the entire length of

the fabric), and are created by the weft thread looping back at the end of each row. Historically, the term selvage applied only to loom-woven fabric, though now can be applied to flat-knitted fabric. The terms *selvage* and *selvedge* are a corruption of 'self-edge', and have been in use since the 16th century. (courtesy of Wikipedia)

### Caption Required



- "Feel the power of The Force, young Luke, and a portal will open!"
- "How many fingers am I holding up?"
- "Ten."
- "Good! The paddle shaft stuck up your bottom hasn't affected your brain!"
- "Now look - I've read the owners manual for your kayak but there's not a single mention about getting the paddle shaft out of your back!"
- "I said red Jackets only, no blue Jackets!"
- "Why on earth did they put a window here?"

At the recent Okains Bay Canterbury Sea Kayak Network training weekend (see page 6), Jillian Wilson took a series of wonderful photos, including this pic of a one-on-one instruction session under the macrocarpa pines at the campsite. John (JKA) advises he had no idea that the photo was taken.

I couldn't help but send this pic to a few regular email correspondents with a request for a good caption.

If you can improve on the captions below the photo, please email me.

John has advised he has an armed drone on standby from the CIA and is just waiting for names and faces of those who supply the worst captions,

Thus 'secret squirrel' omerta will apply to all captions received.

## THE 2015 AUCKLAND KASK FORUM

### ANNUAL KASK AWARDS

Nominations are sought for the three annual KASK awards – email to Paul Caffyn (kayakpc@xtra.co.nz)

1. Graham Egarr Trophy award for outstanding contribution(s) to the KASK newsletter during the past 12 months (Colin Quilter is the current trophy holder)
2. Graham Egarr Trophy award for outstanding contribution to New Zealand sea kayaking during the past 12 months (Tara Mulvany is the current trophy holder)
3. The 'Bugger!' Trophy, awarded for the most humiliating, embarrassing, humorous sea kayaking encounter over the 12 months (Not awarded at the 2014 AGM as no one was nominated).

### ANNUAL KASK PHOTO COMPETITION

2015 Forum Auckland

Enter your best photographs for the prestigious photo competition. Entries must have a sea kayaking or coastal connection. Sorry but no mail entries. The competition is only for paddlers attending the forum. Please ensure your photo is submitted to the appropriate category.

#### Guidelines:

Photos may be entered for the following categories:

- Open (knock you socks off photos)
- Action (sea kayaking)
- Seascape (kayaks or people do not dominate the picture)
- Coastal / marine flora or fauna
- Kayaking bloopers / bugger! moments / salty humour

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

#### Limit:

Four photos per photographer, per category.

#### Format/Techniques:

- colour or black and white prints to a maximum size of A3
- note on each photo's rear: category, caption or locale, name, mail address, email address.
- no slides please; only digital or colour / b & w negative prints.
- images can only be edited with: cropping and resizing, lightening and darkening, dodging and burning, sharpening, and colour correction. In other words, images may be 'tweaked' to improve impact, but no manipulation such as cloning is not accepted.

#### Submission:

Entries can be submitted on arrival at the forum, up to 9am Saturday 21 February 2015

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 magazine and agree to enter in 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 dinner on Saturday night or at Sunday breakfast.

#### Judging:

The formidable team of JKA (bribes accepted) and Paul Caffyn (I want your photos for the KASK magazine)

# Overseas Reports

## Kayaking the Aleutians

### Release of new DVD

Firstly a bit of background: British adventurer Sarah Outen ([www.sarahouten.com](http://www.sarahouten.com)) set out to loop the planet using a rowing boat, bike and kayak. Crossing oceans and deserts under her own power while talking to the world, it was a charity fund-raising and storytelling mission as well as a massive adventure. Starting in London under the iconic Tower Bridge in 2011, Sarah's first attempt at rowing across the Pacific Ocean ended with a rescue when she was caught in bad weather off Japan.

In a second attempt, Sarah set out from Choshi, Japan, in her rowing boat on 27 April 2013, bound for Canada. Four months into the crossing, she wasn't even half way, after so many weeks of stormy, contrary weather and impossible currents. With her team, Sarah decided to 'turn left' and made for Adak, in the Aleutian Islands, some 600 miles to the north. One month later, after 150 days alone on the water, Sarah landed on the island of Adak, after what she describes as her most gruelling expedition yet.

Justine Curgenvén ([www.cackletv.com](http://www.cackletv.com)) stepped in to help with the next section from Adak, along the Aleutian Island chain and south side of the Alaska Peninsula to Homer, south of Anchorage. With pre-trip paddle training for Sarah from Barry Shaw (who paddled around the South Island with Justine), Sarah and Justine set off on 7 May 2014 and reached Homer 101 days later, on 22 August. Justine notes she and Sarah paddled 1,550 miles (2,500 kms). They paddled 64 of those days and had 37 days on land.

From Adak along the island chain to the western tip of the Alaska Peninsula, the paddle involved numerous tricky crossings, tricky with

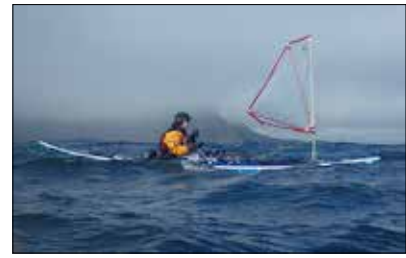


*Justine's seffie off the south coast of the Aleutian Island chain*

the strong tidal streams that flow between the islands. I followed the daily blog of Justine's with interest, especially along that south coast of the peninsula, which I paddled back in 1990. I look forward to viewing Justine's latest DVD, of this remarkable paddling expedition.

In a summary on her blog, Justine noted:

'There were a few challenges to Sarah and my friendship having spent 24 hours in each others company for close to 4 months. I've been sea kayaking longer and we have different paces, and sometimes different ideas about how we should tackle a day's paddle or a section of coastline. It's a testament to Sarah's positive attitude, sense of humour, forgiving nature and amazing strength of character that we emerge as even better friends and only ignored each other for a few hours during the entire trip. Sarah is one of the most in-



*Sarah Outen under sail power*

credible people I know, not only to have the stamina and motivation to paddle frequent 14 hour stints and keep going when the ocean tidal rips and winds threatened to overwhelm her but for her generosity of spirit in wanting to share the joy that she feels at being alive and to make the day of everyone that she meets just a little bit better.'

#### Email from Justine Curgenvén:

I hope you are well. I know Baz has been emailing you about 'the kids' paddling around the South Island!

I'm writing to tell you about my new film about a 2,500km, 101 day paddle along the Aleutian Island chain and the Alaskan peninsula, with round-the-world adventurer Sarah Outen. The DVD and download are released on Valentines Day and I'm excited for people to see it because I think it's my best film yet.

There is some information on my website about the DVD - including the trailer. Please click on the link below:

<http://www.cackletv.com/sea-kayaking-dvds/kayaking-the-aleutians/>

**Kayaking the Aleutians**

An epic 2,500 kilometer journey along the Aleutian Islands  
Sarah Outen | Justine Curgenvén

No-one has succeeded in kayaking the length of the remote and stormy Aleutian Islands which stretch from Russia to Alaska. Explorers Justine Curgenvén and Sarah Outen set out to paddle 2,500km along the archipelago to five several small outcroppings more than 20 long crossings which separate the long unpopulated islands. Sarah faces an even more formidable challenge as this is part of her round-the-world human powered journey and she has limited kayaking experience. Alone for 101 days in one of the wildest, roughest places on earth, these two women are swept away from land by unknown currents, grounded by rough seas and approached by bears. Experiencing an edge-of-your-seat journey, they gain a rare insight into themselves, the rich wildlife and the lives of the few people who live in this harsh yet beautiful landscape.

The story of Justine and Sarah's 101 day ordeal is gripping, moving and above all inspiring. My admiration is unbounded! — Elizabeth Plummer

"Ingrid, showing to go with a superb adventure. A definite 5 star!" — Colin Angus

"A must-watch for adventure lovers." — Adventure Kayak magazine

The film is spectacular, full of high adventure, a touching friendship, and some of the most magnificent scenery on earth!" — Jim Tarr

**BRIEF MATERIAL:** The DVD includes a 95 minute film trailer, a 30 minute documentary, Plus 4 bonus films including: Living in Tofino, Discovering salmon with The Hachinoshi Sisters, a funny documentary paddle to Haida and kayaking with whales and eiders in the Bay of Fundy.

Running time: 105 minutes / PAL DVD / Filmed in HD / 16:9 widescreen  
Copyright © Cackletv 2014. [www.cackletv.com](http://www.cackletv.com) | Facebook: cackletv | Twitter: @cackletv

Photo: Sarah Curgenvén, David Lewis, Graham Hogg  
The image content of this DVD and packaging artwork has been licensed for private use only. All trademarks (trading, service, product, design, patent, copyright, other) are of their respective owners.



## Overseas Reports

### West Island Bits January 2015

by David Winkworth

Hope you all had great Christmas holidays and got in some good paddling! Not much of a summer here on the east Aussie coast at the moment – a succession of fronts and the odd east coast low have brought strong winds and cooler temperatures. Not complaining though - we can always find somewhere to paddle! And headwinds – well - they're a good opportunity to gain a little more paddling fitness aren't they! Character building stuff!

#### Platypus Yank

Teresa Diehl is making progress down the east Aussie coast from Cairns on her Australian Circumnavigation paddle. As I write she is just north of Townsville and looking forward to a re-supply there. She's copping a few headwinds, which are slowing her down and we're wondering when the south-east trade winds are really going to start up there. They will really slow her down as they blow all day and all night right through the winter months! Great if you're paddling north but a slog for south-going paddlers!

Teresa is really enjoying tripping through the offshore islands in the warm conditions up north. She will find different conditions when she moves further south and out of the protection of the reefs. We wish her all the best!

Teresa's website: [PlatypusYank.com](http://PlatypusYank.com)



Teresa Diehl



Peter Thomson prior to starting his Aussie trip on 1 February.

Photo: Mark Scott

Around Australia trips are getting popular! Look what you started Mr Caffyn! Another paddler set off the other day to sample the full Aussie coastline. Peter Thomson, a freelance photographer from Avoca Beach on the NSW Central Coast set off from Sydney Harbour. Paddling a *Mirage* kayak, he plans to include Tasmania in his trip and expects the journey to take 20 - 22 months. Good luck Peter!

#### A Little More on Rescues

Last issue I touched on a couple of points re rescues at sea - staying close by, turning up into the wind etc. Here's a little more you might like to consider: OK, a rescue is on - one of your group has capsized in windy conditions and has surfaced beside his/her boat - and is signalling that they're OK. What might be the first thing you do?

For me, if I didn't already have my paddle leash on, I'd fit it before moving in. I'd make sure my deck is clear of loose items - water bottle secured maybe. Once involved in a rescue, you can't just paddle off to pick up a drifting paddle!

It's just a little thing but the little things assume huge importance when you haven't got them! Also, if YOU are organized, it gives the rescued paddler confidence. They know they're in good hands don't they? We want them to be put back in their boat smartly, with reassurance and without fuss.

#### Paper Maps and Charts vs GPS Units

Which are you? Do you use maps and charts for primary navigation on your trips or are you solely a GPS person with all your electronic maps loaded in?

GPS technology is pretty amazing and these days you just wouldn't be without it as a back-up for any over the horizon navigation. The technology is there - as they say.

This subject came up recently when I was chatting to Teresa Diehl. She is using a 'GPS only' for her navigation on the North Queensland coast and she told me that her GPS screen was 'going cloudy'. This is a sure sign of water ingress into the unit. Once the screen goes - that's it. The moral of this story is: Don't ever trust waterproofing claims by manufacturers. Put your precious essential electronic equipment in a bag.

Ever tried doing navigation with a Portland Square and a map? If not, you should give it a try! Factor in compass variation to your course, choose a True or Magnetic reading, measure the day's distance and then pop the heading and start / finish coordinates into your GPS and compare them. If you have only a one or two degree difference you're doing all right!

#### Footrests

I wrote a few lines the other day about what I think are sub-standard footrests on many sea kayaks on the market.

Aluminium tracks corrode, choke up with sand and become difficult to adjust. Footrests are often small enough for our toes to fold around them, leading to cramps. I hate cramp in my toes!

I've seen some Australian plastic footrests actually deform and snap off the tracks. That's a pretty hard repair to do at sea. And we know that once a footrest has come off the track - it's never going to any good again!

But, the worst bit for me is this - shell out \$4,000+ for a carbon kayak with shiny hull and deck and you get four big bolts sticking through the hull for footrest mounts. No! Manufacturers have to do better than this. There ARE better ways to do it.

Have a great time at the KASK Forum and enjoy your paddling.

## Overseas Reports

### Lake Titicaca South America by Raewyn Knight

We packed light for our early morning pick up. It was a good move as our transport to the lake shore was a couple of two-person rickshaw-style bikes. We're in Peru, South America for the last adventure of our one-month trip. How could we miss out on a paddle on the world's highest navigable lake (by big boats), the 8,372 km<sup>2</sup> Lake Titicaca which is situated at over 3800 m and bordering Peru and Bolivia. We couldn't.

We had a local guide meet us with the bike-style rickshaws, first stop the local 'dairy' to purchase our bottled water supply for the two days. Then off to the jetty to catch a launch. Perhaps you thought this was a kayak trip. I know, but I've just told you how big the lake is, our trip was for two days not 22. We were transported for two hours through reeds, and across open water of an inlet to the kayak depot to be kitted out with warm gear. The water temp averages 8-10° - that is cold. Suffice to say they kitted us out well. It's the first time I've paddled from a trip outset with gloves.

Day one was a paddle across to Taquile Island with about 1.5 hours more or less paddling in one direction, the island very slowly getting closer as we progressed. On the island we were greeted by a group

*Paddling on the world's highest navigable lake*



of very keen young boys who were dressed in traditional costume - a nice touch. Around the corner we had a 20 min slog up a path to a well and truly earned lunch. Remember we are over 4000 m so the air is a little thin (Mt. Ruapehu is 2797 m). The afternoon was spent boating further across the lake to another island, Amantani, where we hiked to the Pachatata temple for sunset and returned to our island B&B for the night.

The morning came with squally hail showers and rather messy water. A decision was made to pick up the kayaks and head for a more sheltered area of the lake. It was a great move, just as the heavens opened and hail quickly covered the whole island in white. Around the corner, conditions were much better and more interesting paddling along the shore. We had an opportunity to check out the salmon farms and a local delicacy - a snack on reed roots - full of iron, which is good for life at altitude (ap-

*A traditional reed boat on the lake* parently). The day was topped off with a great home-cooked meal of freshly farmed salmon before visiting the Uros people on their reed islands. Pity we didn't get to ride on their boats.

Internet surfing research had us decide on a company, which would offer the most 'sea kayaking' style experience with a reasonable amount of paddling, allow us to paddle in single kayaks and as a private group. 'Adventures Within Reach' ticked the boxes. One of the worst things about tours, from our experience, is having a group with a wide range of abilities. It can be pretty frustrating if some people don't normally kayak. So our private trip with a personal guide worked out perfectly.

It wasn't necessarily the most exciting paddle we've had but it was certainly a great cultural experience. To explore the coastline of the lake would take a long time and we're pleased we took the opportunity to do a little. It is not everyday you get to paddle at 3800 m.



*Colin Knight sampling reed roots - a local delicacy*

*Photos: Raewyn & Colin Knight*

## MARINE FAUNA

### The Royal Albatross by Kerry-Jayne Wilson

photos: Kerry-Jayne Wilson  
see also photo on page 23

Which royal albatross? There are two species, the northern royal albatross which breeds on rocky islets in the Chatham archipelago and at Taiaroa Head on Otago Peninsula; and the southern royal albatross most of which breed on Campbell Island with smaller numbers on the Auckland Islands.

The royal albatrosses are part of the great albatross complex which also includes five species (or subspecies) formerly lumped together as wandering albatrosses. Two of these wandering albatross species only breed on New Zealand's sub-Antarctic islands. The New Zealand region with four breeding species is the only part of the world where more than one species of great albatross breeds. While both species of royal albatross only breed in New Zealand, they migrate to South American seas between breeding years.

The great albatrosses have longer wingspans than any other seabird. The largest is the southern royal albatross (3.05 – 3.6 m), the smallest the New Zealand breeding Antipodean and Gibson's albatrosses, a mere 3m but still over half the length of most sea kayaks.

Identification of the great albatrosses is especially fraught as all species vary in plumage and up to five of the seven are regularly seen around southern New Zealand. The best field guides for albatross identification are those by Scofield & Stephenson (2013) and Onley & Scofield (2007).

Albatross breeding is a drawn out affair. Northern royal albatrosses return to their breeding colonies to begin courtship in October, eggs are laid in November or early December and are incubated for about 78 days,



*Northern royal albatross,  
Taiaroa Head, Dunedin*

each partner taking its turn while their mate feeds at sea. Once the chick hatches it is guarded by one or other parent for its first month. After that the chick is left alone at the nest; its parents returning from time to time to feed it. The chick fledges about eight months after hatching, a whole year after its parents began courtship. The breeding cycle for all the great albatrosses takes a year, if they successfully fledge a chick one year they won't breed the following year.

A female can only lay one egg each breeding attempt. They make up for this with their long life span. One northern royal albatross, nick-named Grandma, was last seen 51 years after she was banded while breeding at Taiaroa Head. As royal albatrosses first breed when 6-10 years of age Grandma was perhaps more than 60 years old.

Like most species of albatross a number of royals are killed each year by commercial fisheries. Steps have been taken that dramatically reduced bycatch in New Zealand waters but some South American fisheries are not well regulated. Climate change is a growing threat to many seabirds and its impact on New Zealand breeding albatrosses may have been underestimated.

Perhaps the best place to see a royal albatross is Taiaroa Head on the end of Otago Peninsula. On a calm day, launch in the outer reaches of Otago Harbour, then kayak beneath the spectacular cliffs of Taiaroa Head where albatrosses, shags, shearwaters, penguins and other marine wildlife are often numerous.

Alternatively watch from the seaward clifftops near the Taiaroa Head carpark; albatrosses often fly beneath the clifftop viewing platform offering better views than those obtained by the punters that paid to visit the albatross observatory. Albatrosses of various species are most common along the Stewart Island, Otago and Kaikoura coasts, and in Cook Strait, although they may be encountered almost anywhere around New Zealand.

#### Reference List:

Onley, D. & Scofield, P. 2007. *Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World*. Christopher Helm, London.

Scofield, P. & Stephenson, B. 2013. *Birds of New Zealand; a Photographic Guide*. Auckland University Press, Auckland.



*Southern royal albatross hunkered  
down on its nest on a foggy and  
stormy day, Campbell Island.*

## BOOK REVIEW

**Title:** *Around One More Point*

**Subtitle:** *A Journal of Paddling Adventures*

**Author:** Mary Gazetas

**Published:** 2006

**Publisher:** TouchWood Editions, Canada

**Website:** [www.touchwoodeditions.com](http://www.touchwoodeditions.com)

**Contents:** 84pp, illustrated throughout

**Cover:** softcover, landscape format

**Size:** 229 x 203mm

**Price:** NZ\$ 29.74

**ISBN:** 978 1 894898 46 1

**Availability:** Book Depository (UK)

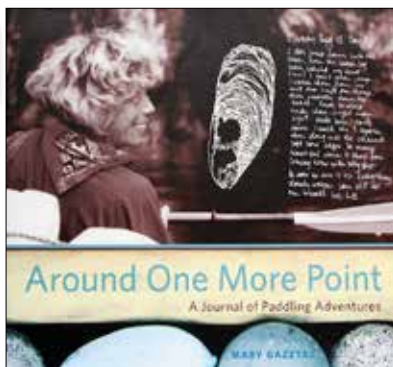
**Review:** Ginney Deavoll

In this beautiful collaboration of photos, drawings and snippets of memories, Mary shares her spirit of adventure and love of the coastline.

Every turn of the page reveals a variation of the collage styled layout. Close ups of food, treasures, injuries, marine life and campsites are nicely balanced between crisp white lines and add detail to the memories shared in the text. There's a clear relationship connecting quick line drawings or more detailed sketches to the realism of the photographs. And notes about things to remember next time or to watch out for add a very real and personal touch.

The photographs, although mostly old, tell the story of their adventures and add value to text. Black and white maps with a few place names provide orientation and clues to distances which are often left out of the story. Captions are overlaid on many photos however there are two different writing styles used. The first is in capitals and is easy enough to read, the second is a linked scrawl most of which is illegible to me.

Mary and Phoebe were obviously not 'hard-core expedition paddlers'. Although they took themselves to some very remote and extreme sec-



tions of the coastline, their purpose was to just 'be', to catch up on each other's lives and sometimes to share their adventure with others. They lived slowly and in the moment, ready for whatever nature wanted to show them. Their kayaks were loaded to the brim with camping and fishing gear and finding the perfect camp spot was always a priority. You would think that they would come home with light boats but no, far from it, if anything they were heavier due to their love of beachcombing.

They took no watches and their plans were flexible and changed with the weather. Some trips were cut short while others took them further than expected but one thing was for sure; they would be back the next year to keep exploring. The west coast of British Columbia was for them was, 'a place to regenerate, forget, remember, regain, revisit, smell, see, look, hunt for things, stones, sticks, bones, feathers.'

Each section is short, just sharing a few special memories for that year's journey and leaving the reader curious as to what else is out there. In the last pages Mary offers the wisdom she has collected over the years. She shares all her 'tricks of the trade' from recipes, to water collecting, beachcombing and planning.

This treasure trove of memories presented in words, maps, diary notes, drawings and photographs collected over 30 summers of journeying is a delight to read. You can't help but feel Mary's passion and appreciation for her coastline and the value that it has added to her life.

## KIT REVIEW

**A Wee Review of FUDs  
by Karen Grant**

What a nuisance it is after donning a climbing harness and racking your gear, or even worse, having zipped up your overalls, and struggled into your caving harness and gear, and then finding that you need a pee.

Well, somewhere I read about the *Shewee* and thought this would solve this problems as, just like a bloke, you no longer need to undo harness and drop trou to pee. A simple unzip to provide enough access to tuck in the 'female urinary device' and there she flows. In theory that is. The instructions with the *Shewee* advise practicing in the shower until technique is perfected in order to avoid any embarrassing leaks. Well, I practiced and there was no way the device would work for me.

I was most disappointed and was complaining about the difficulties of using the *Shewee* to a friend when she told me about the *Freshette*; she was provided with one when she was fortunate enough to gain work in Antarctica. So I ordered a couple from the USA and this device does the trick. Compared to the stylishly slender *Shewee*, the *Freshette* is a no-frills bucket and easy to use. I now take one with me everywhere, even just for a day walk as it is so convenient and discreet to use.

I have heard that the *Shewee* works for some and it may come down to the size or shape of the bits, I haven't really looked into this, but I figure that such a device needs to be absolutely reliable, not hit and miss, and not reliant on perfection of technique; it has to be failsafe. This is what the *Freshette* delivers.



## HUMOUR

### Valuable Photographs

The lawyer says to the company CEO, "I have good news and bad news."

The CEO replies, "I have had an awful day, let's hear the good news first."

The lawyer says, "Your wife invested \$20,000 in five pictures that are worth a minimum of \$2 million."

The CEO replies enthusiastically, "Well done! That is very good news indeed! You've made my day. Now what is the bad news?"

The lawyer answers, "They are pictures of you in bed with your secretary."

### Irish Nuns

Two Irish nuns have just arrived in USA for the first time, and one says to the other, "I hear that the people in this country actually eat dogs."

"Odd," her companion replies, "but if we shall live in America, we might as well do as the Americans do."

As they sit, they hear a push cart vendor yelling, "Hot Dogs, get your dogs here," and they both walk towards the hot dog cart.

"Two dogs, please," says one. The vendor is very pleased to oblige, wraps both hot dogs in foil and hands them over. Excited, the nuns hurry to a bench and begin to unwrap their 'dogs.'

The mother superior is first to open hers. She begins to blush, and then, after staring at it for a moment, leans to the other nun and in a soft brogue whispers, "What part did you get?"

### Peeing in the Flowers

A little old lady was walking down the street dragging two large plastic garbage bags behind her. One of the bags was ripped and every once in awhile a \$20 note fell out onto the footpath. Noticing this, a policeman stopped her, and said, "Ma'am, there are \$20 notes falling out of that bag." "Oh, really? Darn it!" said the little old lady. "I'd better go back and see if I can find them. Thanks for telling me, Officer."

"Well, now, not so fast," said the policeman. "Where did you get all that money? You didn't steal it, did you?" "Oh, no, no," said the old lady. "You

see, my back yard is right next to the local golf course. A lot of golfers come and pee through a knot-hole in my fence, right into my flower garden. It used to really tick me off. Kills the flowers, you know. Then I thought, 'Why not make the best of it?' So, now, I stand behind the fence by the knot-hole, real quiet, with my hedge clippers. Every time some guy sticks his thingie through my fence, I surprise him, grab hold of it and say, 'O.K., buddy! Give me \$20 or off it comes!'" "Well, that seems only fair," said the cop, laughing. "OK. Good luck! Oh, by the way, what's in the other bag?" "Not everybody pays."

### Ethnic Jokes

Apparently it's no longer politically correct to direct a joke at any racial or ethnic minority.

An Englishman, a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Welshman, a Gurkha, a Latvian, a Turk, an Aussie, a German, a Yank, an Egyptian, a Jap, a Mexican, a Spaniard, a Russian, a Pole, a Lithuanian, a Swede, a Finn, an Israeli, a Romanian, a Bulgarian, a Serb, a Swiss, a Greek, a Singaporean, an Italian, a Norwegian, a Libyan, an Indian, and a South African all went to a night club.

The bouncer said, "Sorry, I can't let you in without a Thai."

### Parched Silver

The Lone Ranger and Tonto walked into a saloon and sat down to drink a beer. After a few minutes, a big tall cowboy walked in and said, "Who owns the big white horse outside?"

The Lone Ranger stood up, hitched his gun belt, and said, "I do. Why?"

The cowboy looked at the Lone Ranger and said, "I just thought you'd like to know that your horse is about dead outside!"

The Lone Ranger and Tonto rushed outside and sure enough Silver was ready to die from heat exhaustion. The Lone Ranger got the horse water and soon Silver was starting to feel a little better. The Lone Ranger turned to Tonto and said, "Tonto, I want you to run around Silver and see if you can create enough of a breeze to make him start to feel better."

Tonto said, "Sure, Kemosabe," and took off running circles around Silver.

Not able to do anything else but wait, the Lone Ranger returned to the saloon to finish his drink.

A few minutes later, another cowboy struts into the bar and asks, "Who owns that big white horse outside?" The Lone Ranger stands again and says, "I do. What's wrong with him this time?"

"Nothing, but you left your injun runnin'!"

### Marriage (Part I)

Typical macho man married typical good-looking lady, and after the wedding, he laid down the following rules: "I'll be home when I want, if I want and at what time I want, and I don't expect any hassle from you. I expect a great dinner to be on the table unless I tell you that I won't be home for dinner. I'll go hunting, fishing, boozing, and card-playing when I want with my old buddies, and don't you give me a hard time about it. Those are my rules. Any comments?"

His new bride said, "No, that's fine with me. Just understand that there will be sex here at seven o'clock every night - whether you're here or not."

### Marriage (Part II)

Husband and wife had a bitter quarrel on the day of their 40th wedding anniversary! The husband yells, "When you die, I'm getting you a headstone that reads, 'Here Lies My Wife - Cold As Ever!'"

"Yeah?" she replies. "When you die, I'm getting you a headstone that reads, 'Here Lies My Husband - Stiff At Last!'"

### Marriage (Part III)

Husband (a doctor) and his wife are having a fight at the breakfast table. Husband gets up in a rage and says, "And you are no good in bed either," and storms out of the house. After some time he realizes he was a tad nasty and decides to make amends and rings her up. She comes to the phone after many rings, and the irritated husband says, "What took you so long to answer the phone?"

She says, "I was in bed."

"In bed this early, doing what?"

"Getting a second opinion!"

## 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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Email: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz**

### **KASK Annual Subscription**

\$35 single membership.  
\$40 family membership.  
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A subscription form can be downloaded from the KASK website. Cheques should be made out to: Kiwi Association Sea Kayakers & mailed to:

**KASK Administrator  
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West Coast**

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### **Correspondence - Queries and Change of Address to:**

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## **4th Ed. KASK HANDBOOK**

### **NOW OUT OF PRINT**

A 5th edition of the KASK Handbook is planned. It is a mammoth compilation on all aspects of sea kayaking in New Zealand, by many of the most experienced paddlers in the Universe.

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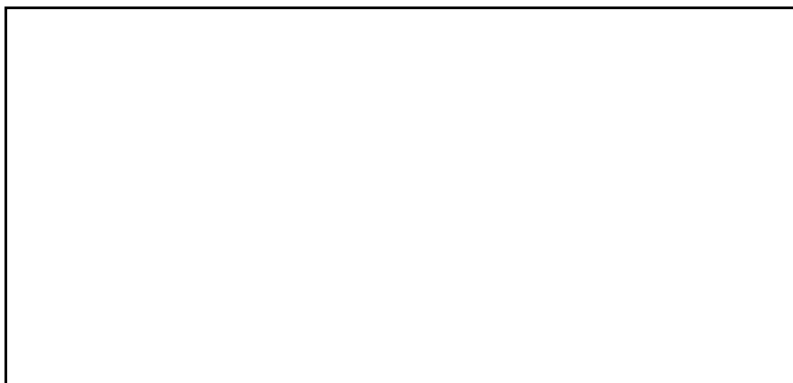


*Southern royal albatross at sea.  
What a bow wave this bird is creating!  
Photo: Kerry-Jayne Wilson*



*James Corfe on a perfect Fiordland day,  
cruising north along the seaward coast of  
Chalky Island.  
Photo: Fiona Weatherall*

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20 - 22 February 2015 at MERC, Beach Rd, Torbay, Auckland  
For more info, see pp 12 - 13 in KASK magazine No. 170 or go to:  
<http://paddler.co.nz/kask2015>**



*James Corfe in the middle set of breakers off the Fox River mouth, on the West Coast of the South Island, during a paddle around the South Island with Fiona Weatherall  
Photo: Paul Caffyn*

### **KASK MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

Current membership fees are:

- \$35 for ordinary membership
- for new members \$35
- \$40 for family or joint membership
- \$35 for overseas membership (PDF newsletter only);
- the KASK memberships 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

