

# THE SEA CANOEIST NEWSLETTER

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The Sea Canoeist Newsletter is published 6 times a year and is the official newsletter of the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (N.Z.) Incorporated. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per annum and should be made out to K.A.S.K. (NZ) Inc. and sent to Eric Van Toor, 133 Port Hills Rd., Christchurch.

## News from Nelson

by Nora Flight

One of the world's toughest golf courses happens to lie 10 kms north of Nelson on the steeply farmed knob of Peppin Island. Due to the annual game having booked the island and associated Cable Bay for the day, the Nelson Canoe Club sea kayak day was re-directed to Delaware Bay. This is a beautiful and remote stretch of beach facing north. With the perfect weather came a perfect two foot surf, with flat water a stone's throw out. The instruction day had been advertised in the canoe club newsletter and Gary was co-ordinator with Bevan chief instructor and Craig and Nora as prompters when needed. Gary and Bevan had agreed on a low key affair. Bevan planned an itinerary, and led the group of 15 new faces through a basic sea kayaking skills and lore. We started by reviewing all the kayaks present; from an Arluk to Greenlander to Puffin and more puffins. Ideallic weather conditions were too hard to resist, so we were soon in the water, practising breakouts and landings through surf, and rescues. Some people had no idea of these basics, even though they occasionally paddled in small private groups. so there was so enthusiastic practising.

After lunch and a brew, Bevan went over rescue equipment, and more importantly safety philosophies. Loading kayaks and expedition planning were briefed before we charged seawards again. An hours paddle out to Whangamoia Head finished the day. There were several nice arches, clear water and rocks to weave amongst, and whale trophies on the beaches. The KASK forum was advertised and membership forms handed out. We discussed and booked a trip to follow up the days instruction.

In summary, all people spoken to were happy with the day, and realized it was quite a 'crash course' on sea kayaking. Perhaps there is a demand to have a mini-forum like this every year; or every second year with alternating years of instruction weekends. Whatever, with the amount of new faces attending on this day, the sea kayaking fraternity in future may be quite different than a few years ago. Nora Flight

## Aromoana Forum

4 to 6 February 1994

The Otago sea kayak forum, organized by Alan Woods with help from Maggie Oakley and the lovely Darlene, was a great success with 45 paddlers attending. The forum commenced friday evening at the Aromoana campground, a spacious grassy paddock which was soon ringed by tents. A hall served for the indoor lectures and slide/video shows. The on the water surfing and Brian Lodge rescue sessions, either in the surf or inside the mole were a great success. The catering, organized by a local scout group, was top notch with a pavlova served up for desert saturday night. Overcast conditions and light rain in no way dampened the paddlers' enthusiasm. Evening entertainment included a slide show of paddling in Tonga and videos on Alaska and an Australian Greenland kayaking expedition.

With regard to the KASK annual forum to be held at Picton this year, I sought input and suggestions from one of the self-confessed forum 'groupies'. Chrissie Williams suggested:

a. a panel discussion from 'experts' which would hopefully encourage discussion from other, on questions such as boat design, paddle design etc.

b. a chance for paddlers to introduce

themselves

c. more practical on the water workshops on for example navigation. A chance for paddlers to work out magnetic bearings from the map or chart, and to allow for wind/tide currents etc.

P. Caffyn

## Notes from Eric van Toor

NZCA Sea Kayaking Commodore

### 1. Federation

The likelihood of the new federation as agreed to at the last NZCA AGM being in place by the next AGM in July appears to be diminishing. Although racing and polo are setting up their own associations, slalom at the moment is uninterested and the transition to a federation has not as yet been discussed in detail by the executive.

The role of the federation will be to assist member associations with funding applications and to co-ordinate matters of interest common to individual disciplines. The aim is to remove the current structure where individual disciplines are organized from the executive level, so that they are autonomous but have a collective voice when necessary. Funding applications is a numbers game and applications supported by a federation with 10 times the KASK membership is more likely to succeed with the Hillary Commission or Water Safety Council. Similarly that support would be useful in coastal protection issues.

The editor in the last issue of the newsletter declared he could see little point in associating with the new federation while at the same time announcing the NZCA had arranged for over \$5,000 funding from the water safety council to produce a sea kayak video. As a young association I believe KASK should foster relations with any other associations with simi-

lar interests. As to affiliating with the federation or any other organization, that will need to be assessed by members when costs and other details are known.

Until the federation becomes established which may be some time away, I believe KASK has nothing to lose and everything to gain by maintaining a good relationship with the NZCA through the commodore.

## 2. Video

Comments on what should be contained in the brief for production of the instruction/safety video are sought from KASK members. It is intended that the video will be used by commercial operators as part of their instructional material and by KASK members running instruction sessions. It is not intended to duplicate basic paddling skills covered in the NZCA instruction video. Comments should be sent to me by Monday 14 April for me to collate. It is hoped to have a brief in draft form for discussion at the KASK forum.

The brief will be sent to say three selected groups for proposals to produce the video. These will be evaluated and a proposal accepted subject to NZCA and water safety council approval. Information on any useful footage or similar instructional videos (local or overseas) would be appreciated.

Eric van Toor  
NZCA Sea Kayaking Commodore  
199 Port Hills Rd, Christchurch

## Re-Designing a Rudder

by Bevan Walker

We bought a double kayak two years ago and were not happy with rudder performance. I re-designed it to improve the boat's seaworthiness, and used this on a 900 km trip. However there were still weaknesses. When we got home I set to work latheing up an old teflon cutting board to make up a 150mm pulley. Teflon lathes up well as long as the lathe is kept at a low speed. The stern of the kayak is undercut, so this meant making a wooden model of the whole set-up, so I could get the right angle for the lugs to make the hinge.

Without the right lug angle, the rudder could not turn properly. The wooden model once perfected was copied onto alloy, and after several hours I had everything cut out and ready to be welded. I got everything tacked in place and we went for a trial. It went well with some small alteration. I returned the rudder to the welder to be completed. Some small improvements were made to the foot controls and we were ready for the big test. It worked so well, we could have run a downwind slalom course (with the sail hoisted naturally...). The rudder lifts up and locks in just right. It is made from alloy and I cut it out with a low speed jigsaw.

Although time consuming, this re-design had greatly increased the seaworthiness of the kayak by making it precisely responsive. It will be at the Picton Forum.

Bevan Walker

\* see diagram below

## Canterbury News

Sandy Ferguson is producing an informative monthly Canterbury Sea Kayak Newsletter, with a calendar of forthcoming trips and events, notes on new kayaks and trip reports etc. For further information contact:

Sandy Ferguson  
12 Dunn St,  
Christchurch.  
Ph: (03) 332 5155

## Auckland News and Forthcoming Events

Mary Reid

I am just writing to let you know about a ASKNET (Auckland Sea Kayak Network) Kawau Island trip and my project 'women on water' for your newsletter.

Firstly this was my first trip that I have led so its all very unrestrainedly enthusiastic. We paddled out of Sandspit north of Auckland, on a calm balmy Friday night amid much speculation, consultation and apprehension on my part. The reason being all of the party were new to the island. Due to a combination of good luck and map memory, we actually arrived at one of the huts booked for the stay. Its literally on the water in Sharks Bay and in an awesomely beautiful spot. The weather was perfect for the trip around the island accompanied by Jan Cook from DOC, knowledgeable and fun. Sunday saw us paddle up to Bon Accord Harbour into a mangrove estuary and we walked to the site of a kiwi counting spot. The weather was perfect. Returning to Sandspit took half the time with tailwinds assisting.

## Calendar of Auckland Events

Wednesday evening paddles, at Lake Pupuke, North Shore Canoe Club, from 5.30pm onwards.

25-26 March: first aid for kayakers, Long Bay. Limited to 30 paddlers.

16 or 17 April: Kayak skills day for women, basic kayaking skills, trip planning, weather, equipment and rescues.

Easter: trip to Lake Tarawera, near Rotorua.

For more info contact: Mary Reid  
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Auckland  
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