

Who else has the range we have ?

The following crafts are suitable for Ocean Kayaking,
from day trips to extended tours:

Plastic

P&H Capella with rudder, retractable skeg, 2 hatches & 2 bulkheads

Ace Voyager 445 with Rudder, 1 bulkhead, hatch & Decklines

Perception Acadia with no rudder, no bulkhead 1 hatch

Perception Spectrum Expedition with 1 bulkhead & 1 hatch and rudder

Perception Sea Lion with rudder, with 2 hatches and 2 bulkheads, Rudder & Decklines

Current Design Pacifica with 1 Bulkhead & Hatch, Rudder & Decklines

Current Design Storm with rudder, 2 hatches & 2 bulkheads & Decklines

Current Design Squall with rudder, 2 hatches & 2 bulkheads & Decklines

Fiberglass & Constructions

Davenwood Viper - 3 Bulkheads & Hatches, Rudder & Decklines

Raider X - 3 Bulkheads & Hatches, Rudder & Decklines

Southern Raider - 3 Bulkheads & Hatches, Rudder & Decklines

Arctic Raider - 3 Bulkheads & Hatches, Rudder & Decklines

Dusky Bay Double - 2 Bulkheads & Hatches, Rudder & Decklines

Seawater I Single - 2 Bulkheads & Hatches, Rudder & Decklines

Seawater II Double - 2 Bulkheads & Hatches, Rudder & Decklines

Accessories

Spray Decks

Paddles

PFD 2 Buoyancy Aids

PFD 1 Buoyancy Aids

12v Submersible Pump Kit

No Maintenance Sealed 12v Small Battery

Dry Sacks





From The President

Another two months have just flown by. Christmas, work and the Esperance to Perth trip meant I have had little time to put into the club, but I am told it is going well. The new millennium is here so I should say something profound on behalf of the club..... Errr...

happy new year! Well I'm not into profanities. Seriously though, we should look for a new home this year so we have a base to build from. I believe we have reached a stage when a permanent base is needed to develop the club over the next 10 years. I have spoken to some people from the Jervise Bay Yacht club and will have to follow up with the committee to see if a deal is possible. I would encourage all members to put some thought into what they want as a home and look for some prospects in the next few months.

Don't Forget Rotto it's just around the corner!

Come to the ANZAC trip and join the fun.

Want you're picture on the front page?

We have a lot of new members coming up through the ranks and it will be interesting to see how Rotto and the Anzac weekend go with attendance. Both should be great holidays and within the capability of most members. If anyone is not sure on any aspect of these trips from equipment lists to skills or endurance I would be quite happy to help. Its not a problem to organize a 20 km non stop paddle in a safe area to test peoples endurance for the Rotto crossing or supply equipment lists and help with dry bag making for the Anzac weekend. Doing trips in sea kayaks to me is the whole purpose of owning a sea kayak. After all it is traditional!

While we are talking about trips, John Di Nuci, Tell Williams and myself have just got back from the Esperance to Perth 1200km adventure paddle. It was a huge trip in more ways than one. The unusual weather put and unexpected twist to the trip especially along the west coast where we expected 20 kn sea breezes to push us along. 20 to 30kn head winds 50kn gusts and sheeting rain that stung your hands was not what we had planned on, but that's the fun of adventure trips. The humble sea kayak is an amazing sea boat and surprised many people when we arrived from the sea while their expensive power boats were still on the trailers and in mariners because the seas were too rough for them. The trip also created a lot of awareness for sea kayaking. We were surprised by the interest, hospitality and enthusiasm from people down the south coast. We were greeted on the beaches, given beer and food, invited to peoples houses (surprising when you consider what we smelt and looked like) and had rules waived so we could camp in the best spots. The trip involved full on adrenaline pumping thrills to beautiful secluded coves, calm seas to very rough seas and we saw lots of wild life and met some interesting characters along the way. Most of all we got a lot out of it personally. One day we did 102km non stop in 14.5 hours with rough seas. We were hit by one storm and 4 rain squalls during the day to make it interesting. To push oneself mentally and physically to achieve goals that at one time you thought not possible give you a lot of personal satisfaction. A bit of danger and excitement and it can have a profound effect on how you view things after. This is the essence of sea kayaking.

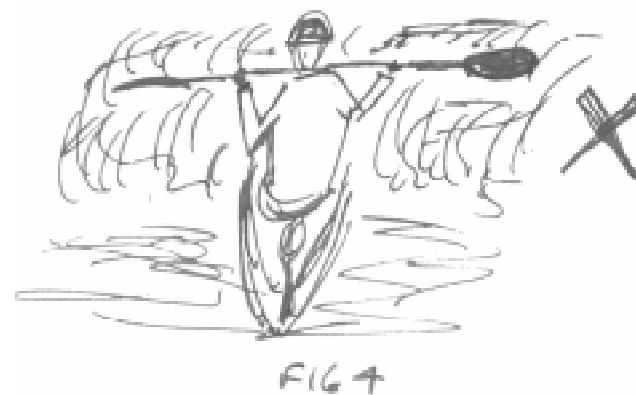
Duck For Cover Award

This time the award goes to Ian McGregor for not ducking for cover. It would appear that while he had his head in the club boat trying to adjust the pedals for Linda a sea gull dive bombed with a perfect shot. Then to make it seem unbelievable did it again. Ian remember to Duck For Cover so you don't end up in the shit

hold the paddle horizontal as big waves will push the shaft straight into your face. Not recommended. This is why we need small waves to get the timing and the technique right



first. See fig 3 and 4. As you go through the wave use short fast strokes to pull you up and over the wave. This also gives you support as the boat will be less stable as the



wave moves along the hull. Strength, timing, speed and aggression are needed to break out through waves. Once again you will be surprised at how big a spilling wave you can break out through. Waves that curl and dump are much harder to punch through and need good timing to get past the dump. By practicing in small waves lots of times you will develop the timing that is essential in large surf.

Well we have broken out now what. Now the fun starts as we need to learn how to surf waves in. This is an area that can take a long time to fully master and then you will still get caught out. To start off, go back to the little spilling break. To surf a wave you need the speed to pick up

the wave and have it propel the boat in front of the wave. This requires the boat to be doing sufficient speed before the wave approaches and the wave has to be steep enough to pick the boat up. Waves travel at different speeds and form different shapes depending on water depth and what the wave is passing over. Its best to use somebody with surfing experience to pick your first small surfing waves.

At first try not surfing the waves. Yes that's right, try not surfing the waves. Paddle in slowly and let the wave pass under the boat. Make sure they are small waves (less than 30cm and breaking) as the boat will become very unstable as the wave passes under the hull. First it will pick up the back of the boat reducing the water pressure under the middle where you sit. The front of the boat digs into the water and the wave will move the back of the boat to one side and the boat will try to rotate in that direction. This is what tips most people out in surf. This is why you must learn to control the boat in this situation. See fig 5.

When the back lifts up and starts to move around, the boat will try to tip you in front of the wave. I have found a strong low brace with the paddle blade at an angle so it bites into the water stopping your body and allowing the boat to slide under you a little enabling you to throw your weight into the wave with a high brace works. The boat will then be side onto the wave and you ride it that way. You will take a swim learning this but it is important if you want to tackle big surf.

It is possible to learn surf skills without getting trashed and at your own pace. To be a competent sea kayaker surf skills must be mastered. I am quite happy to help any new paddler as much as I can to better their surf skills. Les Allen



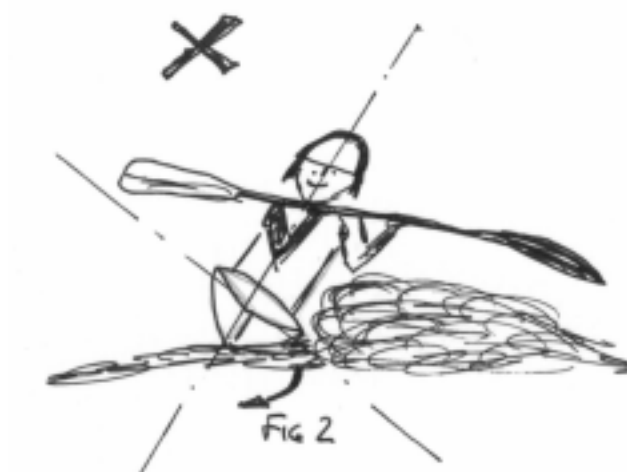
Surfing For Beginners

Quite often new paddlers are faced with surf either from the beach or from the water with no idea of what is going to happen when they enter the surf zone. Usually they are given pearls of wisdom like “just go for it” or “whatever you do, keep paddling”. This is not the ideal way to learn about handling your boat in surf. There are other ways.

What you need to do is have a good theoretical understanding of what is going to happen then practice all the skills on waves you can handle. This is not as difficult as it sounds.

The first skill you need is to be able to take waves sideways. This will get you into surf without having to take on big waves before your confidence is there. Find a small break that is rushing into the beach or over a sand bar. Not a beach break that dumps onto a steep bank. Start by paddling along the beach in about 10cm of water. You will get the feel of the waves hitting the boat side ways. Of course you will be beached a few times but getting off is also a necessary skill. As you paddle along and a wave hits low brace on the back of the wave and then keep paddling. Develop the ability to paddle brace paddle in a fluid motion incorporating sweep strokes to keep you parallel with the beach. Make sure you practice both ways and in fact more on your weak side.

Once you are getting the hang of that start moving into deeper water taking bigger waves. Here you will need a high brace using the front of the paddle blade over the back of the wave. Now is the time to develop good technique by keeping the elbows in like you would if you were doing a chin up on your paddle



shaft. This reduces the risk of injury to shoulders. As the wave hits the boat lean your body over the wave bracing on the back with the paddle. The boat will be pushed sideways and you will need to balance as you lean on the wave. It is important to lean your body not the boat. Keep the boat level with the water as if you tilt the boat into the wave water will build up on the top edge and try to capsize the boat. If the boat is level, the water will push you side ways without rotating the boat. See fig 1 and 2 .

Once again develop a continuous paddle brace paddle. Try to paddle though bigger waves without bracing and also develop the ability to start a forward stroke and convert it into a sliding high brace and back to a forward stroke on the other hand. Practice paddling in the soup till you are confident before taking on braking out. This may take a while to get your confidence, and after continue to practice these skills every opportunity you get. You can build all your skills on very small 10 to 30cm waves in very shallow water. That way if you do capsize, it is not a big deal, just stand up and empty out the boat and start again. Continue to take on bigger and bigger waves as it is surprising just how big a wave you can take sideways in a very short time.

Ok now we are confident in the soup it's now time to take on the break. As with the soup, start breaking out with small spilling waves. This will allow you develop good technique with out getting trashed on the first wave. Breaking through waves requires an aggressive attitude. Approach the wave with speed and don't back off just before the wave. As the wave hits the front of the boat lean forward with the paddle pointing into the wave so a forward stroke can be started as soon as the wave hits the front of the paddle. Don't

Introducing

Helietz Beardsley

Q Which of the following age groups do you belong under 70 or over 18

A OVER 18 but my mother thinks I look younger

Q Which of the following best describes how you get the daily dollar, Drug dealer, Dole Bludger, Struggling Worker, Self Funded Retiree, Blood Sucking Pensioner, Pensioner, Someone's Mother.

A I'm applying for the dole, but in the meantime I'm a Computer Systems (information overload) Nerd

Q What is your sexual preference

A What's that.? I'll give it a try if the right, sorry make that any girl is willing (another sexiast comment)

Q Have you got a sister for Neville

A Well yes But I'm a little worried that she might drown if he tried to take her sea kayaking as she into body piercing and carries a ton of metal around

Q What's your favorite opera

A I prefer a strip show how down the local, could be talked into an opera by a suitably qualified Blond

Q What is your favorite movie

A Ferris Buwlers Day Off

Q What type of music do you like

A The stuff they play down the Pub and Pink Floyd.

Q What other activities are you into.

A Bird watching. Bush walking in John Forest National Park.

Q How did you get into sea kayaking.

A Peter Cappendal was showing photos of his trip up north at work



one day, they where great and sea kayaking looked like great fun so here I am.

Q What type of boat do you paddle and why did you choose that type of boat.

A As luck would have it Peter had a mate (Peter Sutton) going back to England, I was totally inspired by Peter's photos so I agreed to buy his boat a plastic Sealoin. I'd never been near a sea kayak at the time I just wanted to give it a go.

Q If you could go anywhere in the world to paddle where would you go and why.

A No great plans a moment. Going down south with Paula, Chis and Don next week around the Dunsborough area, would like to do trip around Dampier sometime.

Q Where's' your favored local paddling destination.

A Any time on the water is just great, I love it.

Q What has been your worst paddling experience to date.

A First time on the water in my new boat I arrived at a club paddle around Penguin Island someone gave all sorts of instructions that went in one ear and out the other, this is great I thought, then came the first wave, it was only small, tried to remember instructions but no good over I go, then same dickhead can't remember name might have been you came to rescue yelling 'Can't you follow instructions have never yelled at anyone that wasn't stupid).

Q What is your short term paddling ambition.

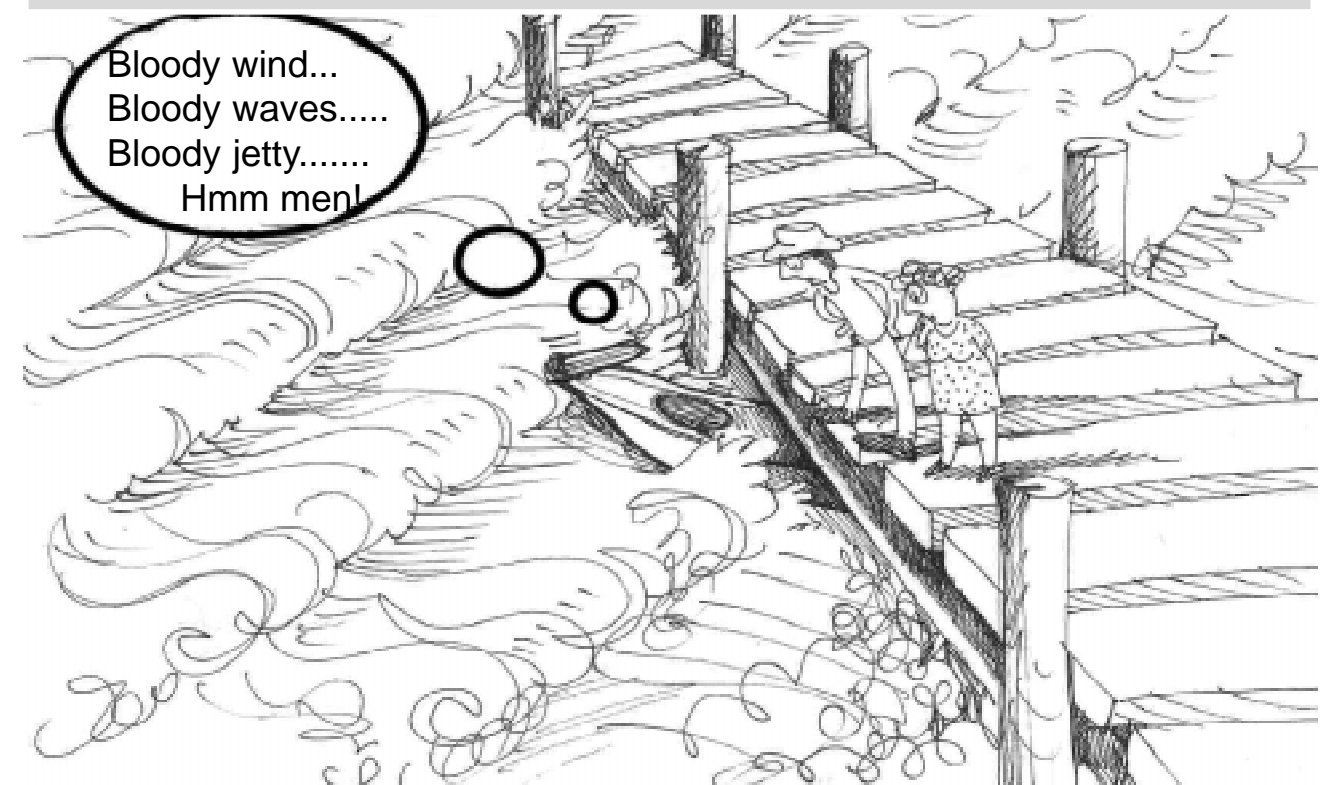
A Just get my confidence up and plan a trip up north.

Q What's your greatest whinge about the sea kayak club.

A Neville, He can't catch Abalone ,He can't spell my name AND he can't BBQ chicken.

NOTE Some of the above answers are true and remember if you refuse to answer a question the writer will make one up for you.

Under jetty surf landings by Paula Sheppy.....



It's an acquired art really!

SHARK BAY EXPEDITION

After the Carnarvon to Coral Bay expedition last year we were very keen to paddle the section of the coast from Steep Point to Carnarvon. This would then mean we have almost completed paddling the west coast of Western Australia. Also a ten to twelve day paddle would be good training for the Esperance to Perth expedition at the end of the year.

Due to work, and family commitments and the transport shuttle problems it was decided to split the trip into two parts. A holiday, group paddle from Denham to Monkey Mia and then a faster, longer paddle to explore the southern part of Shark Bay, cross to various islands, Dirk Harthog, Steep Point and then return to Denham.

There were 7 paddlers on the first expedition. We paddled approximately 25kms a day. Besides the odd head wind the weather treated us very well and the paddling was great. At times the shallow water and tides forced us to make some small detours and \or wade. There were numerous beautiful campsites all with dunes or rocks to climb from which to survey the magnificence of Shark Bay while having a welcome ‘sundowner’.

As usual the characters on the trip provided plenty of entertainment and gave the trip its own particular uniqueness. Some points of note were: Jenny informing us that she was starving because Jim wasn’t feeding her. Colin having enough supplies in his boat to supply 3 expeditions. Colin and Pam retiring to the ‘suburbs’ each camp. Wendy for quickly becoming the fastest packer and having to go for long walks each time we stopped. (How much energy can one have?) John, managing to paddle twice as far as everyone else and spreading gear over twice as much area. Jenny, despite starving was the only one brave enough to criticise Jim and his habits on a regular basis (probably starvation and living with Jim had something to do with it). Pam, giving the team numerous insights into the world of ‘commercial’ camping and expeditions. Tel not going to sleep at night and waking up so early.

It is too difficult to explain all the characters and events that characterised this expedition in a report of this nature. There were a great many laughs and the team got on well. The



paddling was great. We saw a stack of small sharks, sting rays, turtles and fish. The coastline and general vastness of the place was magnificent and made the whole trip a tremendous experience.

The second expedition set off from Nanga and headed South on a dead calm sea on a windless day. Due to the calm conditions and the good speed we were maintaining it was decided to cross the 25kms to Salutation Island after lunch. However one hour into the paddle the sea breeze came up and soon we found ourselves slogging into a 20kt headwind. After an hour we realised it would be wiser, especially considering we didn’t know if we could camp on Salutation Island to run with the wind back to the mainland. This took another one and a half hours and when we arrived the tide was out meaning we had another hour of wading through the shallows. Tempers became a little frayed as it seemed as if a lot of energy had been expended for little reward.

However, camp was soon set, dinner eaten and energy levels restored. The wind dropped and the campsite was actually beautiful. The following day we set off early on another windless day. We crossed to White Island, had a swim and circumnavigated the island. The island would be impossible to camp on and so our decision the day before to turn back was vindicated. We were met by a fishing boat on our way across to Giraud Point and had a welcome cold beer at sea. The sea breeze came in again and we had to complete the last 6 kms into the wind. Set up camp in another beautiful campsite.

Packing was a bit slower the next morning and we only left at 7.45 am. Jim felt tired and paddled slowly the whole day. Nevertheless we were not in a hurry except for the concern that we may not reach Steep Point in time before having to return to Denham. There were numerous beautiful little bays, sharks, rays and turtles to make the paddle enjoyable. Due to Jim being tired we called an early stop two bays short of Useless Loop. It was another beaut campsite and we went for walks along the sand ridge behind the camp and enjoyed some spectacular views of Shark Bay. Later from the same vantage point we had our traditional sundowner.

The following morning was absolutely windless and the sea was like glass. Although this was magnificent and resulted in some great slides we were a bit annoyed at not having the expected South Easterly to give us some assistance. We took some photo’s at Useless Loop and at the point of the headland. After a short break we set off on the crossing to the next headland before the tide dropped any further and enforced an extra 2km paddle or long boat drag through the shallows. At the next headland we decided to not have lunch (John did)

before setting off on the crossing to Dirk Harthog Island as we were afraid we would cop the sea breeze head on. About 20 minutes into the crossing the wind hit us and Jim wanted to turn back. After a somewhat heated argument we convinced him to continue the crossing which turned out to be easy. (Although Jim made hard work of it by paddling at about 3kms an hour).

At a large bay on Dirk Harthog we stopped and chatted to a yachty asking him in particular for the tide times. After lunch on the beach we set off for a bay to the south, however after 5 minutes we came across a tiny inlet just big enough for 3 kayaks and decided it was the perfect campsite.



This campsite was magnificent (except for the large numbers of ants on each and every rock). The water was deeper here and we were able to fish and snorkel. John collected oysters as bait and Tel caught a small fish. He then as tradition would have it hooked into a bigger fish and promptly lost it with his gear. That night Tel fulfilled a lifelong dream of witnessing phosphorescence in the water. (Something he had read about in books). He went for a short paddle and spent ages kicking and splashing the water like a kid.

Next morning Jim and Tel were packed early and Jim decided to set off early by himself. We passed colonies of nesting cormorants, eagles on nests and some very spectacular cliff formations. The water was also deeper in places and crystal clean. It was a beautiful paddle to the southeast end of the island. As there was already a light s\westerly blowing and we were afraid it would strengthen making a paddle to Steep Point impossible we quickly crossed to the mainland. We had a break on the mainland and a swim before heading to Steep Point.

On approaching the point we had to suddenly start concentrating as there were breaking waves. (Something we had not seen for 10 days). We reached the point without mishap. The sea was a deep blue. The cliffs with their recesses and caves awash with the surging sea were spectacular. Tel was keen to paddle to the mouth of one of the caves and for Jim to take a photo but Jim was taking some time adjusting to the rebounding waves and unsettled nature of the sea. Quote - “I was shitting myself”. However after about ten minutes or so he was a lot more comfortable and we paddled along the cliffs until we could see south along the line of the Zuytdorp Cliffs.

The whole experience was fantastic. There were mutton birds, fish rougher seas, blowholes, cliffs and an unconfirmed sighting of two whales. It was possible to have some idea of how Paul

Caffyn must have felt when he paddled around Steep Point and set off on that epic paddle along those cliffs. It was sad having to turn around and head back to Dirk Harthog.

There were some impressive surf breaks off Dirk Harthog although we made sure we missed most of the spectacular rides on offer being aware of the distance we were from Denham and not wanting to damage our kayaks. The whole area around Steep Point and the southern part of Dirk Hathog is absolutely beautiful and well worth an extended visit. However we did not have the luxury of time and had to start working our way back.

Never knowing what the weather would do prompted the decision to make the crossing that afternoon and make some use of the light southwesterly. We finally set up camp about 3kms short of the point. It was our least sheltered site and fully exposed to any westerly wind.

At about 3am the wind picked up and we had rain squalls. At 5am we began packing in light rain and strong winds. It began to look as if we may not be able to make the 24km crossing to Denham. We decided to paddle to the point and cross to the first peninsular and judge our speed and conditions from the point.



At times we were hit with rain squalls with winds well over 35 knots and the seas were rough. Also visibility was poor. Once we reached the peninsular and we realised we would be heading on a bearing with the wind mostly side on we decided to make the crossing.

The crossing took about 3 hrs and I was to experience 3 hrs of the most exciting and exhilarating full on surfing rides possible in a sea kayak without actually going over. About 2km off Denham Jim started surfing and promptly broke a rudder cable. He insisted on paddling in unassisted and despite having difficult conditions in which to paddle a rudderless kayak finally made it to the beach. Tell Williams