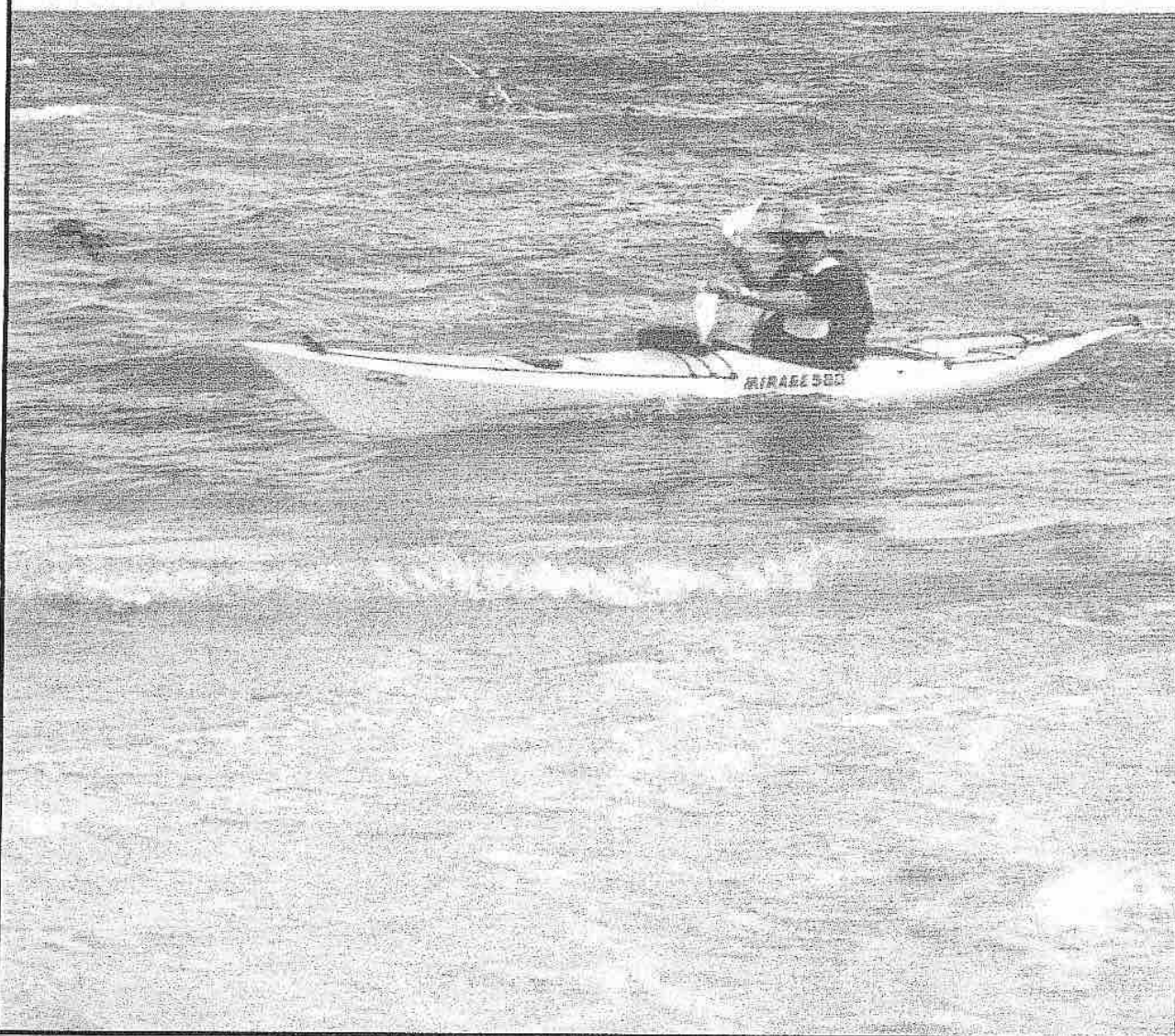


WA Seakayaker



Issue 37: July ~ August 2002



Newsletter of Sea Kayak Club WA Inc. 28 Aurelian St. Palmyra, 6157
Phone Pres. Ian MacGregor 9383 4319 Sec. Eric Pyatt 9339 2952

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello. In my last report I mentioned the fact that I was en route, with others, to Shark Bay for a weeklong paddling excursion – a beaut trip it was, well worth the effort. The area also has much to offer kayaking persons, inexperienced and experienced “trippers”. Placid water, lots of wildlife, hundreds of kilometres of coastline in a relatively small area, access via the South Passage to spectacular cliffs and big water. Harsh yet beautiful country. Consider it for your next lengthy trip, especially if such a trip is your first.

Also following on from last report I can say that it looks like the end of the quest for a permanent headquarters is near, and enquiry into some variation to the Boating Regulations PFD Type 1 requirement has been concluded. That is, a base at Woodman Point Recreation Camp looks like becoming a reality, and the “Department” (DPI, Marine Operations), whilst sympathising with our predicament, will not consider any variation to PFD Type 1 requirement. It was a long shot to expect otherwise, but considering the awkwardness of the regulation when applied to our situation we thought it worth a try. So – please, everybody wear or carry in your boat irrespective of other PFD types

used, a Type 1 (AS 1512) PFD. Also, don't forget anchor and flare requirements.

And lastly, I must mention (for the benefit of those who do not know the Recreation Camp) that the Woodman Point location is ideal for us. Garden and Carnac Islands nearby, direct access to beach, calm waters for training, crazy waves at Pt Catherine for training, room for large groups/visitors (even camping?), secure parking, plus some other attributes that elude me at present. Not bad eh?

Anyway, happy kayaking!

Ian MacGregor

WARNING!

Sea kayaking can be a dangerous sport.
Your safety and enjoyment are our
concern, but your responsibility.

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This Month's Fiercely Contested **DUCK FOR COVER AWARD** *Goes to Marian Mayes*



By the powers vested in the misguided minority who were not even present at the time, this coveted award has been bestowed on me for not ducking for cover.

On the last long weekend at Hamelin Bay, we were returning in a strong wind, big swell and squally conditions. As we approached the landing, it was pointed out I was the most experienced in the group of three and should land first. Not a problem! I knew there were rocks there but being visually challenged, I was trying to ascertain just where. The trick was in getting close enough to distinguish rock from sand, but you've no doubt already guessed the rest.

Somebody had clearly moved the rocks during my absence, and the surf was unforgiving. That point at which I was totally committed had passed before I was aware I was too close.

In a flurry of surf, sand, rocks, cracking fibreglass and bad language I went from hero to zero. My boat was damaged and has undergone major surgery. I was boatless and side-lined for two weeks, during which time my paddling muscles underwent major withdrawal symptoms.

It seems like my whole purpose in life is to serve as a warning to others. **Editor**

**Absolute deadline for receipt of
material for next issue of
WA Seakayaker :**
Midnight WST 14th August
But I'd LOVE to have it MUCH EARLIER

Cover Picture:
Wolfgang Schlieben
Photograph © Marian Mayes



NOTICE BOARD



Welcome to the following New Members

Peter Marsh Peter Gleaves Peter Morrison



Guest Speakers at Meetings

If anybody has suggestions for topics or guest speakers for the general meetings please contact Mick McDermott on 9245 2707. He will organize them but would appreciate some feedback on what members want.



Ningaloo Reef

There is a lot of interest in this trip and Eric has been pressured in to bringing it forward to April /May 2003. Due to difficulties finding camp sites for large numbers, it is proposed we set up a base camp and do day trips. Anybody who is interested or has input, please contact Eric.



Sponsors Needed!

Here is an opportunity to promote
your business
by advertising in this newsletter.
(Circulation round 85)

Full page 18 cm x 24 cm \$260 per year
Half page 18 cm x 12 cm \$120 per year
Quarter page 9 cm x 12 cm \$60 per year

Contact Eric on 9339 2952
Or Marian on 9419 2205
Or mayesmar@highway1.com.au



More web pages

From Warren Wilson
www.wavelengthmagazine.com/learn.php
From Marian: Nice photographs of kayaks and whales
www.drakarkayaks.com.ar



Training Paddles

Mick McDermott would like to hear from anybody interested in regular training and skills sessions on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 4PM or 4.30PM. Will alternate between ocean and river paddles.
Contact Mick on 9245 2707



Safety gear

A reminder to all that you could be checked by the authorities and fined \$100 for each item of safety gear you don't have. In addition to the flairs etc. you must have an anchor, bailer or pump and a PFD type 1
*This is your responsibility.
not the trip leader's.*



Editor's Plea

Thank you once again to those who submitted material for this edition. Input from a variety of members is important. It makes more interesting reading than if one person writes it all. This was particularly appreciated since I have been forced in to non-participation in some club events lately. The deadline for receipt of material for the next edition has been brought forward. I find people are consistently promising material but not sending it until the deadline. This doesn't work! A deadline is the point at which the magazine is basically complete but just needs fine tuning. I must have the bulk of the material well before that point so I know how much space to allocate, what photographs to use, and what gaps need filling.
I will be away in August and would appreciate receiving promised stories well before the 14th August so the magazine can be out on time.
Marian

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"Sex without love is a meaningless experience, but as meaningless experiences go, it's pretty damned good." Woody Allen

This Must be Eden!

By Marian Mayes



Sandy Robson: Photograph by Marian Mayes

Sandy Robson, George Scorgie and I departed at 5.30am for the drive to Shark Bay. That night we camped at Monkey Mia Caravan Park, and next morning, after a car shuffle to Denham were on the water and heading into the wilderness.

The dolphins were performing to an appreciative audience as we left. We paddled slowly, investigating the pearl farm and everything else that caught our interest. Wildlife was plentiful, and included sting rays, sharks, dolphins, turtles and lots of fish.

In 1995 CALM initiated Project Eden to rescue endangered species, some of which only survived on offshore islands. A predator proof fence was erected across the narrowest part of Peron Peninsular and intensive fox baiting and cat trapping was undertaken.

A Threatened Species Breeding Centre was set up, and animals such as bilbies, banded hare wallabies, western barred bandicoots and rufous hare wallabies were bred for release in the almost predator free environment of Francois-Peron National Park.

Wherever we landed, we saw evidence of the success of Project Eden, as there were hundreds of animal footprints on the beach and through the sand hills. We spent some time trying to identify the prints. Kangaroos and smaller macropods were clearly common.

We stopped for lunch and were entertained by a

manta ray leaping out of the water and several small sharks swimming close to shore. A pair of osprey circled overhead.

Late in the afternoon we reached a mangrove wetland near Guichenault Point and drifted between islands and sandbanks to admire the bird life. Thousands of birds including terns, silver gulls, cormorants, pelicans, Pacific gulls and wading birds lined the shore.

A little further on, we camped on the beach, surrounded by mangroves. The mosquitoes were savage and that night our camp site was invaded by small crabs. We could hear them rummaging in our rubbish bags and abseiling down our tents. Next morning we had to gather up the scattered rubbish.

We enjoyed a leisurely start to the day but the low tide forced us to stay well away from the shore-line across Herald Bight. We spent another relaxing day of drifting over shallows and exclaiming over the abundance of eagle rays. Some of them appeared in quite large groups almost flying in formation. We saw lots of green turtles and some loggerheads.

We met another three paddlers heading towards Monkey Mia and stopped to talk. This was their fourth day from Denham. One was paddling a single kayak and the other two were in a borrowed wooden double. None of them had spray decks and the double was piled high with gear on the deck.

We rounded Cape Peron and paddled close to fishermen on the beach.

We had a fresh tail wind for the rest of the day and camped on the beach well past our planned spot. Sandy and George slaved over a hot Trangia to produce another of their cordon bleu meals, while I stoically tackled my delicious 97% fat

(Continued Page 5)



George Scorgie, Marian Mayes, Sandy Robson at Monkey Mia
Photograph © Marian Mayes

(Continued from page 4)
free two-minute noodles.

Next morning I photographed the magnificent sunrise as the colours flowed like molten gold over the dunes and engulfed our boats on the beach. I could really get used to these late starts! There's plenty of time to enjoy the journey and smell the roses.

We spent another leisurely day drifting over sea-grass beds in the hope of finding a dugong or two but once again were disappointed. We saw plenty of rays, small sharks, turtles and fish but no dugongs. I found what appeared to be a piece of rope on the surface but on closer investigation, discovered it was a sea snake.

We paddled through the entrance to Big Lagoon and explored for a short distance before making camp. Black clouds had been building up all day threatening rain. The storm broke overnight, bringing torrential rain, thunder and lightning.

Next morning during a lull in the storm, we enjoyed a pre breakfast paddle on the lagoon to watch the sunrise. Lots of large fish were rising and striking at flying insects disturbed by the rain. By the time we returned to pack our gear it was raining again, accompanied by lots of thunder and lightning. The jokes about lightning striking carbon fibre paddles no longer

seemed quite so funny. The rain continued for most of the remaining paddle to Denham.

The comfort of a cabin held more appeal than wet tents for our final night and after a hot shower and a hot meal we were ready for the car shuffle back to Monkey Mia.

This was a great trip with good company and plenty of wild life to enjoy. The only disappointment was in not seeing dugongs.



George Scorgie
Photograph by Sandy Robson

HAMELIN BAY

By Don Kinzett



Don Kinzett strikes a
typical pose
Photo by Marian Mayes

Well the old weather demon struck again! We sure know how to pick the wrong weekend for our winter trips.

Marian, Neville and myself got away early on Friday and as I had never been to Augusta, decided to have a look there first. Arrived about midday but disgusted to find the pub didn't have a counter lunch so had a pie instead.

Very nice town Augusta and we drove out and had a look at the lighthouse. Then a short drive to Hamelin Bay where we found Eric already set up. The wind was already strong from the north west. The rest of the

crew trickled in. That night we sat around in the rain having a few drinks and solving a few of the world's problems.

It pissed down during the night but everyone stayed dry. Sea and wind conditions were hopeless on Saturday so we decided Augusta was the place to be. Headed off in convoy and launched into the inlet. Karen was a late arrival on Saturday morning but she just arrived in time. Short paddle out to the bar entrance. A fantastic surfing wave on the bar. It's very

sheltered in the bay there from the north west so had a good paddle around to the lighthouse. Karen decided not to go the whole way (hangover), so Eric went back with her.

Some very large interesting swells around the lighthouse. We stopped for a break on the beach and then headed back. Marian not feeling too good so decided to stop and wait for us to pick her up.

Back over the bar. Steve and I got a fantastic ride over the bar on the same wave. Hopefully Les got it on the video.

Picked up Marian and off back to Hamelin Bay. More lies and stories that night with a certain group of hard core party animals staying up late and more rain as well.

The weather was much better on Sunday so off to the island. Les and John went right round and we all headed

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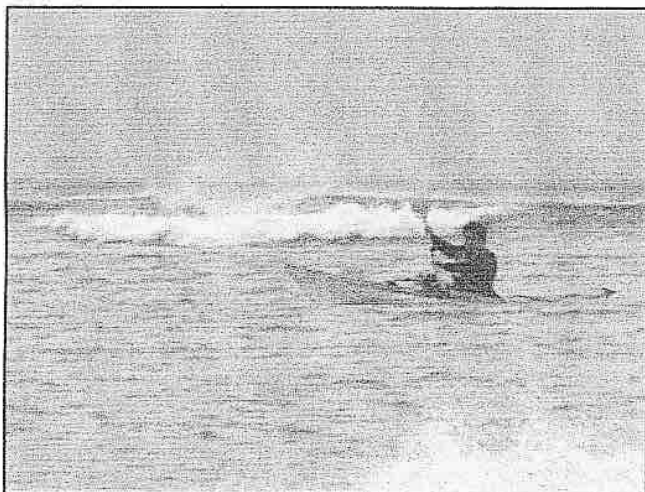
Megan Halvey
Photograph by Les Allen

(Continued from Page 5)

down to Cosy Corner. Very confused sea with the backwash and also cold that day. Had a break and headed back to Hamelin Bay.

Neville, Eric and myself were out front and got hit by a massive rain squall. Neville said the rain hurt that much he closed his eyes. It only lasted about five minutes.

Now this is where things get interesting and I think we have our candidate for the duck for cover award. Now when we left the beach that morning we saw some submerged rocks in the surf, so when we arrived back everyone was aware to land along the beach a bit fur-



Megan Halvey
(Photograph by Les Allen)



Helier contemplates a rainbow on Hamelin Island
(Photograph by Les Allen)

ther. Everyone that is, except Marian who surfed in and ran into a rock and split her boat's seams in the bow compartment. Pity Les didn't have the video running.

Anyhow another night of camping and most people were away early on Monday. The weather wasn't the best but everyone agreed they had a great weekend and as usual the weather was perfect the next weekend.

PROGRAMME – TRIAL FORMAT:

The programme committee needs your co-operation and support. Past programmes have been rather intimidating for our newer, less experienced members. This is an attempt to bring them into the fold. We now have two parts for the programme.

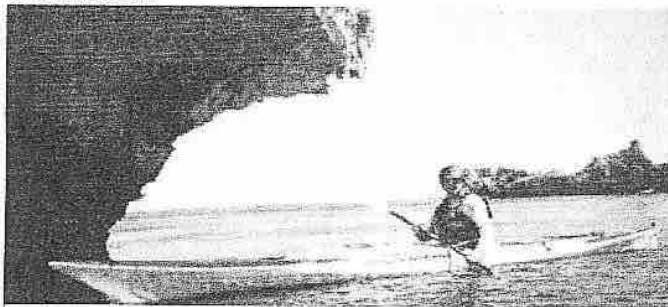
1. Adventure group (AG)
2. Leisure Group (LG)

The aim is to give you a choice. Your assistance is required to make it work. Whereas not necessary, it would help if you as individuals would phone the respective leaders of the day informing them of your participation. At this stage, particularly if you want to participate in the leisure side of the programme. We still have a mix where some items are there for all paddlers (AP). There are times when there is a common launching point and some separated. This would be a good time to let the respective leader know.

This is also an opportune time to spread the leader participation among all members. Please help by accepting this responsibility. Consider the enclosed "Lead a Club Paddle" form.

Most importantly we want you leisure paddlers to join in and enjoy the club spirit.

Programme Director: Eric Pyatt



"Mirage Sea Kayaks are the best sea kayaks on the market"

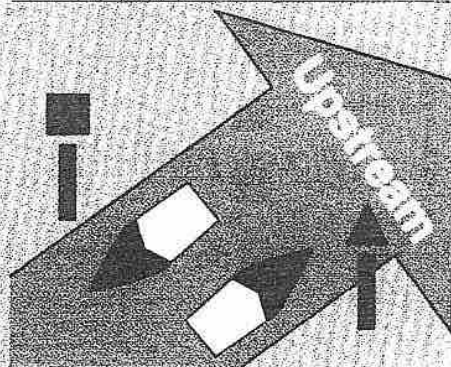
Ask me to explain why on a test paddle. If you are looking for equipment, try mine, because the gear I sell is the gear I use.
Les Allen



Ph 94562129 lallen@touch88.com.au

The Coming In Going Out Rule

- ▶ When leaving harbour the port (red) should be passed on boat's starboard (right) side.
- ▶ Upon entering harbour the port (red) mark should be passed on boat's port (left) side.



The above rule is from the Official Western Australian Boating Guide issued by Transport. If you do not have a copy of this booklet, please see Eric.

Kayak Navigation Course

The first kayak navigation course is going to be run in September or October. The course will be two theoretical and two practical sessions. Unfortunately we have to restrict the numbers to a maximum of 8 people. If you are interested it will be on a first come basis. There is a requirement for basic gear like a ships compass and there will be a small cost of around \$20.00 for consumables. Register with Eric if you are interested. Les Allen



Eric's Paddle Reports

SOUTH BEACH – MEWSTONE – CARNAC ISLAND

19TH May 02

The forecast over the last 24 hours was full of contradictions. Instead of SE, the wind is NE. Supposed to be 6-8 knots. Les reported he heard it would be 15-20 knots. The swell was to be 3-5 metres, but looking out at the horizon it was dead flat. Eric explained the tactic if the former to avoid Success Bank by keeping north 280° past the two spar buoys, raft up at the furthest channel fixed markers. Head dead west for 15 minutes, turn toward Mewstone, cross the bank at its narrowest point. No problems. From there to Carnac for morning tea break. Then look forward to a strong headwind home. After all that, it was decided to head straight to Mewstone, the sea visually being flat as mentioned.

After leaving the shelter of the shore, it was found we had a reasonably strong following wind, which as we progressed turned into one-metre wind waves, care needed. There was very little shelter at the rock, so we gathered ourselves and tackled the crosswinds and waves to Carnac, arriving without mishap.

A short stop, fearing perhaps 20 knot winds to punch into on the way home, but much to our pleasure it would have been barely 10 knots. Nevertheless, it called for a bit of work. No time for slacking.

With no exception, all enjoyed the paddle. The conditions a bit different, being a neat challenge for the less experienced.

Phil and Roz had a leisurely paddle down the shelter of the coast. No doubt also most enjoyable.

Eric Pyatt

WOODMAN PT TO CARNAC TO GARDEN ISLAND

9th June 02

Well! The forecast and conditions could not be more perfect. Slight north easterly all day. After a briefing, pointing out we had an inexperienced paddler with us and asking paddlers to watch out for him, we hit the water. An uneventful trip to Carnac with a slight following sea. Everyone as usual was spread all over the place but what the heck in these conditions?

A very leisurely break on the west beach. Four frolicking sea lions to entertain us. In our own time, we rounded the island and then took to the crossing to Garden Island. Down the ocean side to the idyllic beach past Herring Bay. A more leisurely break here. Couldn't help it! Megan, Neville and John climbed the rocky bluff and were elated with the view. Who would want to leave this?

We eventually dragged ourselves away. On rounding the north-end we found what breeze was there had now dropped. Too good! Rob was taking it easy, which is understandable being away so much it's difficult to get your paddle fitness up. Eric stayed with him. All had landed by 3.30 pm. A most enjoyable day!

Eric Pyatt

OCEAN REEF, LITTLE ISLAND, HILLARY'S

16th June 02

The forecast was for light north easterlies and so it was. We followed the coast to Mullaloo Point then to Little Island. Some took a short cut. Some a lesser short cut. Only three followed the coast. Typical! *(Eat your heart out Eric. Those who took a short cut saw a loggerhead turtle. There was method in our madness. Ed)*

It was a bit choppy around the island. Marian landed but soon took off, waves washing across what was left of the beach. Phil landed to stretch his legs and had to have several attempts at launching. Some played around in the turmoil with the sea lions while others couldn't get out of the mess quick enough and headed for the shelter of the harbour.

We met up with Tel Williams who was on a light training run testing his sore elbow. We all had morning tea. Everyone took off in dribs and drabs. No safety worries as the wind had dropped. All returned safely with no mishaps.

Eric Pyatt

PFD 1 Paddle float

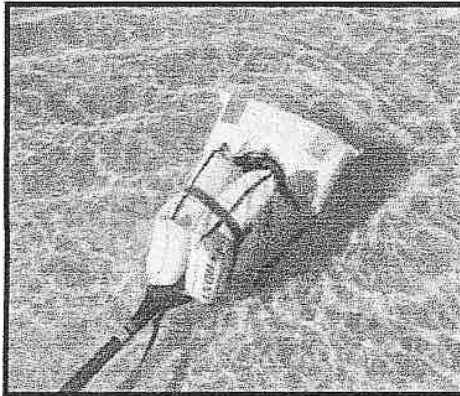
There is nothing worse than carrying gear that is totally useless. As we all know, the law makes us carry a PFD1 and tucked away in a bulkhead they are a useless piece of equipment. But this can be turned around and made into a useful piece of equipment with a minor alteration. By adding a strap to the cheap \$20.00 PFD1 we have a very effective paddle float that can strap to the back of your boat.

Those who know me will probably say "But aren't you the bloke who said paddle floats are useless". The problem with normal paddle floats and using them in a normal manner is keeping the paddle at 90 degrees to the boat in a reasonable sea. I have always had the paddle pushed along side the boat by the waves and then it's been useless. They generally lacked the buoyancy to make climbing into the boat easy and if you tie the paddle on, you have the problem of untying the paddle from the cockpit in a sea.

With the PFD1 paddle float you have incredible buoyancy. At least double the buoyancy of any of the normal paddle floats I have used. With this incredible buoyancy it is very easy to do a re-entry roll even if you can't roll normally. This gives you an easy quick self rescue that works in rough

seas. It does require practice like all skills but is easy to master.

This is what makes the PFD1 paddle float ok in my books. In calm conditions it is possible to use it to climb over the back of your boat but the reality is, how often do you fall out in calm conditions? The only way to use it is for re-entry rolls and they are what needs practicing. I would not even try using it in the traditional way.

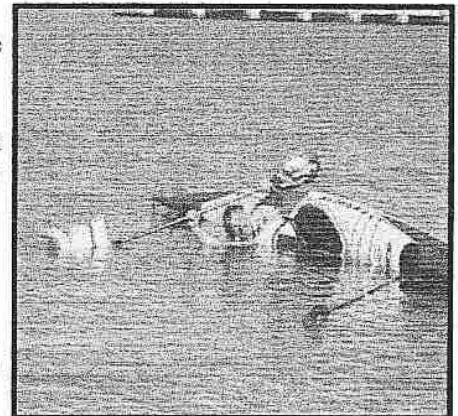
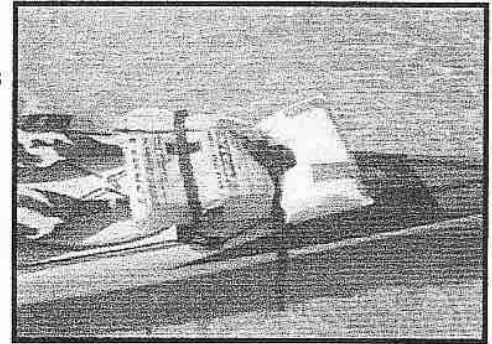


Now that we have turned a useless piece of equipment into a useful one what else can we do with it? I can put it on over my PFD2 and with both PFD's on doing rolls is real easy as you can be in your boat and still bob around with your head above water. It's only the last bit of the roll that is necessary. On the paddle it can be slid along the surface

to help learn the process of rolling.

It can also be useful if you get a damaged compartment and find you are sinking. By stuffing one or two PFD1's in the hatch you will get enough buoyancy to get back to shore. They also make a good seat when you are having morning tea and can be used as padding between boats if you have to tie boats together in a raft up to help a sick or injured paddler.

For information on where and how to sew the extra strap in the PFD see me, **Les Allen** 94562129. Photographs by Les Allen



Random Goss

I'm told Megan arrived late at Hamelin Bay and left her car headlights on while she erected her tent. Yes, guess who had a flat battery next morning?

Don's puerile attempt at instigating a swear box was finally abandoned in disgust. We all knew he was only trying to collect beer money, so we swore and told him impolitely what to do with his swear box. He claimed it wouldn't fit.

Quiz: Who is the club member living in Kenwick who was having a bubble bath when Don called a couple of weeks ago?

Hint: He features on the cover of this issue.

The Third Wave

We all know about the two common waves in the ocean, swell and wind wave. In areas where there are very high tidal currents you get different waves but it is not these situations I am talking about. What I am interested in is the re-bound wave. In order to understand a re-bound wave we need to look at the normal swell and wind waves.

If you have a still pond and you drop a rock in the middle, the wave that results is a perfect circle and the same height all the way around. In the ocean this is not so. Both wind wave and swell run in fingers and vary in height. Wind wave in particular does this. It starts small and builds and builds till it white caps and then starts all over again. These waves can be 10, 20, or 30 meters wide but rarely wider. If you are paddling in over 15 knots of wind and following seas this pattern will become very obvious as you can look to the side to see a big white cap 10 mt away while you are on a small wave.

To make things more interesting it is possible to have swell and wind wave in different directions. This gives you forces travelling in different directions. (Fig 1) These conditions make paddling more challenging.

Re-bound wave are waves that hit a solid object and then re-bound off them. This is typical of cliff or high

reef and islands. The re-bound wave comes off a vertical surface the same as if you threw a ball at it. If the wave hits straight into the cliff it comes straight back. If the wave hits at 45 degrees it bounces off at 45 degrees. This sets up a whole new set of problems for the paddler as you now have waves and forces passing through each other. (Fig 2) The effect is a very uncomfortable sea that has waves coming from 2 or 4 directions and occasionally colliding under your boat. This phenomenon is called clapotis. As the fingers of wind wave and swell hit the re-bound surface at different times there is no pattern in re-bound effected areas; just chaos.

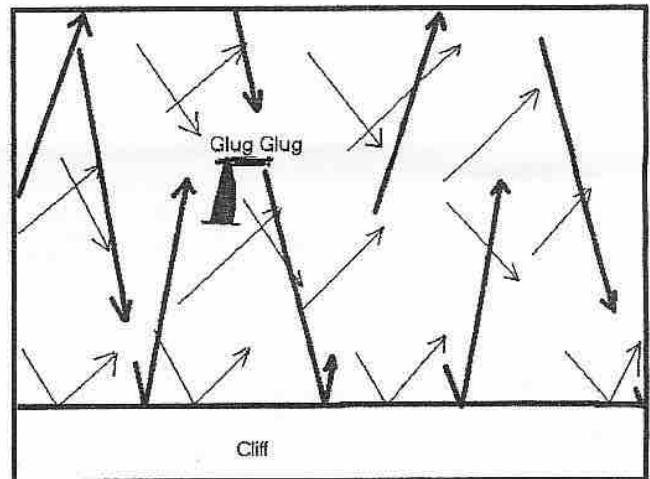


Fig 2

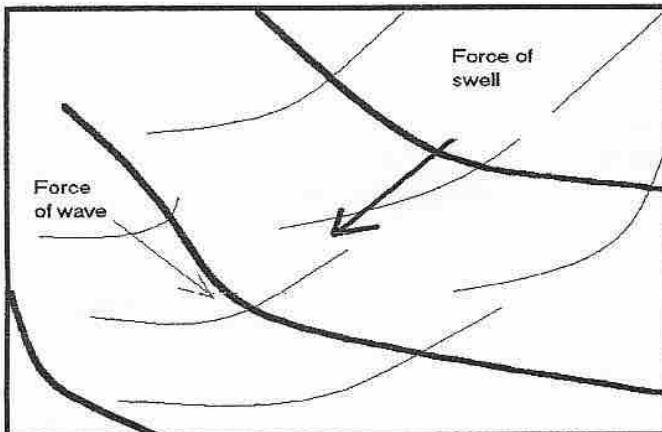


Fig 1

The effect can be very difficult to paddle in, especially when the waves get to 1.5mt or higher. If the chart shows deep water up to cliff, then expect large re-bound waves. The effect can go far out to sea. I have had reports of re-bound 5 kilometers off the Zuytdorp Cliffs. Big re-bound can dramatically slow you down and even experienced paddlers can take a swim. It is to be treated with considerable caution. In areas susceptible to big re-bound, a wide berth should be given and these areas should not be paddled on days of big seas or swell.

L Allen

A Fairy Tale for Women of the 21ST Century



Once upon a time, in a land far away, a beautiful, independent, self-assured princess happened upon a frog as she sat contemplating ecological issues on a verdant meadow near her castle. The frog hopped on to the princess's lap and said, "Elegant Lady, I was once a handsome prince, until an evil witch cast a spell upon me.

One kiss from you, however, and I will turn back into the dapper, young prince that I am and then, my sweet, we can marry and set up housekeeping in your castle with my

mother, where you can prepare my meals, clean my clothes, bear my children and forever feel grateful and happy doing so."

That night as the princess dined sumptuously on a repast of lightly sautéed frog's legs, seasoned in a white wine and onion cream sauce, she chuckled and thought to herself:

"I don't f...ing think so."



Mainpeak

PADDLESPORTS

Everything

you need...

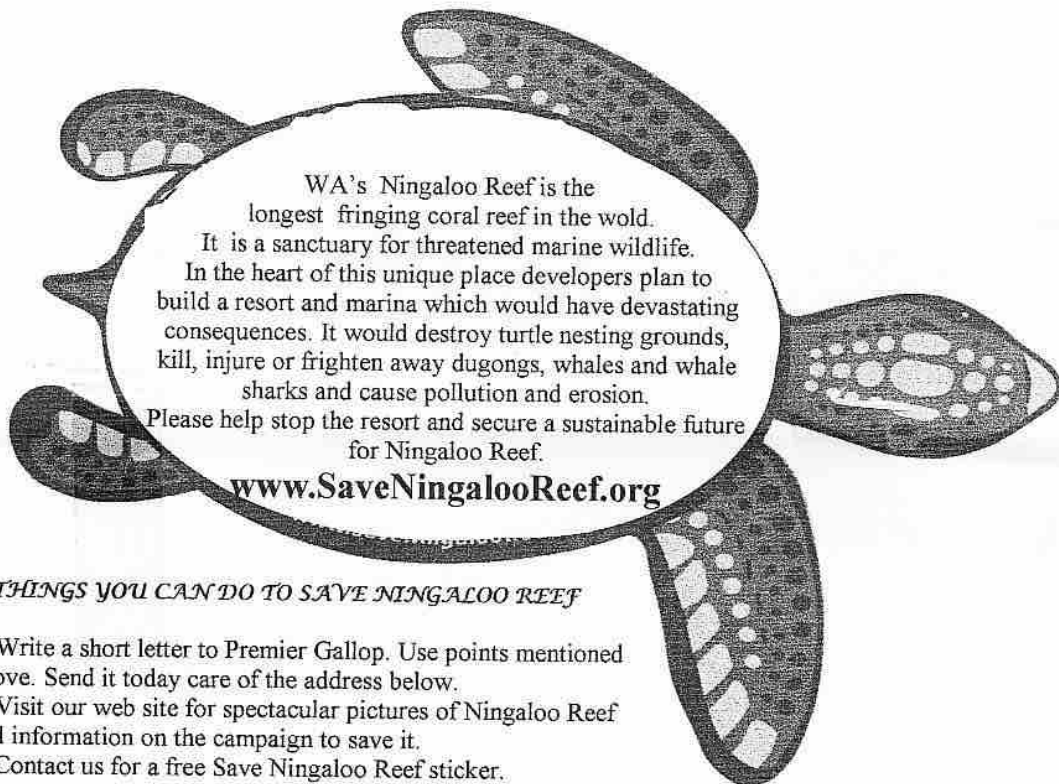


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email ken@mainpeak.com.au

Are you concerned about the environment?
Save Ningaloo Reef



4 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAVE NINGALOO REEF

1. Write a short letter to Premier Gallop. Use points mentioned above. Send it today care of the address below.
2. Visit our web site for spectacular pictures of Ningaloo Reef and information on the campaign to save it.
3. Contact us for a free Save Ningaloo Reef sticker.
4. Come along to the next Ningaloo Reef Support Group meeting.

The Save Ningaloo Campaign
2 Delhi St. West Perth, WA 6005
Ningaloo@wilderness.org.au

Sandy's Daily Moments of Zen

- Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.
- Don't worry, it only seems kinky the first time.

Sea Kayak Club WA Inc
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Palmyra
WA 6157

Surface Mail

Secretary
Sea Kayak Club WA Inc
28 Aurelian St
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