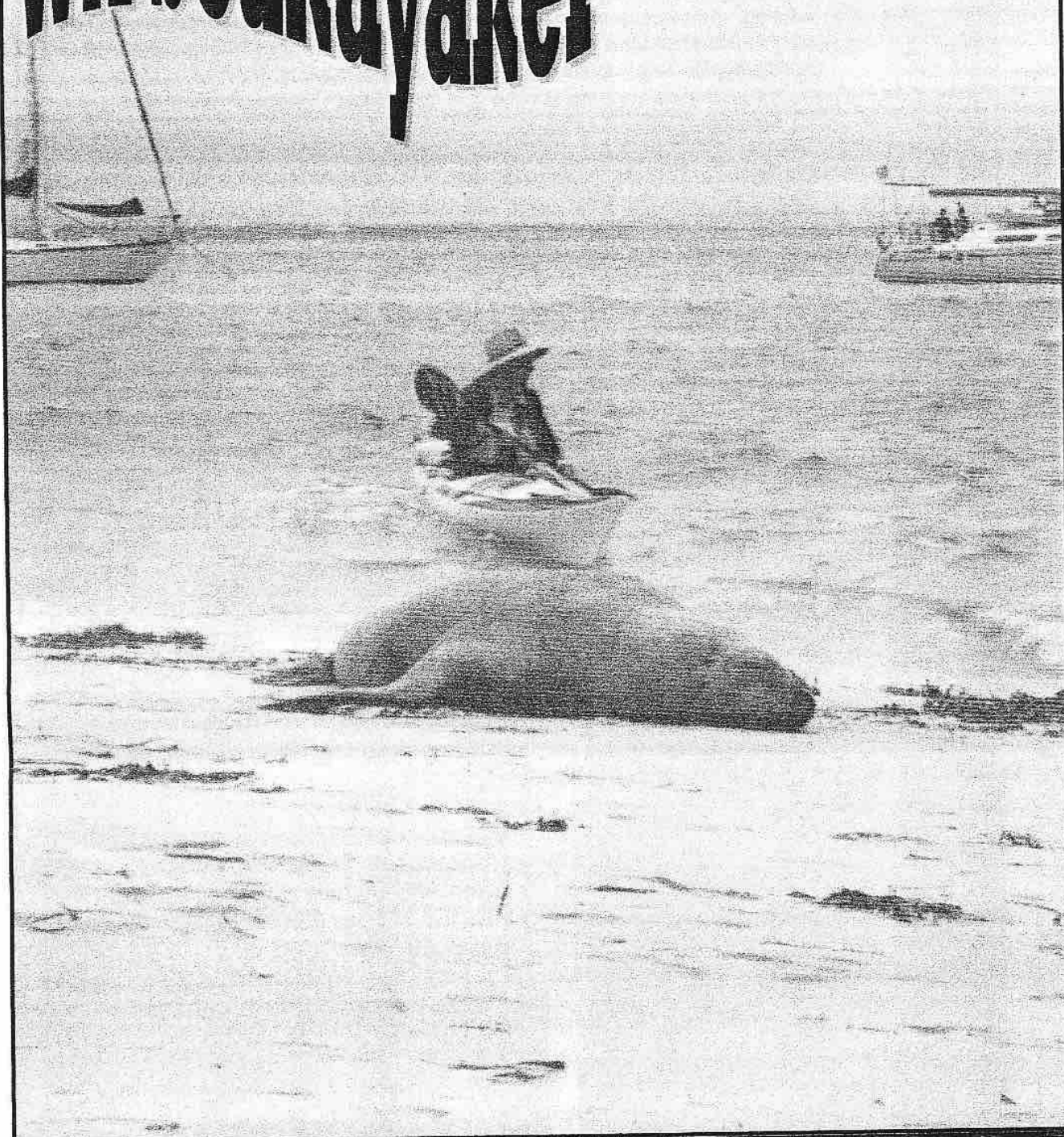


WA Seakayaker



Issue 42: May ~ June 2003



Newsletter of Sea Kayak Club WA Inc. PO Box 366 North Perth 6006
Phone: Pres. Eric Pyatt 9339 2952 Sec. Megan Halvey 9473 0552

EDITOR'S REPORT



We are all sorry to hear that our President, Eric Pyatt is unwell and has temporarily stepped aside from chairing meetings and leading paddles. Vice President Ian MacGregor stepped in at short notice to chair the last committee meeting and is prepared to fill the gap until Eric is well enough to participate again.

For this reason the General Meeting on the 16th April will be held at a hastily found venue – Gdoku Arthouse at Bather's Beach Fremantle. It is located between the Roundhouse and Macdonalds. Members may not receive this newsletter in time but the secretary will be contacting everybody. There may be some venue changes for subsequent meetings so please contact a committee member prior to the meeting.

The Ningaloo Trip organised by Eric has been voted a success by everybody to whom I have spoken. Those who participated appreciated the time and effort Eric put in to the planning and execution to make it such a success.

This newsletter will be short as nobody has done much recently, or if they have, they haven't written about it. I am therefore forced to fill the gaps with tasteless, politically incorrect feminist jokes sent to me by my tasteless, politically incorrect feminist friends. The only other alternative is some gutter "zoo jokes".

I'm sure everybody joins with me in wishing Eric a speedy recovery. In the meantime we ask members to direct club related questions to Ian, Megan, John or other committee members.
Marian

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Cover Picture:
Les Allen with a sea lion
on Carnac Island
Photograph © Marian Dixon

This Month's Fiercely Contested **DUCK FOR COVER AWARD** *Goes to Lynette Tapper*



.. for her dance of the seven veils performed before an appreciative audience on the Ningaloo trip. Lynette was the only lady on the trip and after scanning the camp site for an appropriate place to change after her sea bath finally chose to change behind Wayne's hootchie because it was between her and the men. She was unaware that the sun was in the wrong direction and her silhouette was clearly visible to all those socialising on the other side.

However, in the constant quest for stupidity, Neville once again deserves a dishonourable mention.

- He took nine flat batteries along as his spares.
- He took the wrong gas cylinder along.
- He lost 10 litres of water because he didn't know about the "tap"

Deadline for next issue :
Midnight WST
Friday 20th June 2003
Definition of Deadline

Line beyond which it is not permitted or possible to go: Time limit



NOTICE BOARD



Welcome to the following new members

Robyn Khorshid

David Coates

Rottneest weekend

Date for the Diary: Following our successful weekend on Rottneest in February, we have booked 'the house on the hill at Kingstown', the best accommodation at Rottneest overlooking Thompson Bay for the Weekend of Friday 28th and Saturday 29th November 2003. This house sleeps 18 and we encourage members to bring along family for a fun weekend of paddling and socialising. Further information will be provided in forthcoming newsletters.

Attention!!!!

Change of venue

The general meeting scheduled for Wednesday 16th April will be held at Gdoku Arthouse at Bathers' Beach. The gallery is between the Roundhouse and MacDonalds. Parking is available in Little High Street. A guest speaker will be talking on Minimal Impact Camping Practices—Skills and ethics.

FOR SALE

1 x Macpac Lrge PFD2 (Transition) as new \$110
1 x Salewa Micra 1-2 person tent.
Good condition \$110

Phone Ian MacGregor 9383 4319

FOR SALE

Kayak cradles for Thule roof rack.
Call Marian 9419 2205 or o 419 966 687

Barbecue at Mick's place

31C Sackville Terrace Scarborough
After the paddle from Hillarys Sunday 15th June
Bring your own meat. Salad supplied

Canoeing WA

We have been advised by Canoeing WA that non members are required to pay a 'trialist fee' of \$5.50 per event in order to be covered by insurance. This is payable for up to 3 events when they are required to join a/the club. This is an insurance requirement that has been advised through Canoeing Australia and Canoeing WA.

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"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



Les Allen
Films Adventure
Gear

Ph 94562129 lallen@touch88.com.au

Advertisement

What's in a word?

What's in a word? Well it appears when the proverbial hits the fan and there are legal ramifications there is an awful lot in what words you use. The problem for us is the definitions put out by Canoeing Australia as they are recognized as the controlling body for canoeing in Australia. We at the moment use words like "trip leader" in our documentation and verbal conversation. The duties, responsibilities and qualifications that our club expects from that person are at odds with Canoeing Australia's definition of guide of instructor.

AC Definitions

"AC" means Australian Canoeing Inc.

"Guide" A person who leads or guides a group without the intention of imparting skills or knowledge beyond that which is necessary to participate safely and adequately in the activity. At the end of a session or program with a guide, the intent is not for the participant to have acquired the skills to independently participate in the activity.

"ICF" means the International Canoe Federation.

"Instructor" A person who facilitates skill transfer or development to participants in order that they may act independently or with minimal supervision. This requires the instructor to be able to critique technique, apply a variety of appropriate instructional strategies and may require them to assess participant's skill acquisition at the end of a program or session.

"Participant" A person who has the necessary competencies to participate independently or under supervision in an outdoor activity. The ability to demonstrate participatory skills to the appropriate standard is a prerequisite to performing as a Guide or Instructor in outdoor recreation.

"Peer Activity" A paddling activity where no formal instructional or guiding structure exists and it is the responsibility of each member of the group to ensure the suitability of their equipment and themselves for the activity.

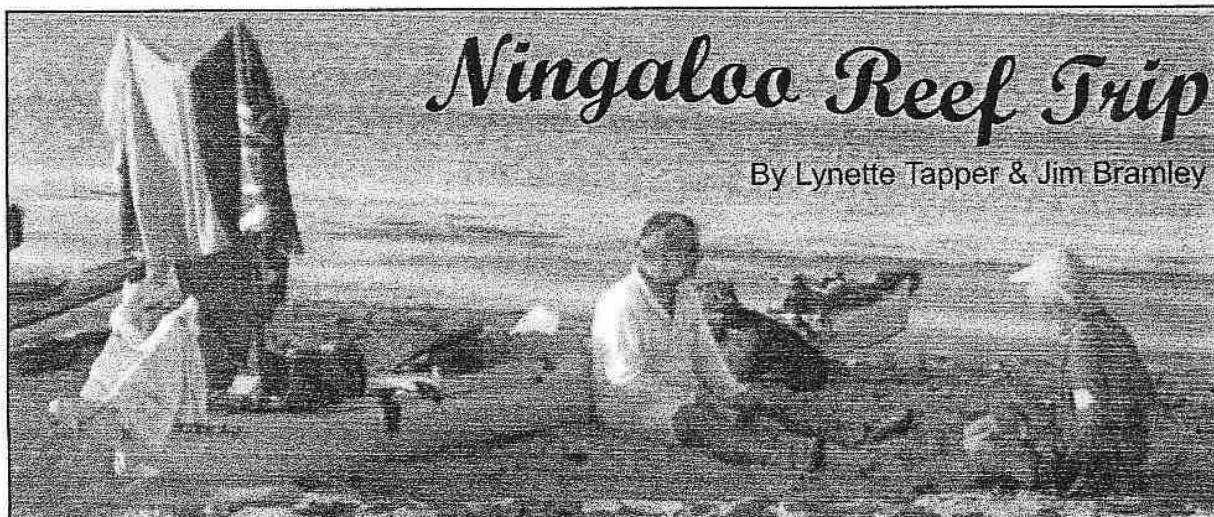
This means that if we had a fatality we would be hard pressed to convince a coroner that all people understood what we meant by "trip leader" as we don't have these terms defined in our documentation. Even if we did have them defined it could be argued that people are more aware of Canoeing Australia's definition of "guide" and expect them to take responsibility for the group.

In this light it would be better for us to use the same definitions. We should refer to our club paddles as "peer group" paddles and trip organizers rather than trip leaders. It would mean scouring our documentation to remove the offending wording and changing the terms we use in normal conversation so everybody understands the responsibilities of the organizer and the individual. In fact we should in our documentation have definitions for these terms so there is no ambiguity.

This may appear a little petty to most people but is vital in a worst case scenario.

Les Allen

A Woman's Rule of Thumb: If it has tires or testicles, you're going to have trouble with it.



Ningaloo Reef Trip

By Lynette Tapper & Jim Bramley

22 - 30 March 2003

We left Perth at 4.30am and met at Northampton at 12 noon for lunch.

All parties arrived in dribs and drabs, had lunch and some of us departed at 1.15pm. The remainder of the group waited for Ian & Wayne to arrive.

Next stop 100km peg, south of Carnarvon (Gascoyne Junction turnoff). Eric had a genuine out-back camping spot in mind - it proved to be just that; desert red dirt, abundance of flies and a magnificent sunset.

Eric was in the lead to point us in the right direction to a campsite - As Jim was busy taking in the scenery he hadn't noticed that Eric had pulled in at the Overlander Roadhouse to refuel. Then when Jim turned off the highway to find the camp, ended up 10 kms into the hinterland before realising that he must have overtaken Eric on the highway and consequently no camp or kayak were to be seen. This was only the first time Jim became lost!!

*This was only the first time
Jim became lost!!*

The climate became progressively warmer and the flies much friendlier as we climbed closer to the 26th parallel. We stopped to

take in the view from a scenic lookout a few k's past the 26th parallel - what an awesome sight across our sunburnt plains to the Indian Ocean.

We enjoyed our typical Aussie red desert camp and a good chin-wag over a wine or two and comparing camping chairs, cooking systems, water bags, wine glasses all encompassing a backdrop of a beautiful sunset.

We greeted Sunday morning, with a brilliant sunrise over breakfast and were back on the road at 7.15am. Overnight showers provided plenty of wildlife along the roadside - large eagles, feral cats, emus & 100's of goats - the weather is superb, a little cloudy, temp is climbing rapidly by the minute.

We stopped at Minilya for morning tea. When it was over we were still waiting for Ian and Wayne to arrive - they eventually made it 45 minutes later.

We all set off for Ningaloo Station - the turnoff is at least 100km's up the road.

Jim was busy once again viewing the scenery and didn't notice the turnoff to Exmouth - Lynette, his navigator was obviously enjoying a catch-up on sleep.

*Jim travelled 80kms out of the
way towards Onslow*

After travelling 80kms out of the way towards Onslow and then doubling back, they made it to Ningaloo Homestead - fortunately the group had left them a sign to show them the way!!

There was much activity on the beach at Jane Bay, erecting tents, and preparing for our first launching the following day.

24/3 early rise had us doing a final pack before our remaining 2 vehicles (4x4) were taken to the homestead for safe keeping. A final flurry of squeeze packing and off the shore at 8.45am.

*We stopped for morning tea
at the Ningaloo Hilton*

With a S/SW breeze behind us, we paddled about 5kms out of Jane Bay and stopped for morning tea at the Ningaloo Hilton, a quaint old tin shed type dwelling for fishing parties (a shack definitely built by Jack) for whoever happened upon this remote part of the World and needed a shelter.

We split into two groups and group one went out to the reef and Frazer Island. The weather was a little too breezy for the other group to get to Frazer but a good time was had by all. The other group hugged the coast to the Norwegian Whaling Station

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

where we agreed to meet for lunch and subsequently made camp for the night.

The shore hugging group spotted many turtles, a wobbegong shark and Eric caught a Dart for his dinner.

What remains of the Whaling Station which has been rusting

Reef group did some snorkelling out of their boats along the reef, heaps of fish were seen, all shapes, sizes and colours.

We found Paradise At Windebrand Point

We found Paradise at Windebrand Point. We set up camp



away for years, are massive whale oil holding tanks and boilers which now are so rusted, they resemble lace work. Old whale bones can also be found along the beach.

We had an early night as everyone was tired from packing and rearranging their kit. Another S/SW wind and on to Windebrand Point. Ten seconds out from shore Jim lost the connector joining his paddle, fortunately, quick thinking Jim landed his boat, donned his snorkel and mask and managed to find the connector before the sea swept it away.

Most of the group decided to take to the reef while Eric and Lynette hugged the shore. The reefers saw wonderful coral and turtles, the two shories also saw an abundance of turtles and two reef sharks.

After a morning tea and some snorkelling again the group split into two, one to the reef and the others to the shore for some oyster picking along the way.

and decided to stay two nights - what a wonderful bay this is! Turquoise water, manta rays playing just off the sandy spit, schools of fish skating across the bay, baby reef sharks playing in the shallows.

We watched a magnificent sunset while perched high upon a sand dune well equipped with a glass of vino, then adjourned to our various camps for dinner - each of us had a picturesque view of this magnificent bay with a backdrop of the Cape Ranges.

The weather is just perfect, light breeze, not too hot during the day but dipping in the bay is most welcome and sunscreen is being ladled on liberally.

The sun has gone down, the dinner has gone down and now the anchor debate is on - at least 8 paddlers are standing around one boat discussing anchors and it is going on and on and lasted about 1 hour before moving on to another position, and another boat where bilge pumps are now

the topic of conversation.

Graeme suggested and was prepared to wake those who were keen to paddle to the reef at 5.15am tomorrow. A group of six of us were up and ready by 5am - the dawn was coming but still a long way to go without light, it was kind of eerie paddling when it was so dark and had those in front not had lights, I'm sure the rest of us would have been left behind.

As it became lighter, the fish began to appear and although the coral was spawning, the water was clear - what a fantastic experience to be out on the reef so early and to see the sun rise.

We drifted along the reef gazing into a wonderland of coral. Our drift took us to a huge hole in the coral - perfect for snorkelling - we'll be back later (after breakfast).

Interesting to see the many kinds of hootchies which have been erected - only downside of being here is the lack of shade - we've been lucky with cloud cover also which gives some relief and the giant swimming pool of course - being the bay.

Thursday:

We broke camp from Windebrand Point this morning and paddled on to just south of Yardie Creek.

With all sails and two kites aloft, we weaved our way in and out of the surf on our way to Sandy Point. We made camp at Sandy Point and it was such a relief to have a table with the rock formations along the coast - was a nice change of camp. Jim & Dave tried their snorkelling skills and went looking for fish with feelers but were not successful.

Friday:

We paddled up to Yardie Creek about 5kms away - all boats had to be walked from the

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

coast across to the creek - about 170m we emptied all the heavy gear and left it on the beach whilst we explored the creek and gorge. Jim stayed behind to look out for the gear.

A great morning was had by all, meandering up the creek spotting wildlife along the way and a 100 yr old eagle's nest sits high up on one of the ledges, half way down the gorge. We sat amongst the rocks atop our boats and rocks and had morning tea.

Back to the crossing and a further paddle up the coast to Pilgramunna Bay - another wonderful bay to camp - Neville & Jim decided to go and dump our rubbish at the bins provided some 500m down the beach, they were gone for some time and when they eventually returned, told us that they had actually been lost in the car park - they had lights but no sense of direction!

Neville and Jim got lost in the car park

Saturday we set off for Turquoise Bay, stopping off at Mandu Mandu for morning tea. Graeme, in his usual friendly style, managed to talk his way into a grand tour of the upmarket tents erected in the Eco Friendly resort by two of the resort residents.

Turquoise Bay for lunch, proved, as always to offer stunning snorkelling - lots of turtles

and dozens of species of fish.

We paddled on to Tulki Beach where we set up camp. Three of the guys decided to leave at 5.30am to paddle for Exmouth, retrieve the cars and meet us at Neds Camp.

Much visiting between camps took place over dinner and drinks tonight, again witnessed yet another stunning sunset and early to bed, especially for the long distance paddlers.

Next day a few of us got up to see the paddlers, Brad, Nev & Jim off on their 48 km expedition.

The remainder of the group took a leisurely breakfast - Eric indulging in two fried eggs!!!

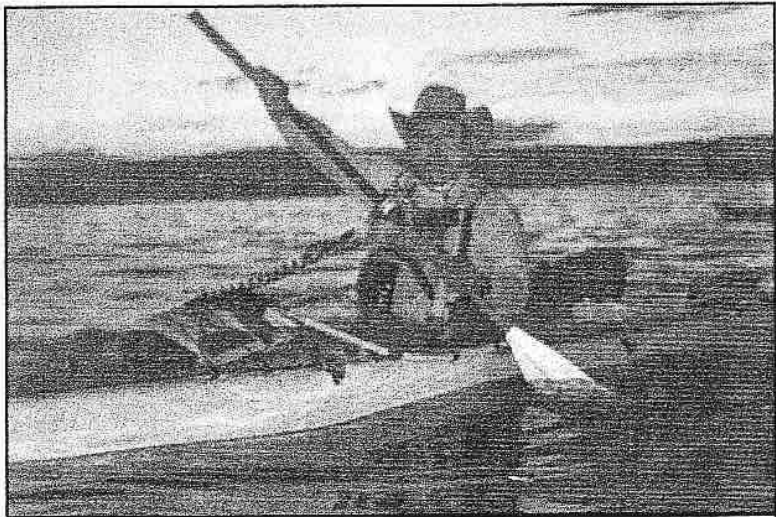
We then paddled off around 9am heading for Ned's Camp - lunch was taken in at Lakeside - just another beautiful bay - beginning to see tourists now.

A few of us visited the Milyering visitors' centre

which gives an interesting overview of the whole reef system. We were invited to view a video which was fascinating but sitting in real chairs under airconditioning almost sent us all to sleep - so we moved off and continued our journey to Ned's Camp. The reefers were supposed to meet us here but overshot the bay and landed at Mangrove Bay - they then had to paddle back against a severe southerly to meet us at Ned's.

At about 4pm the guys arrived from Exmouth with the vehicles, a fleeting stop before heading off on the 4x4 track to Ningaloo station to pick up the rest of the vehicles.

A memorable trip was had by all. For me this trip will stay indelible in my mind - would definitely be one of the best holidays I have had - very different, very beautiful, relaxing and great company. Thanks Eric for all your organization!



Graeme Lee

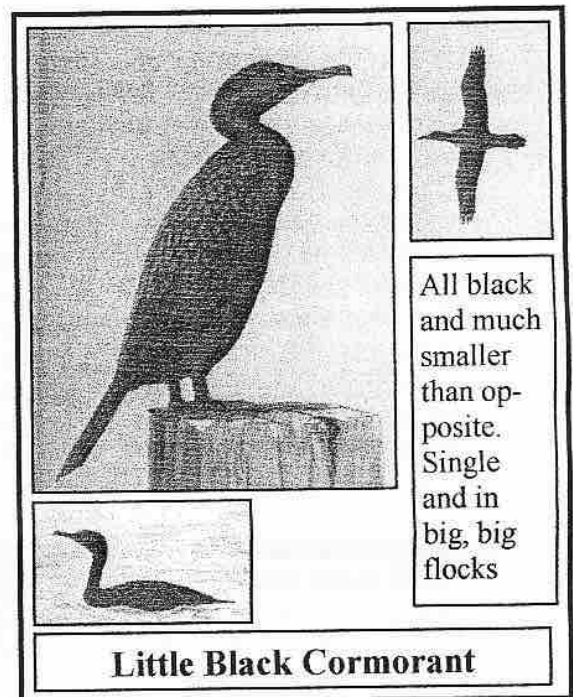
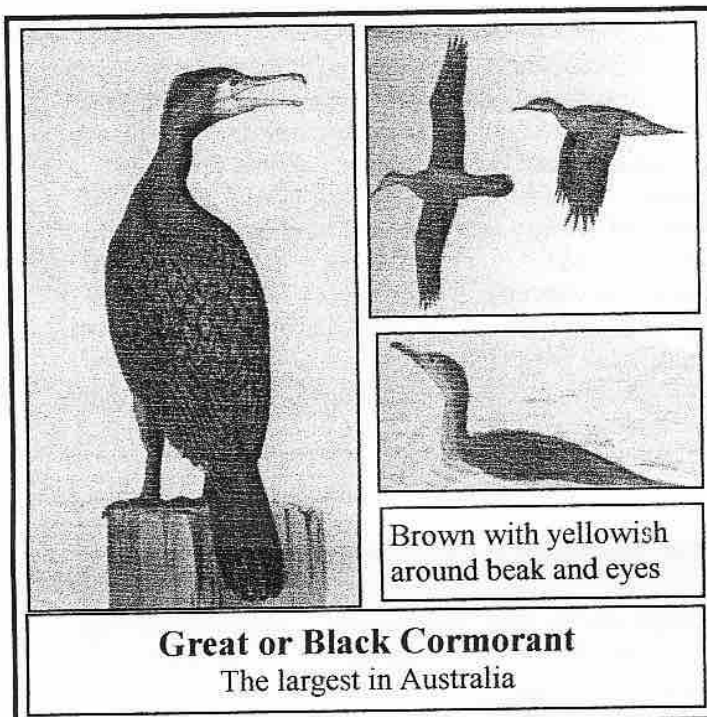
Sorry! This is another tasteless, politically incorrect feminist wisecrack. But editors abhor blank white spaces. If you don't like it, send me some more tasteless, politically incorrect masculine jokes.

Once upon a time, there was a female brain cell which, by mistake, happened to end up in a man's head. She looked around nervously, but it was all empty and quiet. "Hello?" She cried...but no answer. "Is there anyone here?" she cried a little louder, but still no answer....

Now the female brain cell started to feel alone and scared and yelled:

"HELLO, IS THERE ANYONE HERE?" Then she heard a voice from far, far away

"Hello - We're all down here...."



Shags They're not
Shags We don't have
Shags In our neck of
the woods are..

**CORMORANTS!
CORMORANTS!
CORMORANTS!**

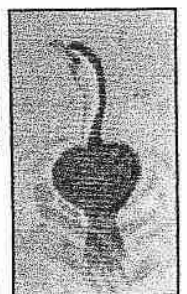


This one is the
Darter
It's commonly
called the Shag



Short beak
Smaller than
Pied Cormorant

**Little Pied
Cormorant**



Eric's Birds

Photographs courtesy of Simpson and Day

Is it a Sea Lion or a Seal?

By Marian Dixon

This question causes some confusion, as we frequently encounter these curious and entertaining marine mammals on our paddles. Australian sea lions and New Zealand fur seals live and breed around the southern part of our state. Both belong to the order *Pinnipedia* and the family *Otariidae* and are characterized by a visible ear-flap or pinna. They are known as 'eared seals' as distinct from 'true seals' such as leopard seals which have no ear flaps.

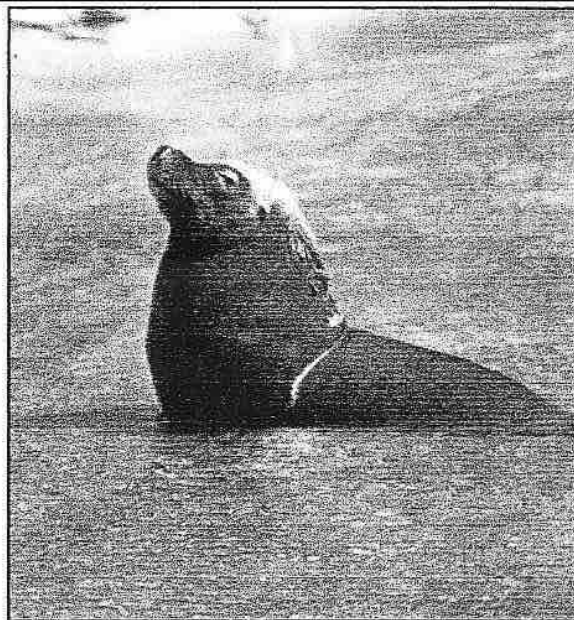
Australian Sea Lion (White-naped Hair-seal) *Neophoca cinerea*

The animals most commonly encountered on and around Carnac Island and Seal Island are sea lions. They are the rarest of the world's seal species and are found only in Australia from Houtman Abrolhos in WA to Kangaroo Island and the mainland of SA.

Seal Island and Carnac Island are hauling out places for males in the non breeding season, so the specimens we encounter are 'dads and lads'. During their extended and variable breeding season they travel north to join the females and become very territorial. The males can become very aggressive towards the pups and contribute to their mortality.

They are opportunistic feeders whose diet consists of squid, fish, sharks, octopus, cuttlefish, rock lobster, occasionally birds and turtles.

- Largest and most abundant of the pinnipeds in Australia
- Females much smaller than males
- Face resembles labrador dog, hair similar to a dog
- Colour varies between age and sexes. Usually combination of tans, creams and browns. Males are usually white on crown of head and nape of neck.



Australian Sea-lion (Adult male)
Photograph by Marian Dixon

Wildlife Hazard

Although many seals are accustomed to human presence, their behaviour is unpredictable and they should not be disturbed, frightened or approached. Maintain a distance of at least 5 metres on land and 10 metres in the water. They can carry a type of tuberculosis although the risk of contracting disease from them is small.



New Zealand Fur-seal (male)

Photo by G.W. Johnstone from Complete Book of Australian Mammals

New Zealand fur seal *Arctocephalus forsteri*

New Zealand fur seals breed on the exposed rocky islands on our south coast, particularly round Esperance and Albany. They were driven close to extinction by hunters in the early nineteenth century but populations are now recovering. They breed in December and January. Their diet consists of small schooling fish and squid and they are mainly nocturnal feeders.

- Smaller than a sea lion
- Face more pointed and fox like
- Silver-grey coat that appears dark grey or brown
- Dense under-fur below a sleek outer covering of guard hairs
- Long vibrissae

Grade One Assessment Sheet

Element	Points of consideration
Swim 50 mt in kayaking gear	Participant when dressed for paddling must be able to swim 50 mt unaided competently.
Equipment is selected after consideration of contextual issues and is checked to ensure that it is in good working condition	Club equipment list is gone through and equipment selected to suit the paddle on the day. The participant should be able to explain when all listed equipment is needed.
Equipment is fitted, correctly adjusted and suitable to the participant and craft.	Participant must have all equipment selected fitted correctly.
Craft is assessed for safety and suitability for the activity	Participant must explain why their craft is suitable for the paddle. The points highlighted on the equipment list must be shown to be present on the craft and what their functions are.
Equipment that is not required on hand is waterproofed, packed and stowed or fastened in a suitable manner	Participant must explain why their craft is packed properly. Participant should have an understanding of issues such as water proofing, stability, and accessibility of safety gear.
Craft is entered and exited whilst maintaining stability and in an efficient manner.	Participant should be able to enter and exit efficiently and quickly on a sandy beach. They should have an understanding of the dangers of waves and body position in relation to the shore and boat.
The craft is directed in a controlled manner	Participant should be able to paddle to a 4 buoy slalom course and paddle their boat through the course 3 times showing control over the boat at all times. The buoys should be set 10mt apart.
Efficiency of strokes is demonstrated whilst directing the craft	Participants must show forward stroke, reverse stroke, sweep stroke, reverse sweep, low brace, and emergency stop. The paddle must be inserted and removed in the correct place, hands must be placed correctly on the paddle and the boat must respond correctly to the intended stroke.
The rudder, if fitted, is used effectively	Participant should demonstrate efficient deploying and stowing of the rudder and efficient use whilst paddling. Participant should know when a rudder is not effective.
The Craft is exited in a controlled manner following capsize	Participant must capsize on both sides of the boat in a controlled manner surfacing holding the boat.
Paddles and other equipment are recovered	Participant must control all equipment without assistance.
The upturned Craft is manoeuvred to shore or to rescue craft	Participant must be able to swim their boat 10 mt
Water is emptied from the craft at the shore or with assistance from rescuers	Participant after swimming boat to shore must empty boat and re launch un assisted.
Deep water re-entry techniques are demonstrated	Participant must re enter the boat using the club rescue technique efficiently without direction. The boat must be emptied of water and the participant able to paddle off.
Suitable methods are demonstrated to secure craft to the bank/shore	Participant must be able to manoeuvre their boat to a safe place on the beach taking into consideration waves and tides.
Where appropriate, the Craft is secured for road transport using suitable methods and knots	Participant must be able to explain why their craft is safe to transport and the reason for the type of knots or tie down they used.



Everything
you need...

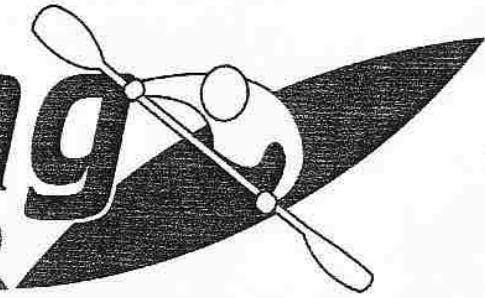


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email ken@mainpeak.com.au

Canoeing DOWN UNDER



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93781333**

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**If you want the best advice on
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Just talk to Terry Bolland who has over 25 years of sea kayaking experience in all different conditions and environments.

Sea Kayaks, Paddles, PFDs, Cags, Spraycovers, Booties, Paddle Floats, Paddle Leashes, Pumps, GPSs, Radios, Dry Sacks, Water Carriers, Lights, Flares and much more.

The following ad in "The Atlanta Journal" is reported to have received numerous calls:

"SINGLE BLACK FEMALE... Seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good looking girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping, and fishing trips, cosy winter nights lying by the fire. Candle light dinners will have me eating out of your hand. Rub me the right way and watch me respond. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me. Kiss me and I'm yours. Call xxx-xxxx and ask for Daisy".
Over 15,000 men found themselves talking to the local Humane Society about an 8-week-old black LABRADOR retriever.
Men are so easy....

Sea Kayak Club WA Inc
PO Box 366
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WA 6006

SURFACE MAIL

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4 Pinaster St
Menora
WA 6050

