

# WA SEA KAYAKER

Journal of "Sea Kayak WA Inc". PO Box 230, North Beach. 6920.

Issue 5

Perth

July, 1997.

Welcome! It's time once again to let you know the latest information. We've had another successful month of trips and activities. Those who turn up are enjoyed themselves immensely. The club is starting to get a group of regulars turning up on the good Weather days. Even the appalling Frontal weather didn't deter those adventurers who tried the surf entries and exits at Leighton Beach.

**Best of luck to all of you going in the Avon Descent!** Have a good paddle and hope you have a good time. Then we hope to see you on some of our trips.

The club continues to grow! We have 19 paid up members, with fifty paddlers now on our books, and more contacting us each week. Memberships continue to roll in..

**PLEASE PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW.** Same old story, we need the money. Mail outs to members, and non members cost about \$30 per time, and we have just spent \$200 on adverts for the club incorporation.

**Invitation.** We've had a generous invitation to go down and paddle in the south west, Naturalist and Leewin area. It's a great example of what being a statewide club is all about. Lorna Alcorn, c/- RMB 212 Karridale.6288. Ph 089 7586739 is a keen sea kayaker who's done some kayaking in other parts of the world. Finding no local sea kayakers, she has been doing solo ventures and is keen to get a group come down to explore the area with her. Lorna lives in Karridale, and has a nice house only minutes from Hamelin Bay and can accomodate a few people. She says the west side is a bit wild and beyond her league for fun, safety and comfort at this time, but believes the rivers and the Flinders Bay area off Augusta are good. The bay has many islands, one being a seal sanctuary some 5 miles offshore with many wales at this time of the year. We'll contact Lorna, and organise a club trip, possibly October

## **Rottnest Trip**

We are planning a weekend trip, possible November. Time to get organised with safety equipment and fitness. From a safety point of view, we feel that club members should have completed several distance paddles, in preparation for the Rottnest crossing. Your comments are welcome.

## **Social Committee**

Our committee is organised. Clare and Fran are it! Our first social activity will be on the 1st October (Wednesday) 7pm, Our 6 MONTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER. To be held at 12 Elvire Street, Waterman. BYO FOOD & DRINKS. Dinner is a share meal, everyone to bring a plate of something or a casserole etc. We will have a very short meeting first at 7pm. Don't be late.

## **T Shirts**

T shirts are being organised. We will probably get LS T Shirts with the club name down the sleeve, something on both front and back, and we are looking for a good design. If you want to become immortalised as the first T shirt designer for the club submit a design ASAP.

### **Trip Report.**

**July 7th.** River trip. John Satherley reporting.

A drive through Scarborough in the pouring rain, thinking why am I doing this? I'll bet everyone else is tucked up snugly in a warm bed. But no, Neil, Eric, Sylvia and first time paddler (with us that is) Scott Cooper were there chatting to Neville, who unfortunately had to go to work.

At 9.15 we changed our parking position to the Esplanade, on Sylvia's advice. This gave us a 2 metre walk to the water's edge, then a quick check back for any latecomers, but alas, none to be found. The group of 5 headed across Freshwater Bay, then followed the shoreline around Point Resolution, then on past the privileged few, Perth Flying Squadron, Jo JO's and Nedlands Baths, before stopping on Matilda Bay Reserve, for morning tea and discussion of possible paddling venues and about starting a club chart library. Then on back to PFS, where Scott had to leave us and head straight back, while the rest of us crossed Melville Water to Alfred Cove Nature Reserve. Returning to start along Point Walter Spit and arriving back at 12.30. **Great Paddle, no rain.**

**July 27th.** Woodman Point to Fremantle. Neville Holden reporting.

9.30 am saw newcomer Aussie McHugh, Claire and Sylvia, John and Fran, Eric, Neville, Karen and Brian, and Peter C. set off from the beach near the yacht club? Around the point, where there was a bit of a swell and a little surf, then straight across to Freo. The paddle was designed to let those who had not previously ventured too far off shore, get a bit of confidence out in the ocean. The conditions were good, the trip across was uneventful with just a bit of surf half way across. We were as close to Carnac Is as the coast and could easily have popped across for a look. Next time! We arrived into Bathers beach to a audience of millions, no doubt hoping to see us get wet. Neville Hine was also there. Still not getting out of bed early enough, Neville! But we all made perfect landings in the surf and then enjoyed fish and chips and coffee on the beach. Peter tried out a few practice roll over techniques. Claire and Sylvia and Aussie paddled back, followed by John and Neville. Thanks to Neville Hine for car ferrying back to the start point. The rest went home from Fremantle. It was a successful day and gave us the urge to get out to Carnac and Garden Islands for a good ocean trip

**Perth to Geraldton Trip.** We are thinking of a segmented way of attempting this trip. A series of legs of one and two days over a 6 month period. Any suggestions?

**Feedback.** We still want feedback. Give us your ideas and suggestions.

### **Also. We want you to get involved!**

Start planning now! As this is a member's club, we want **you** to organise an activity, trip, expedition, that suits you with regards to timing, location, activity, etc.

**Ring Peter 94574481 and arrange for your trip to be scheduled on the calender.**

**Contact Nos.** John S. 94473438. Neville H. 94484196. John DiN. 94485696.

Fran 94473438. or Claire 93843305. for any social committee matters.

**SEE YOU ON THE WATER!**

## The Mandurah Mission

Warm sun, clear skies, swaying palms, absolutely beautiful. Then the alarm goes off and stuffs everything up. Overcast, patchy rain and bloody cold. Such is life! Wayne rolls up at our place in Greenmount early Sunday morning and we head down to Mandurah together. We find John, Neville and Neil almost ready to set off so the gear is off the car and onto the beach at the Dolphin Dve marina before you can say "it's too cold too early and no bloody coffee".

So off we go with a nice, easy paced loosen up paddle up the main waterway. Other than a couple of light sprinkles, the rain holds off. The sun pops out every now and again to add a touch of warmth. We cruise under the Pinjarra bridge and dream wistfully of a home on one of the canal estates. A canoists dream!

Under the Mandurah Bypass bridge and we make our way out of the estuary and into Peel Inlet. A touch rougher and windier out here with less protection from the south westerly breeze. No real hardship though, and we make good time past The Chimneys ("what chimneys?"). The difference made by the Dawesville Cut is obvious. No more algae! The last time I was around these parts, a large area of the inlet was covered by a dirty scum of algae. Thousands of flies swarmed above it. Really attractive stuff! For once, it looks as though man has solved a man-made problem.

While paddling past the last of the group of islands at the estuary mouth, we met up with another canoist, Ross. He was the cause of considerable discussion as he had a mast and sail lashed to his boat. Various schemes and dreams were aired then and since on the subject of labour-saving devices such as sails and kites. Hmmmmmmm.....

Another couple of kilometres across open water and we decide to call a coffee break. A likely spot shows itself at Ward Point. Sandy beach, trees and quiet. "Lets push on for that breakwater" says Someone. Rats! Another kilometre or so. We head for the beach at the base of the breakwater. "Lets just go around to the other side" says Someone. Once around the breakwater it becomes obvious there is nowhere to beach. Basically there is no beach! We are now in the Cut. John cheers us up by telling us he thinks there is a beach a couple of hundred metres up the Dawesville Channel.

A pod of about eight or nine dolphins pops up on the other side of the channel. A few of us paddle over for a closer look. There appears to be a few young (pups?) with them and they don't allow us to come too close. Fascinating to watch.

Onward ho! The tide is running the wrong way! We were promised it would be going with us. The kilometre (or thereabouts) to the beach becomes about three due to the battle against a fast flowing tide. Everybody breathes a sigh of relief when we finally beach near the ocean end of the channel. Time for a leg-stretch, lunch and a leak (not easy when most of the bushes struggle to reach your kneecaps).

We decide to have a look at the ocean and perhaps try the coast route back to the estuary. Most of us are fairly tired and the shorter run back would be appreciated. Battle the tide again until we push past the mouth of the channel and into the ocean. A large, lumpy ocean. A large swell keeps dropping us out of each others sight in the troughs. After battling on for a few hundred metres we decide the conditions are against us and turn back to the channel. To start battling exhaustion in strong winds and a heavy sea would have been courting disaster.

Happy, happy, joy, joy!!! The tide, oh the wonderful tide! Forget the paddles and watch the scenery zip past. A great way to relax a bit before the long haul back. Another coffee break at the inlet end of the estuary after a long slog from the channel to put a trickle of charge back into well depleted batteries then the final couple of kilometres back up the estuary and a final beaching at the cars.

A long, tiring haul for sure, but the feeling of satisfaction after covering a total of about thirty five kilometres in not-too-brilliant conditions made it a truly memorable day.

**LEIGHTON BEACH SURF PRACTICE 13 July 1997. Paddle report by Fran.**

**Attendance: Neil Husband, John Satherley, Neville Hines, Neville**

**Holden, Peter Cappendell, Brian, Karen, Sylvia, Clare and Fran.**

**Weather:** Really bad. Wild, wet and windy with a large uneven surf. A strong current across the beach made taking off difficult. Those braving the condition in boats were, Peter, Neil, John, Neville Holden, Brian and Karen. The rest of us, just as stupid, standing on the beach, getting soaking wet watching them.

First off was Peter, who flew through the waves like rocket man, looking confident, I thought he was going to make it but alas, a big big big wave came at him sideways. Over he went, following his boat into shore. 1st attempt.

Next off was Neil, he flicked down his rudder and paddled like an ironman, on and over, with the huge waves hitting him in the face, but still he soldiered on.

What a hero. He made it out to the back, where he told us later, he was exhausted and had to catch his breath. 1st attempt. Success.

Then off goes John, looking good, bracing beautifully, flying over the waves and then, as if to thrill the onlookers, he surfed back in backwards, but not to be stopped, he paddled forwards again, looking good again, but a minute later a sideways wave struck him and over he went. 1st attempt.

Neville is in his boat getting instructions from Neville Hines. He's not ready yet.

**Enter the Open Deck Sea Kayak** with Brian and Karen on top of it. In they go, fighting their way out through these huge waves. In they came, out they went, in again sideways and upside down. The wetsuits came in handy. These guys were the only ones sensibly dressed for the conditions. 1st attempt.

Neville is getting ready now. Yes I believe he is going in. Neville Hines shouting into the wind, paddle paddle paddle. Neville still on the beach, swings sideways but managing to straighten up, again he heads out, ooops sideways again, Neville Hines takes him aside for some more instruction. In he goes again. Through 2 waves, he stops, Neville shouting paddle, but Nev in the boat, knew better, he could see how big the second break was, so he did a sideways brace, flipped his boat around and surfed in to shore, completely dry.

Sylvia, Clare and myself discuss what they are all doing wrong. Of course, we could have shown them but we weren't that silly. Neville Hines said "I wish I had my gear with me, I would show them how to do it" well I would have liked to have seen that. Never Mind Neville, next time!!!!

Neil, John and Peter made second attempts, some made three attempts. The only one through the break and back in, although not without losing his boat on the way back in, was Neil. He received the "Smart Arse of the day Award"

Morning tea was held outside the Ladies Toilets, where Brian and Karen had gotten changed out of their wetsuits together. Definite worry that Brian.

The overall opinion of the day was, Great Experience, impossible conditions but excellent practice, stuffed and exhausted, should have had a camera, good laugh. Clare, Sylvia and I thoroughly enjoyed being the onlookers and it was worth getting wet for. Thanks to Neville Hines for his help, good to see you there. The only casualty of the day was Neville Holden's umbrella.

**GREAT MORNING. Thanks to all who braved the weather and turned up.**



## SUNDAY 20TH JULY 97 - HILLARYS

Well I cant say to much about the first half hour because I wasn't there. Start time was 9AM and I got there at 9.30 as the last paddler Eric was launching off the beach, with the assistance of Neville who wasn't paddling because he had to work. It looked like a good turnout as they headed off towards Little Island. Neville helped me with the boat and I was soon heading off after them. It was a bright sunny day with clear blue skies and just enough chop and swell to make it interesting. A bit off a contrast to the previous Sunday at Leighton beach.

John Satherley paddled back to join me and by the time we got to little Island, some off the group had headed off towards Mullaloo beach and Peter Cappendell Peter Okely and Keith Harding had experienced some difficulty getting on and off the Island due to the confused conditions in close.

Peter Cappendell John and Myself headed out through a break in the reef behind the island with big breakers on either side. Peter Okely and Keith Harding followed but keith either got to close to the edge of the channel or was caught by a set coming through the middle as he related a near wet experience. Apparently he got caught by a big one (and they were big) but he must have got his brace in the right place and ended up ridding the broken water sideways. The combination of adrenaline and remaining right side up will ensure he doesn't forget that technique.

We headed North behind the breakers avoiding the surfers and following the line of anchored boats figuring they were there for different reasons and I for one was really enjoying a nice warm dry paddle for once. We headed in through another break in the reef with small waves were not breaking enough to surf.

We then headed off to join the rest off the group and found them on Mullaloo beach just north of Pinnaroo Point. Everyone landed successfully and joined them for morning tea except for Sylvia and Claire who paddled up and down just off shore in the double. Over coffee and chocolate bikkies - Peter C and Fran did a good job in Neville's absence - we discussed some paddles for the upcoming weeks and an overnigher in September. Sounds good especially if we could have similar weather.

I had to be home by twelve so we headed off. No one had any problems launching and I rafted up on the double. Pat came alongside to have her rudder put down. We then paddled as a group, just off the beach back to the start point. Being in a bit of a hurry I was first through the beach break with no problems except I fell over getting out off the boat. Fran was next with a perfect landing. The timing was just right seeing what was looming behind. Everyone proceeded to make very good beach landings with the prise going to John Satherley who was last in and sailed straight up the beach.

A most enjoyable paddle on a beaut winters day.

From a safety point of view there were no problems due to favourable conditions and we were basically split into two groups except for the start and finish. The presence of a Harbours and Marine vessel when we were heading home was a reminder that we probably needed PFD 1s out there to be covered. Also during the coffee break Eric recounted a rescue experience he had a few weeks earlier which we could all learn from.

See you on the water.

Neil

**SEA KAYAK WA Inc.**  
**AUGUST 1997 CALENDER**

**3rd August (Sunday) 9am Start.**

**HILLARYS North Wall heading South.**

**Rescue and technique practice at end of paddle.**

**10th August (Sunday) 9am Start.**

**PENGUIN ISLAND**

**Start at Ferry Carpark.**

**14th August (Thursday) 10am Start. Mid Week Paddle**

**Marmion Angling Club (MAAC) West Coast Drive, Marmion.**

**Paddle to Scarborough and return (2hrs approx)**

**17th August (Sunday) 9am Start**

**LITTLE ISLAND PADDLE**

**Meet at Hillarys North Wall, paddle to Little Island, Mullaloo.**

**21st August (Thursday) 9am Start. Mid Week Paddle**

**MACC at Marmion to Fremantle. One Way Only.**

**24th August (Sunday) 9am Start**

**OCEAN REEF to Mindarie.**

**Meet at carpark Ocean Reef Marina.**

**26th August (Tuesday) 10am Start.**

**Phone Fran for start point. 94473438.**

**31st August (Sunday) 9am Start**

**SOUTH COTTESLOE. Skills Training**

**Carpark on Marine Pde. between Beach and Princess Rds.**

**Surf Entry & Exits, Towing, Rafting up etc. Rescue etc.**

**SEPTEMBER 6 & 7 Overnight camp. Ph.Peter or Neil Husband**

**OCTOBER 1. (Wed 7pm) Club 6month Anniversary Dinner.**

**PLAN NOW FOR ROTTNEST WEEKEND. NOVEMBER Camping, fishing.**

**JOHN S. 94473438**

**NEVILLE H. 94484196**

**JOHN DiN. 9448 5696**

**PETER C. 94574481**