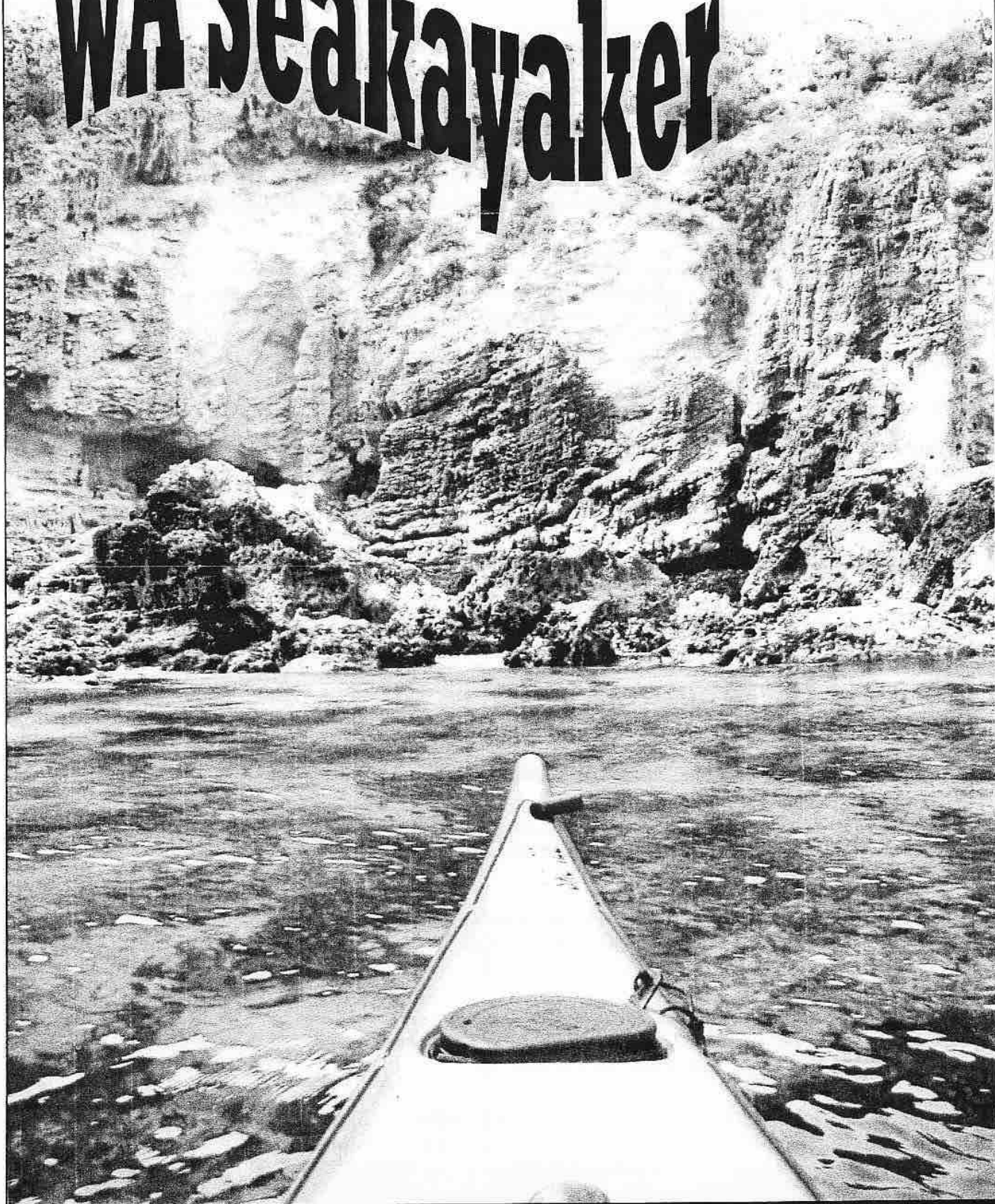


WA Seakayaker



Issue 51: Nov ~ Dec 2004



Newsletter of Sea Kayak Cub WA Inc. 2a Braunton Street Bicton WA 6157
Phone: Pres. Helier Beardsley 9299 6509 Sec/Treasurer Roger Lloyd 9339 6860

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Oh for those days before litigation! The work that it has created throughout the western world must be horrendous. So much for the corporations; consider how much work is done by volunteers. The frustrations are unbelievable! But we must be positive and keep on fighting. We have to make it work and not give up like some clubs, and not like others take the risk. Give full credit to Roger Lloyd for the untiring perseverance and energy he has put into sorting out our "Risk Management" plan and insurance cover. I ask that you give him every support and put your hands together for the work he is putting in, in this area as well as all the other projects he has taken on.

It's been hard settling down after five months away. Apparently, attendances to Club Paddles have been topsy-turvy; the winter weather, no doubt, playing a big part in this.

Pleasing to see an influx of new members. It's up to us long standing members to make them feel welcome and guide them to the enjoyment we get out of the sport. The Club promotes "Adventure, Fun and Leisure" with the emphasis on "Fun". Fun is different

things to different people. Fun for some is the excitement of the kite and the sail in a strong wind, for others exploring or the challenge of a crossing, fishing or surfing. Go for it! Have fun! But, don't disregard your responsibility for the well being and safety of your fellow paddlers; particularly the newer, less experienced lesser skilled. Look after them, perhaps sacrificing the type of fun you prefer and turn it into a sense of well being for yourself, the Club and particularly your new member. There can be big rewards in selflessness. The occasional sacrifice of self-interest and selfishness for the good of others can be uplifting.

We have eight members who have shown interest in becoming "Trip Leaders" now known as "Trip Coordinators". We have a draft plan which will help develop a format to have all these "Risk Management" requirements in place. It will help also to stream-line the organisation of our program.

With our headquarters search, you may have noticed the progress on the renovations at the old "Isolation Hospital". The stumps, the floors, the outside cladding and the roof are complete; that being the first part of the restoration contract. Next is the inside cladding and plumbing. FOWPRC are negotiating for further funds to cover these needs. This being a heritage building they have every chance. This is the bad news/good news bit! We can forget about "The Shed". Better than that, negotiations are afoot for a good size meeting room, store, toilet and showers in the main building and the good signs are "at a reasonable cost", which will make little difference to our fees. The problem is, "How long will it take?"

In the mean time negotiations are taking place with the Pelican Point Sea Scouts for the use of their facility. There are a few things to sort out, however we are now in the throws of putting together a submission. We are aiming for an annual fee contract, whereas they are looking for charging an hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour for meeting rooms, a charge of \$4.00 per head off the beach whether it be for training, club paddles or whatever and \$5.00 per head for camping. This could be very difficult to manage and possibly impractical. However, on meeting with their committee they are open to our thoughts and look forward to our submission.

The club is doing its utmost in helping you gain Skills Award 2 Certificate. You will receive notice of a meeting to help with the written requirements. To see that you can fulfil the practical side, club members will help you on the water. There will be notice in the newsletter on professional help.

Fees are now overdue so keep them rolling in. The response has been good so far.

Good fortune to next year's committee. May we have a happy and successful 2004/05.

Have fun! Eric.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Ian Rawlings. Lee Openshaw. Kersten Stender.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

Midnight WST, Monday, 20th December, 2004.

COVER PICTURE:

Carnac Island - Limestone cliffs, west side.

Photo by Judy Blight.

PRESIDENT: Helier Beardsley.

Also: Training; Promotions; Inductions.
Ph: 9299 6509.

VICE PRESIDENT: Eric Pyatt.

Also: Newsletter Editor.
Ph: 9339 2952. Fax: 9319 9987.
Mob: 0427 539 814.

Email: ericjopyatt@bigpond.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Roger Lloyd.

2A Braunton Street, Bicton. 6157.
Ph: 9339 6860.

Email: rogioanlloyd@optusnet.com.au

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: John Ross.

Ph: 9592 2432.
Email: john.k.ross@alcoa.com.au

SOCIAL: Judy Blight.

Ph: 9433 3719.
Email: carita@inet.net.au

NOTICE BOARD

SEA SKILLS AWARD: LEVEL 2.

THE THEORY COMPONENT

John and Helier will guide you through the *theory component* of the Sea Skills Award: Level 2 on the night

WEDNESDAY, 17th NOVEMBER, 2004
7.00 to 9.30 PM.

VENUE: "ERIC'S SHED", 28 AURELIAN STREET, PALMYRA.

At the end of the night everyone will have completed the 4 required questions.

Bring along your \$ 66.00 charged by TAFE for your certificate.

All paperwork, marine charts and weather forecasts will be supplied.

When completed on the night we can send it all to Les Allen for assessment.

PHONE JOHN: (M) 0407 050 011.

PERTH to GERALDTON.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST.

26th December, 2004 to 4th January, 2005.

This trip is for competent paddlers only!

PHONE JOHN (M) 0407 050 011.

TWILIGHT PADDLES.

(FOLLOWED BY A BARBIE)

This will be during the Summer Months on the Swan/Canning River, the last Wednesday of the month starting at 7.00 pm, finishing the paddle by 8.30pm.

The first is scheduled on the:

24th NOVEMBER, 2004.

Be early so as to be on the water as scheduled.

Venue: Old Claremont Museum- Dalkeith.

PHONE MEGAN (W) 9481 1611.

ROTTNEST

OVERNIGHT

12th and 13th NOVEMBER

"IT'S ON"

There are 3 vacancies.

BE IN IT!

PHONE ROGER: 9339 6860

SKILLS PRACTICE.

WEST COAST KAYAKS.

Professional Guidance.

Every Saturday, 2.00 to 4.00 pm.

Free of charge to all Club Members.

This is not a Club Event! You need to discuss insurance matters with the proprietor.

PHONE BEFOREHAND: (M) 0419 900 715

The Tasmanian Trip Report

Like the N.S.W. trip I did earlier, the Tasmanian advanced sea skills course was well worth the effort. The Tasmanian paddlers were a great bunch of people who accepted having Rob Mercer and I in their back yard. Rob was in charge of the course with me assisting. It was a pleasure to work with Rob as he is very professional in putting together and instructing advanced courses. Ian Dewey from Australian Canoeing is an oceanographer, so his knowledge in this field as well as in biomechanics was put to good use with some very informative information exchange. I was trying to be a sponge and soak up as much information as possible.

Tasmania is THE place to paddle, with spectacular cliffs and bays as well as sea caves to die for. The locals are very hospitable and I really enjoyed meeting them. The only problem is 8 to 12 degree water. "Man its cold, but hey you can't have everything".

After coming home from such a successful trip with people from 3 states getting on so well I was very disappointed to receive this E-mail from Rob Cousins (who is aspiring to be an instructor).

Well it all started, when I decided to stop at my favorite newsagent and pick up the Oct/Nov 04 Outdoor Australia magazine. I turned straight to the regular section of Outdoor containing news and advice from the paddling world, mate I was more excited than a kid in a candy store until I read.

The sea can be very dangerous "I don't believe in bomb proof rolls", when things go pear shape you need a bomb proof re-entry and roll" says Les Allen.

It is a pretty sad state of affairs when you get a "leading authority" saying that he does not believe in a bomb proof roll - but that you should first have to get out of your kayak and then be able to roll. If that is the case - why not roll in the first place.

Even better - why not have the support and balance skills to not end upside down in the first place.

Even better - why not have great planning skills and not end up upside down at all because of bad planning or other skills --

--
Geez..... I
can't wait till the next issue now
Cheers,
Rob

This is not the first time I have been taken on over something I wrote. Phil Hill tore apart one of my articles on rolling. He did it in a constructive, not childish, manner and his point was taken on board and I appreciated his comments. To progress canoeing in WA and ensure we have national benchmarks in course design and presentation it would be much better if we adopted the approach of both the Tasmanian and NSW instructors I have met. They have been very helpful with constructive critique and information exchange.

Australian Canoeing has been working very hard to achieve national benchmarking and foster cooperation between instructors, and the fact that I was in a Tasmanian Course and was assessed for my level 3 advanced instructors by a NSW assessor is testimony to their success. I feel if we can put away our petty differences and foster that same approach of cooperation and communication between instructors in WA, we can raise the bar on our performance and canoeing will be the ultimate winner.

Report by: Les Allen.

West Coast Kayaks
phone: (08) 9470 9993 fax: (08) 9470 9228



Now Open

Perth's newest Kayak Shop is now open. Les Allen Kayaks is now West Coast Kayaks and is stocking a full range of Kayaks, sit on tops and canoes. All club members are most welcome to pop in on a Thursday night or Saturday for a browse and a coffee. Even better bring a friend who is interested in kayaking as we are offering unlimited free training to people who buy our boats. Or ask us about paddling in Thailand as we will be offering trips to exotic destinations soon.

U2 187 Bank St East Victoria Park
Ph 94709993 or 0419 900 715

A Short Shark Bay Solo Sojourn

By Roger Lloyd.

There is a lot of WA history in the Shark Bay area, originally called Cartharrugudu, meaning Two Bays, by the early Aboriginal people. Descendants of the Nhandu and Malgana people still live in the area. The English buccaneer William Dampier who visited the bay in the ship "Roebuck" in 1699 named it Shark Bay due to the abundant shark population. The Peron Peninsula is named after Monsieur F. Peron, the naturalist of the French expedition of 1801 led by Captain Hamelin. The township of Denham, named after the Captain of the British survey ship Herald which visited the bay in 1857, was originally called Freshwater Camp by the pearlers of the time due to a reliable local freshwater source, prior to 1904 when it was renamed.

Leaving behind 100 knot plus gale force winds and rain in Perth I and my "support crew" (my wife Joan) arrived in Denham, Shark Bay, on Wednesday afternoon of the last week in August with the intention of doing a solo 100 km trip around the Peron Peninsula to Monkey Mia. Thursday morning dawned overcast with a light westerly breeze and I set off at 9-00am paddling NNE up the Eastern side of the peninsula leaving the support crew "camping" in the Heritage hotel.

Three hours comfortable paddling brought me to the entrance to Big Lagoon which is a tidal inlet approximately nine kilometers long and of varying width. I paddled approximately two kilometers into the lagoon to get the feel of the place but had not allowed for a full exploration on this trip and after a snack and hot coffee resumed my journey up the peninsula. To this point the coastal scenery had been mainly low, scrub covered, sand dunes but I soon came to the first of many of the low ochre-red sand cliffs which are a major feature of the peninsula coastline.

A further eighteen kilometers brought me to an unnamed sand peninsula approximately thirty six kilometers North of Denham, after rounding Cape Lesueur mid way and having to paddle a kilometer out off the beach to find deeper water on the falling tide. An easily recognizable feature of this spot is a large old Sheeoak tree growing in the center of the sand dunes. I could find no reason for its existence and surmised that there may have been a pearling camp there in years gone by. There are many magic camp sites in this area and after a peaceful night I set off on Friday morning to paddle the fifteen kilometers to the tip of the peninsula under a cloudless blue sky and continuing light westerly breeze.

Paddling along close into the coastline I was able to enjoy alternating sandy bays, rocky points and more sand cliffs, the deep contrasting colours of the turquoise ocean, white sand beaches, red cliffs and blue sky were dazzling. By noon I was at the tip of the peninsula and found another sheltered camp site in the lee of the cliff on the eastern side. The afternoon was spent swimming, reading and generally being lazy and after another good night I awoke Saturday morning to a rapidly rising south easterly wind. By 9-00am the breeze had picked up to around 12 - 15 knots and I had some difficulty launching off the beach into the wind waves. I had twenty four kilometers to paddle to Guichenault Point to the SSE and knew I would not be able to land for the first ten kilometers due to a continuous line of cliffs.

After five hours of plugging into the wind plus a few short breaks I was happy to pull into the eastern side of Guichenault Point around 3-30 pm and was just able to heave my boat the last fifty meters to the beach on a couple of inches of water without unloading. The point is a large white-sand spit covered in mangrove bushes and offered many great camp sites. After

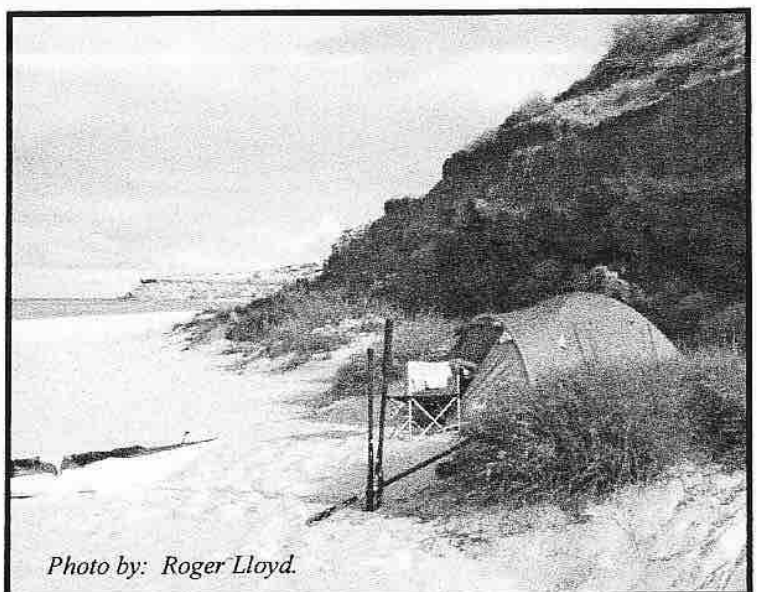


Photo by: Roger Lloyd.

Cont. P-6.

pitching the tent and cooking and eating a meal I thought I would walk to the tip of the point to see what tomorrow offered. I was aghast to find that with the tide fully out I could not see water in any direction, just wet glistening sand flats. A check of the chart indicated that I would have to carry the boat and gear maybe five hundred meters to the waters edge and then paddle at least ten kilometers to round the sand bank to the south side of the point the following morning as the low tide was at 7-00 am, an easy half hour paddle at high tide. This was obviously not on if I also wished to make Monkey Mia that day, a further twenty four kilometers and the wind appeared to be strengthening.

My plan was then to paddle around the point on the high tide at 1-00 am and haul out the sleeping bag for a kip on the other side. After preparing for a quick get-away I drank a few cups of water hoping that my internal water works would demand attention within the next 3-4 hours if I nodded off. Unfortunately it didn't work and I awoke at 3-30 am to find the tide half way out and the wind whistling through the bushes at around 20-25 knots.

I hastily packed the boat and dragged it down to the water which was receding fast. I decided to wade and tow the boat around the sand in the shallows as I would otherwise have had to go out several hundred meters to find sufficient depth of water to paddle and would probably not have been able to see the edge of the sand bank in the pitch dark.

Two very cold, wet hours later I reached the southern edge of the sand bank at Herald Bluff and had thankfully not stepped on a sting ray in the process. As there was still only a glimmer of dawn on the horizon I immediately got into the boat and started paddling south along another line of cliffs. As the sun came up the wind dropped to 15-20 knots and I was paddling through lines of small breaking wind waves, broadside on.

Three hours hard and very wet paddling found me at the end of the sand cliffs and I was able to have the first break of the day and brew some soup and coffee for "breakfast" and warm up in a sheltered spot. Feeling refreshed I continued on and eventually rounded Cape Rose and sighted the curiously named Monkey Mia which was originally a sheltered anchorage for pearling schooners and was named after the survey schooner "Monkey" in 1834. The word "Mia" is the aboriginal word for rest or home. After an interesting twelve hour day and twenty four kilometers at an average of 4 km/hr against a wind that had not once let up in the previous thirty hours I was pleased to be met by Joan at the boat ramp, packed up and up to the café for coffee and French fries. A really great trip in spite of the last two hard days, will definitely do it again but will take an alarm clock next time!



Photo by Roger Lloyd

The Black-winged Stilt and the Red-necked Avocet are commonly seen on the lakes and salt water marshes of Rottnest and Alfred Cove. The Banded Stilt is not so common but is sometimes seen at Rottnest.

Points of identification:

- Red neck and head and upturned bill of the Avocet.
- Reddish brown band across the chest of the Banded Stilt.
- Black nape and bill of the Black-winged Stilt.
- They all have black wings.

BIRDS OF INTEREST

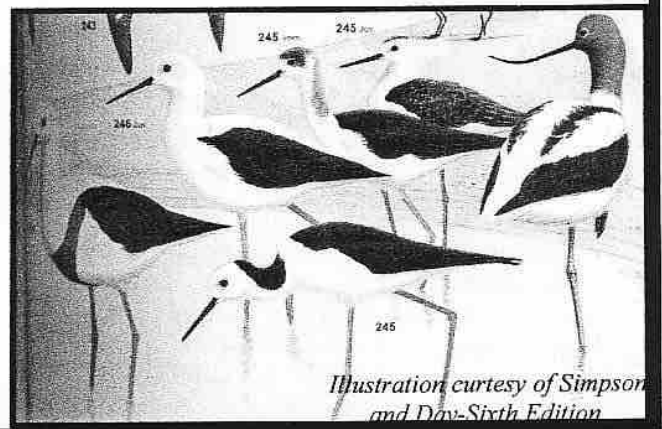


Illustration courtesy of Simpson and Day, Sixth Edition



Everything
you need...

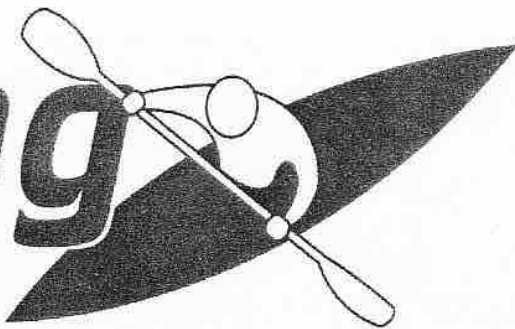


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Advertisement.

OBJECTS OF THE SEA KAYAK CLUB WA INC.

The objects of the Association are to act:

- Through the Clubs Newsletter as a contact point for members sea kayak activities.
- To promote and encourage sea kayaking to the general community as an enjoyable, social and environmentally responsible wilderness pursuit.
- To unite and co-ordinate the activities of members in their sea kayaking activities.
- To be continued

CONTENTS

President's Report	Page 2
Office Bearers	Page 2
Notice Board	Page 3
Tasmanian Trip	Page 4
A Short Shark Bay Solo Sojourn	Page 5
Birds of Interest	Page 6
Contents	Page 8
Objects of the SKC WA Inc.	Page 8

SURFACE MAIL

Sea Kayak club WA Inc.
2A Branton Street,
Bicton,
WA 6157



Mr. Russel Hobbs,
7 Alfred Road,
Nth Fremantle WA 6159.