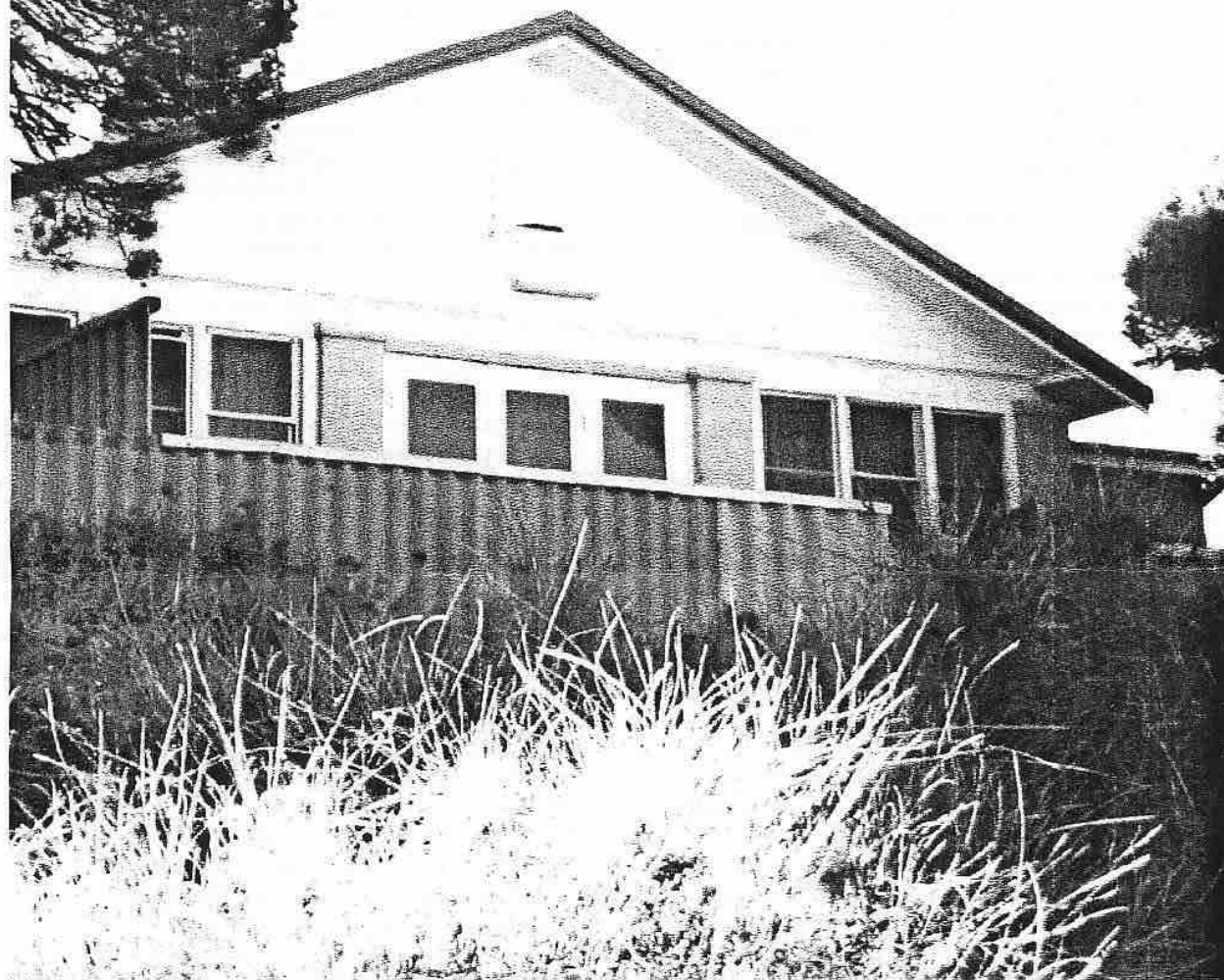


WA Seakayaker

Issue 52: Jan ~ Feb 2004



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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



December 13th 2004

Believe it or not it's Christmas again. The sun is here with us again, the water is warm and we are reminded of how fortunate we are to be living in one of the best places in the world. As I was paddling out on the water last weekend I realised that people pay thousands of dollars to travel to get the scenery and lifestyle that we often take for granted. There are many places around the world that offer 1st class locations for paddling, but we really have some of the best here :- Garden Island, Jurien Bay, Ningaloo, Dampier, Bunker Bay, Augusta - the list is endless. Sometimes we just need to sit back, cruise along and take it all in.

I would like to take a moment to give my sincere thanks to the members of the previous committee for their efforts and hard work to ensure that our club is moving forwards and developing for the future. To Eric, Mick, Roger, Marion, John and Megan I say thank you and a hearty well done, I see a strong foundation for growth has been set down.

As many of you are aware, the club is moving towards being an organisation where paddling skills and personal responsibility have a higher profile, yet this is not to be at the cost of fun, enjoyment and camaraderie. Many of the changes are, unfortunately, a result of an increasingly litigious society. Whilst we may not consider sea kayaking to be an extreme sport, there are many 'outsiders' who would think that we are irresponsible and foolhardy to undertake some of the adventures that we think are 'just a bit of fun'. It would only take one incident anywhere in Australia, for small groups like ours to be under the media and governmental spotlight. Our only defence is to show that we take our responsibilities towards ourselves and our fellow paddlers seriously. This means that we need to be able to demonstrate that we are trained, skilled and qualified to the required Australian standards for those trips that we choose to undertake. From early in 2005, skills training and certification is going to be a requirement for all members of the club. All of the assistance that members require is available within the club right now so feel free to ask.

Over the last 12-18 months, the committee has also been looking at possible locations for a clubhouse. At this stage there are 2 possibilities: a building at the Woodman Point Quarantine Station or some space at the Pelican Point Sea Scouts (near UWA). Both are still in the information gathering stage and when all details have been collated it will be put to the club members to decide.

If anybody has any ideas or suggestions as to ways in which they feel the club and its members can develop and grow, or ideas about future trips, feel free to send them to me at :

waseakayakclub@iinet.net.au

I look forward to seeing you all out on the water over the coming summer months. We have many things to enjoy, to learn and to enjoy learning.

From Kate & myself all the best for Christmas and the New Year and we look forward to the pleasure of your company on the water over the next year.

Helier.

EDITORIAL

At the AGM of October, 2002, two Notices of Motion were put to the members of the Club:

1. I move that Sea Kayak Club WA Inc DOES NOT pursue having a headquarters at all. Wolfgang Schlieben.
2. I move that we, the members, DO NOT pursue having the Sea Kayak Club WA Inc headquarters located at Woodman Point. Wolfgang Schlieben.

The first was rejected 28 votes to 6.

The second was rejected 26 votes to 8.

A very strong mandate.

Eric Pyatt was given the responsibility to follow up and became a member of the Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp representing the interests of the SKC WA Inc. At the time it was not anticipated events would drag out for so long. The camp is governed by the Department of Sport and Recreation who has had a number of problems. Many changes in the staffing structure, policies; funding and big troubles with contractors restoring the Isolation Hospital. This is where our interests lie, being the possible site for our Club rooms. It will probably be at least another twelve months before completion.

Responsibly anticipating the requirement of funding the project, among other unanticipated capital requirements, eg: library, club equipment, refundable advance payments for Rottnest, Bunker Bay. etc, the committee decided to introduce the capital fund. This caused a few rumblings amongst a minority of members only because of lack of understanding. Excesses were already in the Budget by design, error or poor budgeting we don't know. This is where the money was found to buy the trailer. All the committee did
cont: Page 4.

COVER PICTURE.
Unit 152, Rottnest.
Photo' by Judy Blight.

NOTICE BOARD

LATE FEES

PENALTIES for those that have not paid their fees 2004/5 by 31st December:

- Late fee charge of \$ 10.00.
- Name struck from the membership list.
- Cannot bear office or serve on committee.
- Cannot participate in Club Paddles.
- Can only attend committee and general meetings as an invited guest.
- Will not receive the Newsletter.

If you do not intend rejoining, at least do the Club the courtesy by tending your resignation at least verbally, but preferably, by email or letter.

SHARK BAY EXCURSION

Wednesday, 23rd March to Wednesday, 30th March, 2005.

Paddling from Denham, around Cape Peron to Monkey Mia.

Eric happy to co-ordinate; leader yet to be decided.

Phone: 9339 2952

HAMELIN BAY

Sat 5 Mar to Mon 7 Mar

Always find a place to paddle,
no matter where the wind
blows.

Trip co-ordinator: John Ross.

Phone: 0407 050 011

NINGALOO REEF EXCURSION

Saturday, 1st July to Sunday, 17th July, 2005.

Trip Co-ordinator: President Helier.

Phone: 9299 6509

*Opinions expressed in articles
in this Newsletter are not
necessarily the view of the
Sea Kayak Club WA Inc*

General Meeting

Wednesday, 16th February, 2005.

To be held at

Pelican Point Sea Scout's Premises.

(refer program)

Come along and inspect a prospect for our
Headquarters.

Don Kinzett's video of their Kimberley Trip.

TWILIGHT PADDLES

Through summer
every third Wednesday
BBQ afterwards if you
feel inclined.

**PHONE MEGAN
9481 1611 (wk)**

SKILLS AWARD THE PAPERWORK.

Roger and Eric are only too
pleased to help.

21st April will be upon us
before you know it!

**Phones: 9339 6860
9339 2952**

FOR SALE

**OCEAN RAIDER
(Carbon Fibre)**

On the water no more than 4
times.

At least \$500 extras.
"Rolls Royce of a Boat"

Asking price: \$3500.00.

Nahum Harlap.
19A Salvado Street,
Cottesloe.
Phone: 9383 3360.

PADDLE CANCELLED

2nd January, 2005.

(New Year Weekend)

**South Beach, Mewstone,
Carnac Island.**

No leaders available.

If you want a paddle, under-
standing it is not official,
Marian and Les (95% sure) are
interested.

Eric is happy to co-ordinate.
Phone him on 9339 2952,
By 6.00 pm Friday Evening.

PRESIDENT: Helier Beardsley.

Also: Training, Promotions, Inductions.

Ph: 9299 6509.

Email:

VICE PRESIDENT: Eric Pyatt.

Also: Newsletter Editor.

Ph: 93392952. Fax: 9319 9987.

Mob: 0427 539 814.

Email: ericjopyatt@bigpond.com

SECRETARY/ TREASURER: Roger Lloyd.

2a Braumton Street, Bicton, 6157.

Ph: 9339 6860.

Email: rogjoanlloyd@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@iinet.net.au

A Pseudo Barbecue

By Marian Dixon

Sunday 7th November 2004. Attended by Eric Pyatt, Roger Lloyd, John Wass, Dave Oakley, Helier Beardsley, Rod Coogan, Marian Dixon, Don Kinzett

Eight paddlers assembled at Mercey Point, lured by the promise of a barbecue on Garden Island. Helier suggested we paddle round Penguin Island and Seal Island before heading for our destination.

It was the first day of the abalone season and the sandbar between Penguin Island and the mainland was like a busy thoroughfare with people wearing wetsuits and carrying backpacks meandering across the bar. Due to the easterly wind, the reef on the west side of the Island was exposed, making it possible to paddle close to shore. Not all of the abalone fishermen were obeying the rules and some were continuing to take abalone, even though the time limit had expired.

At Seal Island the sea lions dispatched their usual welcoming committee to somersault and leap round our boats. They certainly know how to entertain themselves and others.



The calm water allowed us to pick our own route through the reef to Point Peron before turning towards the Garden Island causeway into a light easterly wind.

The barbecue area near Cliff Head was already occupied by millions of flies and a party of boaties. The barbecue itself was dysfunctional so those who were relying on it were a little disappointed and more than a little hungry.

By the time we hit the water for the return paddle, the wind had died and we made good time till the sea breeze arrived just before we reached the causeway. After crossing back to Point Peron we paused to regroup.

At this point the group was overwhelmed by a contagious phenomenon, rumoured to be started by John Wass. It resembled a type of kayak vertigo whereby they all turned upside down and attempted to right themselves again, presumably because they could or in some cases couldn't. This game was played with varying degrees of success.

When they finished playing, we headed back to Mercey Point. This was a slightly different trip from previous paddles and combined parts of several of our routine outings. It was nice to introduce a slight change into the paddle.

Cont. from Page 2:

was to give it a name so that it is shown clearly in the budget, therefore, make it transparent to the members.

With the passage of time, we are now adequately funded to pay the first years rent, in advance. This is where the club needs to show common sense and vision with an alternative site (Pelican Point at Crawley) being investigated. There are several choices to be considered:

- Pelican Point preferred.
- Woodman Point preferred.
- Pelican Point on trial for 12 months.
- Wait until Woodman Point is ready.

Obviously, being visionaries, we would want to look for THE IDEAL:

1. A lock-up room/premises that will hold up to thirty people.
2. This lock-up area to be managed by the SKC WA Inc. A Club Room that is our own.
3. Along side the water (preferably the ocean but not essential).
4. Open access to the beach.
5. Central location (a controversial one).
6. A storage area for equipment, eg: Kayaks, ancillaries, etc.

Three and five, in the Club's wisdom, will need to be balanced one against the other, being different priorities to different people. The best support for Club activities are around Cockburn Sound and surrounds with little support for activities on the northern shores. It has been noted that those not in favour of Woodman Point now support and enjoy the facility, limited that it is, and there is no doubting the benefit of the security.

At the Woodman Point site we have a chance of achieving "The Ideal", but FOWPRC committee have not yet reached agreement on an allocation policy (Ideas change regularly). Nothing, yet, is set in concrete. At the Pelican Point Sea Scouts, with negotiations under way, it seems that sharing is all that they can offer. Sharing can have its pitfalls. There are many unknowns and unanticipated problems. It's hard to make it work. Those involved, all they can do is give it their best shot, trying to avoid the personality clashes.

Let's look forward to making the correct decisions.

The Ed. encourages constructive comment through the "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR".

She thinks awestruck is being hit by a paddle.

Rottnest Weekend.

12 to 14 November, 2004.

The cottage high on the sand dunes overlooking Thompson Bay was to be ours for yet another wonderful big city escape for two days.

Plans to paddle over by some of the gang were scuttled by the forecast of 15 - 20 knot south westerlies with big seas as well, the result of the rough weather the few days beforehand. So the ferry it was. Whales were sighted en route and our ferry captain stopped the boat for all to catch a glimpse.

On arrival Judy and I spent some time trying to work out how to keep the kayaks attached to my new kayak wheels without causing casualties amongst day trip-



Robyn and the Eagle's Nest
Photo by Helen Cooksey

pers disgorging from the ferries. Then there was the cappuccino at the beachside cafe, a change of clothes and a short paddle in the protected waters from the jetty to the beach in front of the cottage. We'd done this before so knew the routine!

What to do for the rest of the day? There was no sign of the others, so we decided to save our biceps power for the trip around the island next day and go for a bike ride, just wherever our fancy took us.

Judy had hired bikes many times on Rottnest and was totally convinced that the "old faithfuls" or "classiques" were the BEST bikes available - no gears, but "they just keep rolling up the hills", she said. Naturally I asked for as many gears as possible! It was interesting to see the hinterland of the many beautiful bays that I had ever only approached from the sea with their rows of holiday houses and trees bent with centuries of southerly winds. There were the usual boats moored and sun worshippers lolling and splashing. One bay had shipwrecks. All those on the southern shore, however, had very choppy seas and lots of white caps. "Uh, oh, what will we do tomorrow

if it's like this?" we wondered.

The turn-off to the West End was bypassed owing to the stiff south westerly and Judy deciding that her gearless bike was not rolling as well as she remembered that they used to, every time I passed her on the hills - and there were many! She was familiar with all the birds that we encountered on our leisurely jaunt, including the very smartly attired red and black and white pied oyster catchers looking for a feed on the inland salt lakes.

There was evidence of new arrivals at the cottage when we returned after stocking up our larder at the supermarket (we'd travelled over light) - bags on beds - but no faces! However, Tony eventually turned up by sea with his Mirage 22S, the racing kayak which I had seen around. Now to meet the man behind the sunglasses! Helier and Kate also arrived that evening though Kate was not paddling, owing to injuries.

There were two other guests, friends of Megan and John, but no sign of them till the next morning. Plans for a barbecue were abruptly discarded when a mouse was found to have set up home there. Although we had purchased supplies of toilet paper, washing up liquid and matches at the supermarket we had nothing to scrub the hotplate with. The local quokkas joined us for some company that night, or was it for some food handouts? In fact one of them found the aforementioned hotplate quite tasty and had a go at cleaning it for us.

The morning dawned bright and clear and, best of all, quite calm. Judy, Helier and I set off on the round Rotto trip in the usual clockwise direction. As Tony had gone shopping for food he was going to play catch-up in his fast racer. Big swells were encountered from the previous days' rough weather - three or four metres, we estimated, and that meant we had to stay offshore a fair way. We passed Dyer Island, site of some shipwrecks and meandered to the far end of Porpoise Bay to wait for Tony. There are reefs at the end there, Parker Point, and the tide was too low for us to be able to paddle over them - so the search was on for a gap. This soon appeared and no problems were encountered getting out to the deeper water.

We found a break in the reefs and surf to land for our morning tea and bananas at a long sandy stretch of shore - possibly Salmon Bay or was it Strickland Bay? Then it was on to the notorious West End. The paddle around the huge surf took forever, with Tony leading us out further and further (Judy thought we were going to Antarctica) to avoid any complications due to the size of the swell and the magnificent breakers which were powering in to shore there. Eventually we turned to a more northerly course, with the swells passing underneath us from behind - a bit intimidating for a while - for me at least! We kept quite close together during this time!

Cont: Page 6.



Sealion
Photo by: Marian Dixon

Cont: from Page 5

The first available and, by this time, much appreciated, landing place for lunch was the beach at Narrow Neck. It was very pleasant to stretch out on the sand and soak up some sun, as it was still a cool day.

The afternoon's paddling saw each of us doing our own thing more, with the seas quite flat and very safe and the rising tide meant we could paddle closer in to shore and wander over the reefs. We stopped for a snorkel at Little Armstrong Bay where there were heaps of dinner-plate sized fish living in the underwater canyons of weed and grasses. Other boaters told us of the whales that had just passed by.

Megan, John and Dave had paddled over from the mainland that morning and spent the afternoon at a small surfing spot the other side of Thompson's Bay, Megan being the top surfer for the afternoon on the sizable but very friendly waves - "you could go for 200m" they said.

Many paddling stories emerged over our communal barbecue that night with all consuming far too much food with a wee glass or two of wine, but enjoying the bonhomie and tall tales.

Next morning also dawned almost perfect paddling weather, but first you have to clean up the cottage. Just a bit of a sweep to get rid of the sand, fold the blankets and pack the gear. As the fridge was freezing/thawing everything there were several gluggy concoctions to have to ditch. Megan, Tony, John, Helier and Dave paddled back to Cottesloe and the rest of were to catch the ferry, but Judy and I checked out Phillip Rock just near the entrance to Thompson Bay before paddling over to the jetty.

I always find it a bit deflating when I drive back home through the bleak rows of containers at Northport and then the suburbs after spending a glorious couple of days, away from it all at Rotto, with such good company. However, there's always another challenge awaiting you and the sandy, wet gear cleanup!

FUN FOR EVERYONE

Because he and Mabel were going to live with Dad and Mum when they got married, Dave wanted Dad to build a new dunny to replace the existing dilapidated one. Dad resisted the idea strongly.

"It's been good enough for Mum and me for all these years, so it's good enough for you and Mabel."

Dave was determined, so he fitted a fuse and a cap to a plug of gelignite, dropped it into the dunny and retreated behind a stump to watch. He had just made it to the stump, when Dad came out of the kitchen and headed for the dunny. He rushed from behind the stump and yelled at Dad to save him from disaster. But Dad thought he was trying to beat him to the dunny and put his head down and ran faster.

"You young blokes ain't as good as yer think you are", he yelled. Dad got there first and had barely entered the building, when up it went. Ka-boom. Dave rushed to Dad's aid and extricated him from the wreckage.

"Are you alright, Dad?" he asked.

I'm alright son, but stone the crows yer mother would have been annoyed if I'd let that one go in the kitchen.



Finn Kayaks are pleased to offer an extensive range of Sea Kayaks, Racing Kayaks, Sit - Ons and Surf Skis. Included in this range are the Salamander Expedition Sea Kayak, Gecko Sea Kayak, Fantasea Double Fibreglass Sea Kayak and new for production in 2005, an exciting 5.2 metre multisport kayak (name TBA). We also offer a full range of paddling accessories and advice to ensure your enjoyment and safety on the water.

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BUNKER BAY

By Roz Evans

11/12 September, 2004

What a weekend!
Superb location
Challenging paddling
Great socialising

Everyone had arrived at George's place by 7pm. The 'blue house' situated only a short walk through the trees to the water's edge found you at the southern end of Bunker Bay. The group of Jim and Diane Bramley, Joan, Roger and Susan Lloyd and Roz and Phil Evans settled in and after tea, with the wood fire taking the chill off the evening, sat around and chatted until one by one we wandered off to our beds.

Saturday was fine, but cold, and after a leisurely breakfast drove to Yallingup and Smith's Beach to assess the sea conditions and where we could land. The wind and swell were reasonably strong and it was decided Smith's Beach was the best place as the surf was somewhat kinder than at Yallingup. Headed back to George's to prepare to leave by 11am. Boats were unloaded, gear packed and off Jim, Roger, Phil and Roz went.

There was a pretty big sea running off the point with breaking water over the reef and rocks but after being convinced that once around the Cape we would be fine, we headed out to sea. The group stayed pretty much together. The further out of the bay we went the waves increased to be quite large approaching from a number of directions. Quite often we found ourselves on top of a wave with nothing beneath the bow only to crash down and find another rearing up ahead. Quite unsettling as even if we had wanted to it would have been worse to turn around and have all this following us in. Not worth contemplating. The waves appeared to always be threatening to break over the top of us. We headed well out to sea to avoid the rebound waves but it wasn't until we rounded the Cape that the waves abated.

The weather forecast had been for the winds of 16 knots to lessen around midday but when we were out in the midst of rising seas this did not seem to be a possibility. There were some quite tenuous moments within the group.

The swell running as we headed south was as forecast. Average of 3m and when you are sitting down on the water some of the waves as they headed towards the cliffs were all of that and even greater. Quite a few times Roger and I were simply stunned at their sheer size. We climbed up and over them always keeping a count on the other heads as they bobbed up closer to shore.

Between Yallingup and Smith's Beach the seas changed yet again. Rebound waves from shore, wind

and swell made for an interesting last ½ hour. The landing at Smith's seemed very tame after what we had experienced. Roger has now perfected the art of landing his kayak sideways on the beach. He can offer all sorts of advice on how this is done.

Whilst we were testing our skills of survival Joan and Susan enjoyed a long walk around Bunker Bay and enjoyed the luxury of coffee at the new Resort next door. Diane had headed into town for a look around and we all met up again at Smith's at 2.30pm. Loaded the kayaks on board and although wet and cold headed to the café for a coffee and chat.

Back at George's after showers and putting gear out to dry it was time for nibbles and drinks. Tea was on a BBQ that has seen better days but with a stubby in hand the guys managed to cook a great meal even if they froze in the process. Lots of story telling filled in the evening especially Jim's tales of his experiences as a pig farmer. We all concluded pigs were very clever animals and will test your skills to the utmost. Most were early to bed, tired but happy after the long and testing paddle.

Sunday dawned fine and cold but the wind had dropped off and the seas were very very calm compared to Saturday. After a late breakfast Jim, Roger and Phil took off to paddle into Dunsborough. We picked them up at 11.30am and headed into town to the local coffee shop. Diane had found it the day before. The Mexican coffee was highly recommended. It was given the thumbs up by all. Lazed in the sun, enjoyed our coffee and each other's company before heading back to George's for a quick lunch and cleaning duties. Everyone was away by 2.30pm.

This was a simply wonderful weekend, both paddling and socialising and all agreed this is one place we should return to again. Phil just needs to remember to collect his shoes from under the bed before heading home next time.

Apologies to Roz for the oversight. This should have been in the previous issue. The interest I'm sure has not waned.....Ed.

PADDLE EDGES

Those of us with fibreglass blades on our paddles will know how easy it is to scratch and chip them. What many don't know is once the edge is damaged, water can wick down the fibres and eventually weaken your paddle. For paddles that sustain only the odd sanding on the bottom, the odd rub with polish will keep them essentially waterproof. Major scratching where fibres become proud should be given a bit more focus. The simple answer is to put a thin layer of resin around the edge (just enough to cover the exposed fibres).

Because paddles are made from a myriad of resins it is important that you check with your supplier to make sure the resin you use is compatible. Finally, always store your paddle clean, dry and out of the sun.

NOTES ON GROUP TRIPS

From the *Chesapeake Paddler*

A paddle group is two or more kayaks (6-8 seems good). Groups can be loose informal impromptu gatherings of paddling peers, more controlled announced trips, or highly controlled instructional activities.

It is your decision to paddle with a group. By deciding to paddle together you acknowledge a common bond which involves a group decision making process, a concern for the welfare of fellow paddlers, and an acceptance of minimum standards.

Joining a group does not relieve you of personal responsibility. You have the right to say no. If you feel uncomfortable or that the situation is beyond your capabilities, inform the trip leader.

A group trip may have an individual or individuals that because greater experience or for other reasons can be thought of as the group leader. There are a number of group leading styles. These styles can vary with conditions.

There are a range of decision making possibilities. Trip leaders and experienced paddlers may make decisions. There may be a group consensus process. Consultation with less aggressive paddlers is important.

In travelling with a group it is usually a good idea to make sure all paddlers know the destination and route before setting out.

Distance separation between paddlers varies with conditions. In less demanding conditions greater separation is tolerated. As the situation becomes more challenging it is wise for a group to keep closer for better communication and assistance.

Where there are differences in paddling speed, faster paddlers need to slow down to stay with the group and slower paddlers need to work at keeping up. Sometimes trip leaders may make special arrangements when great differences in paddling speed exist. Trip leaders often assign lead and drag paddlers. Have a plan if separation occurs.

In route, never leave a group without permission.

The three most common tension increasing incidents on a group paddle are:

- Paddlers separated from the group.
- Group crossings of high traffic channels.
- Capsize procedure: one or two boats help - the others depending upon instruction will either raft up, head into the wind, continue or seek shelter.

The Eight Minimum Standards:

- It is your responsibility to make sure your kayak, skills and equipment are in good working order and available before a trip.

- Except in the most benign conditions, PFD's (life vests) and spray skirts are worn at all times. While on the water.
- You are required to have a PFD, spray skirt, paddle float and pump. Other gear may be required depending on the type of paddle.
- You are required to know and practice individual and group rescues. Rolling is an option.
- Dress for the water temperature.
- Let someone know where you are going.
- Stay with the group.
- Know your capabilities and limits.

This article is quite few years old and from the other side of the planet. The interesting part is that the basics are there as we have experienced. I'm sure we've come along way since, or have we?Ed

Two old mates were barramundi fishing up in the Gulf in the summer. Unfortunately one dropped dead so his mate loaded him in the four-wheel drive and drove to Brisbane, which took him two and a half days. He called at a police station to notify the death and the Sergeant said, "He must be very smelly by now".

The mate said, "He's not too bad - I gutted him".

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 9470993 or 0419 900 715

IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE LIKE THIS

By Judy Blight

31st October, 2004

It was a lovely day, an ideal day for a paddle, not much wind and a blue sky. I was very casual about my preparation and didn't do all the simple things that I normally do as a matter of routine. I didn't wear the strap for my sunnies and I didn't tie my hat on properly (well it was not going to be a tough paddle was it)?

It was the long drive up to Yanchep Lagoon and the slow, easy paddle to what is left of the Alkimos Wreck. I had done it a couple of times before and it was very pleasant and relaxing and why would you need to take any of the gear that you need on a tough paddle. The week before we had paddled around Mandurah Island and it was tough on the outside into a head wind gusting 20 or more knots at times. Marian and I were the only females and due to our lack of the crazy hormones we struggled along behind. Barry kindly paddled with us to give a hand if necessary. We did make it without any disasters so why would you think too hard about our paddle to the Alkimos on a nice day.

We arrived on time and with Helier, Eric and new member Tony Mee (with the extra long Mirage) we set off from the beautiful lagoon. They do call us the Mirage club don't they—as if normal size ones were not enough!!

We wondered where Mick was, as it was his part of the world and his name was down to phone as coordinator for the trip.

First mistake---*none of us had rung him to let him know* so he obviously thought no-one was paddling. We felt bad because we had been telling all and sundry that they had to *phone the coordinator before each trip*.

We snuck out of the lagoon and travelled easily down the coast and then Helier made the suggestion. He said, "lets practice broaching and surfing." Well---he is the new President and I felt I should support such an idea. I noticed that the other two weren't embracing this idea as keenly as I was but that did not deter me. I paddled to the edge where waves were breaking to test my skills and went into broach position but to my surprise the wave was about to break and it was much bigger than I had anticipated.

What did Les say "elbows in", "lean into the wave"---I did that but to my chagrin I leant too far and over I went. Not a simple going over where you could roll up if things went well, but a messy going over, where you felt yourself hit the sand under the boat, couldn't reach the spray skirt, then started thinking

your days were numbered and "why was an old tart like me doing this anyway". Eventually, another wave came and I had enough depth to rip off my spray deck and continued to cough and splutter while a gaggle of youths rushed over to help me. As if that wasn't embarrassing enough---my boat was filled with sand which meant I couldn't drag it anywhere. The helpers were all standing on the wrong side of the boat, which meant their legs, would break if they were hit by a wave---so I was yelling at them to get ocean side. Then one of the lads said what is that yellow thing---it was my new special Arafat hat (politically incorrect I know, but what else explains the style better than that). One of the helpers went to collect it while I tried to find my sunglasses. Unfortunately, they were lost, because of course I hadn't tied them on. When I asked for my hat the helper said he let it go because a wave came. At this early stage I now had no hat, no glasses and was feeling very bruised (ego as well).

The next trick was to launch off the beach and I made a mess of that so Helier came in to help me. Eventually, I paddled desperately through the first wave and made it but then another appeared and I felt I was going to be tossed back to the beach but somehow I got through it.

My next mistake was when we pulled in for lunch and I forgot to put my rudder up and so ended with a twisted rudder. Things were going from bad to worse as I left the beach for the home stretch after eating my sandwiches, with the emphasis on the first syllable.

My final error was to chase my boat after a wave took it and, of course, I was standing on the wrong side and the rudder hit my shin hard and I ended up with a gash and swelling. Meanwhile, everyone was waiting for me and I couldn't get in my boat. I started yelling to them to go on and I'd follow later. What a stupid thing to say---it's a club trip and of course they all have to sit out there and watch you make an idiot of yourself. Meanwhile, I was wishing that this day that wasn't meant to be like this would hurry up and finish

I heard a "One-liner" the other day and it reminded me of Mick, having recently purchased a new motorbike....Ed:

"You can always tell the happy motor cyclist by the insects on his teeth".

This one reminds me of a few around us.....Ed.

He doesn't have a lot to say. Unfortunately you have to listen for quite a while to find out.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Wayne Smit.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

Midnight WST, Monday, 21st February, 2005

CLUB PADDLE REPORTS

XMAS PARTY 5th December, 2004

Paddlers:

John Ross (Co-ordinator), Judy Blight, Rod Coogan, John Wass, Eric Pyatt.

Party Goers:

The Paddlers, Pres. Helier Beardsley, Kate Watson, Megan Thomas, Marian Dixon, Brad Hobbs, Robyn Khorshid, Russell Hobbs, Susan Harrington, Don Kinzett.

A pleasing roll-up! The weather conditions enforced a change of plan. No Carnac Island; south to Challenge Beach, the new objective. Just as well, Rod made it to the beach, not feeling too well before we left, became worse so could not handle the return trip.



We left him as comfortable as we could and headed back with the intention of using a vehicle to return and pick him up, which was duly carried out. It turned out to be an exciting little paddle. Arriving back at 4.20pm to the waiting arms of the "Party Goers".

A good time had by all, including Rod who had settled and recovered well. Marian busied herself taking snapshots of all and sundry. The wind was slowing down the barbecues but were manageable. Eric, learning from experience, brought along his gas fired Trangia with great effect: "Be Prepared".

MANDURAH TO ROCKINGHAM 12th December, 2004

Paddlers:

John Ross (co-ordinator), John Wass, Judy Blight, Marian Dixon, Jim Bramley, Eric Pyatt, Helier Beardsley, Don Kinzett, Dave Oakley.

Support Crew (on land):

Diane Bramley, Kate Watson, Brad Hobbs.

The weather forecast looked exciting: 15/20 knots early afternoon, increasing later.

All went according to plan with the shuttle. It

was decided to split into two groups. Eric to lead the first group of three, two not having sails, so, given a half hour start. Barry Small joined them for about an hour, then returned.

It was very calm at the start but as anticipated, the wind gradually grew in strength. Eric didn't use the sail on the first leg to Long Point where snacks were enjoyed. The second group landed just as the first were taking off. Eric put up his sail and found, the wind was so strong that he got a sore arm dragging his paddle in the water so as not to take off leaving the other two behind.

The first group landed at Palm Beach at about 2.30 pm, the second only ten minutes or so behind.

Another exciting paddle.

CLUB PADDLE ATTENDANCES

	NAME	ATTEND
1.	Allen Les	1
2.	Beardsley Helier	7
3.	Blight Judy	7
4.	Bramley Jim	3
5.	Camm Lionel	2
6.	Coogan Rod	1
7.	Cuthbertson John	1
8.	Dixon Marian	3
9.	Evans Phil	2
10.	Evans Roz	2
11.	Hitchcock Tom	1
12.	Hobbs Brad	1
13.	Khorshid Robyn	1
14.	Kinzett Don	4
15.	Lloyd Roger	2
16.	McDermott Mick	1
17.	Mee Antony	4
18.	Oakley David	4
19.	Piper Kevin	4
20.	Pyatt Eric	11
21.	Ross John	5
22.	Thomas Megan	3
23.	Wass John	5
24.	Watson Kate	2

This is being recorded, the Club year 1st October, 2004 to 30th September, 2005.

To the 21st December, 2004 there have been 14 programmed paddles, two of which have been cancelled; one because of weather and the other (a twilight paddle) because of lack of support, being so close to Xmas, leaving 12 possible attendances.

The doctor asked if there was any insanity in the family. "Yes" said the wife "My husband thinks he is the boss",

Don at the party.
Photo by Marian.





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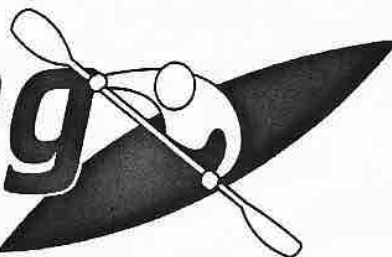


35 JARRAD ST, COTTESLOE

Phone (08) 9284 3759 Fax (08) 9384 0224

email ken@mainpeak.com.au

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Paddling Store

144 Railway Parade, Bassendean
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OBJECTIVES OF THE SEA KAYAK CLUB WA INC.

The objectives of the Club are to act:

- Through the Club's 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 pursuit.
- To unite and co-ordinate the activities of members in their sea kayaking activities.
- To promote safe boating practices and endeavour to make sure that the Rules and Regulations concerning Sea Kayaking (if any) are complied with.
- To encourage respect for our environment and to foster a positive attitude towards the conservation of flora and fauna and the practice of minimum impact camping.
- To act on behalf of members in their relationship with Canoeing WA Inc. and other organisations.
- To represent sea kayakers in consultation with government departments

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Sea Kayak Club WA Inc.
2A Braunton Street,
Bicton,
WA. 6157.

SURFACE MAIL

Mr Roger Lloyd
2A Braunton St
Bicton WA 6157