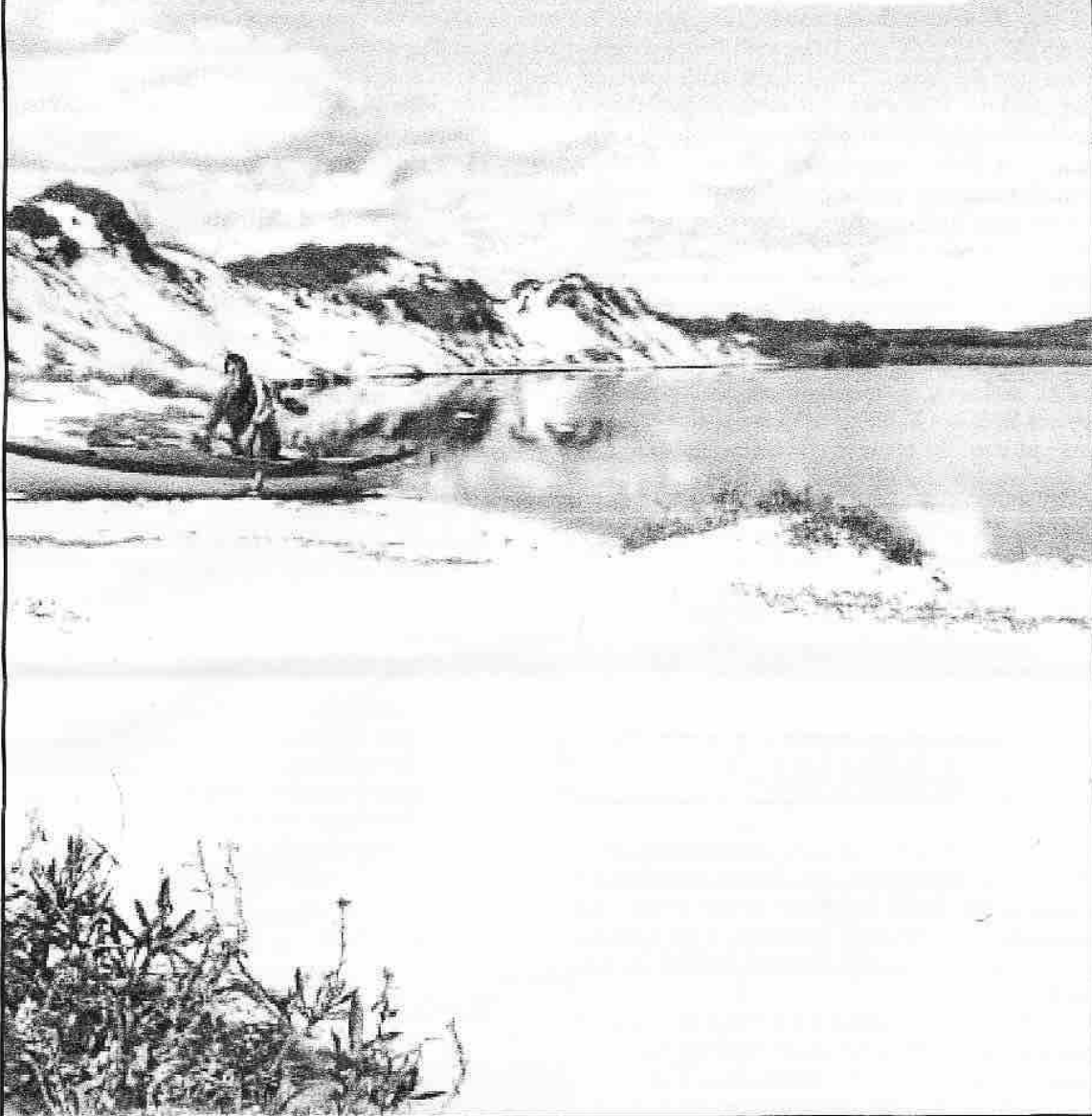


Issue 55: July ~ August 2005

WA Seakayaker



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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings to all. It never fails to astound me how fast time goes by. We're halfway through the year already and days are going past like a city-bound train.

Before I go any further I must give my thanks to Roger, Judy and Eric for their efforts on the committee over the past few months. Unfortunately work (and other) related issues have taken much of my time and focus recently, but the other committee members have made sure that things keep moving on.

We recently received some new additions to the club library, with the receipt of a number of books focussed on sea kayaking and all aspects associated with the sport. This includes skills, cooking, navigation etc. These are now in the library (Eric's shed) and available to all members.

The Skill Practice Days we have had have been an increasing success over the past few months. We are going to increase the frequency of these days and also provide a more structured format in regards to what is going to be covered. Many members were aware that training was available every Saturday, free of charge via Les Allen. This is no longer available and so we have to organise internally to ensure that all members, specifically those that are working towards their Sea Skills awards have somewhere that they can learn the required criteria and get to a level where they can confidently sit their assessment.

It's a short report from me this month, but I look forward to seeing you all on the beaches over the coming weeks.

Best Regards
Helier



EDITORIAL

Helier, because of work commitments (new job), home renovations and family commitments (engaged) has found it difficult to put in the time composing the programme each issue of the newsletter so he has relinquished the responsibility to Eric and Roger.

Roger has compiled a list of all the trips we have put together over the years; since the Club first began. We are looking for further input from members, so if you have any ideas for the make up of a trip, please send them to Eric or Roger.

The Club is in the throws of taking a big step forward. We have nine prospective "Sea Leaders" in

training. They have undergone one evening lecture and one session on the water. Their input to the programme will be crucial as they are the ones who have the responsibility to bring the variation needed to make our trips interesting and more enjoyable. They will be in close consultation with Eric and Roger in the programme's preparation.

The committee is working all out toward you wanting to belong and enjoy your paddling. Ningaloo is the big one coming up. We wish the six participants an enjoyable time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Programme Suggestions.

I have noticed that a lot of our Sunday paddles have become repetitive. Although we are limited by where we can launch and places that are within paddling distance, perhaps we could vary our paddles so as to make them more interesting.

The following are some suggestions:

- Palm Beach (Rockingham) to SW corner Garden Island (perhaps some surfing), across to Point Peron, lunch at Mersey Pt (or Penguin Island in season), return following the coast.
- Beach Street (Cottesloe) south through Fremantle Harbour to Point Walter for lunch and return (if too far: Tonkin Park).
- Bridport Point (Port Kennedy), south to Mandurah's new marina at mouth of estuary for lunch and return (about 34 k's)
- Kwinana Wreck to south end Garden Island for lunch, cross to Palm Beach and follow shore line to the wreck (could make it longer by crossing to Point Peron).

I am sure that others could offer various paddle suggestions to help keep our interest up.

John Wass.

PROSPECTIVE "SEA LEADERS"

Roger Lloyd
Judy Blight
Kevin Piper
John Radovich
Phil Evans
David Oakley
Rod Coogan
Graeme Lee
Eric Pyatt

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Midnight WST, Monday, 22nd August, 2005

COVER PICTURE

John Wass at the Mouth of the Hill River, about 12 k/m's South of Jurien.
Foundation Day Long Weekend.

NOTICE BOARD

OVERNIGHTER

27-28th August, 2005

Mandurah Island; through the 'Cut'; explore Cape Bouvard Canals; on to the east side of Harvey Estuary to camp. Sunday, explore Harvey Estuary and meet up with Sunday Club Paddlers to return to 'The Chimneys'.

Safety of the vehicles is organised.

Phone Eric: 9339 2952

LONG WEEKEND

24-26th September, 2005

Rest Point Holiday Village
Walpole-Nornalup Inlet

Be in it!

Promise of a leisurely, easy going time.
If you want to be organised it will be done,
if not, take it easy

Phone Eric: 9339 2952

A PERSONAL NOTE

Look whose **BIRTHDAY** it is:

Les Allen	26/07/05
Lionel Camm	05/08/05
Tim Eastwood	31/08/05
Phil Evans	29/08/05
Roz Evans	01/07/05
Susan Harrington	13/08/05
Neville Holden	25/08/05
Eric Pyatt	05/07/05
John Radovich	27/07/05
Ian Rawlings	19/07/05
John Ross	19/07/05
Megan Thomas	27/08/05

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 17th August, 2005 @

7.00 pm

Venue: "Eric's Shed"
28 Aurelian Street, Palmyra

Guest Speaker: Les Allen

Subject: Broome to Dampier

TIME FOR A SMILE

At the local fishing and tackle shop looking for her grandson's 21st birthday, a woman picks up a rod and reel and takes it over to the counter. "Excuse me", she asks, "can you tell me anything about this rod and reel?"

"I'm completely blind," says the shop assistant, "but if you drop it on the counter I can tell you all about it by the sound it makes." The woman is sceptical, but drops it anyway. "That's an eight foot surf caster, Shakespeare Graphite 667 rod fitted with a 20 pound Berkley Fireline. It's a good all round combination—on sale this week for only \$199.00," reports the sales assistant. The woman was absolutely astounded. "I'll take it," she says, totally amazed. "I can't believe you can tell all that just by the sound."

She gets out her credit card but drops it on the floor. As she bends down to pick it up she noisily breaks wind. At first she goes red with embarrassment, but remembering that the shop assistant is blind, she realises that he can't know if it was her or somebody else nearby. So she boldly hands her credit card over to the assistant who proceeds to ring up the sale. "That'll be \$254.50 thanks," he said. The woman is now confused. "I'm sorry," she begins, "didn't you tell me the rod was on sale for \$199.00?" "Yes Ma'am," answers the shop assistant. "The rod and reel is \$199.00, the Duck Caller is \$36.00 and the fish bait is \$19.50."

WEBSITE

Sea Kayak Club WA Inc
www.seakayakwa.canoe.org.au

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

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT: Helier Beardsley.

Also: Training, Promotions; Inductions.

Phone: 9299 6509.

Email: helier_beardsley@inet.net.au

VICE PRESIDENT: Eric Pyatt.

Also: Newsletter Editor; Programmes.

Phone: 9339 2952 Fax: 9319 9987.

Email: ericjpyatt@bigpond.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Roger Lloyd.

2a Braunton Street, Bicton. 6157.

Phone: 9339 6860.

Email: rogjoanlloyd@optusnet.com.au

COMMITTEE: Judy Blight.

Phone: 9433 3719.

Email: carita@inet.net.au

WE PADDDLED THE HILL RIVER

Jurien Bay

4-6th June, 2005

Foundation Day Long Weekend

by

Eric Pyatt



This exercise proves the point that it only takes two to make a successful club trip, although it would be more comfortable, safety wise, if there were three. Such a small number makes it easy locating campsites. As a Club it would be preferable to have more participate; rev's up the fellowship. But can't help if it's the other 54 members that have missed out. The weather, in the main, and terrain were so enjoyable. Three days of real leisure!

John Wass it was that was my compatriot. John had a job commitment on the Friday morning so arranged to be at my place by 1.30pm and sure enough he turned up on time; transferred his gear into my vehicle in quick smart time and away we went. The first stop was, as usual, at Cataby. A comfort break and stretch the legs but surprise: John bought an icecream! I thought he made his own!

We arrived at the caravan park just before dark. The people at the park could not have been more obliging. No problem looking after our vehicle or whatever. Quickly set up camp; enjoyed our evening meal; early to bed and slept in.. There was one interruption! There was a heavy shower which flooded me out. Most surprising, as I am usually pretty snug sleeping in the back of my vehicle, so, a big job when I get home; sealing all the windows.

Even though we had slept in, we took our time. It was a long haul from the vehicle to the beach. Not to worry! It looked beautiful on the water onto which we floated at 10.20am. A few clouds around but nothing threatening.

The tide was high so we had no trouble wending our way through the shallows between the islands. Heading towards Escape Island there was plenty of reef to negotiate and the swell was up but no real danger having observed and picked the gaps. On the sheltered side (it was a light nor-wester so we had a following sea) we found a cute little beach which we utilised for a lunch break. Spotted an Osprey on the top of the lighthouse frame.

We observed on the map that between us and our objective, the Hill River, there was a line of

shallow reef. To save going right into shore, we needed to find an opening. Even though there was an occasional peak breaking wave in one section, it looked to be our best bet as long as we judged correctly. It worked out perfectly. When we looked back, in came a couple of big ones.

No way could we pick the river visually as the map didn't go down that far but we worked out that it was, approximately, 160 degrees. Alongside the biggest scar on the landscape there was an obvious mound that we took as our landmark. On arrival we found the river was only 500 metres South from that mark.

On this stretch before arriving we had an interesting experience. We had noticed the odd Australasian Gannet diving with a great "thunk" when it hit the water, more often than not coming up with a fish in its beak. I've only ever seen them about singly, fishing in this manner.. To our surprise a great flock of them (at least thirty) appeared and at first hovered over our heads, then, with their very noisy squawking dived and swooped all around us. We were definitely their centre of attention. Can't work out why! Perhaps we were interfering with their favourite fishing spot or are kayakers such strange creatures that they are in fear of us.

There was a great sand-bar across the mouth of the river on which we landed. We were surprised

contd.....P6

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CLUB PADDLE ATTENDANCES

	NAME	ATTEND
1.	Allen Les	2
2.	Beardsley Helier	17
3.	Blight Judy	18
4.	Bramley Jim	4
5.	Camm Lionel	3
6.	Collinson Rod	4
7.	Coogan Rod	5
8.	Cooksey Helen	1
9.	Cuthbertson John	1
10.	Dixon Marian	7
11.	Evans Phil	10
12.	Evans Roz	9
13.	Harrington Suzan	4
14.	Hitchcock Tom	2
15.	Hobbs Brad	5
16.	Hobbs Russel	4
17.	Khorshid Robyn	1
18.	Kinzett Don	8
19.	Lee Graeme	7
20.	Lloyd Roger	12
21.	McDermott Mick	2
22.	Mee Antony	4
23.	Mullen Austen	2
24.	Oakley David	10
25.	Openshaw Lee	1
26.	Piper Kevin	7
27.	Pyatt Eric	31
28.	Radovich John	7
29.	Rawlings Ian	8
30.	Reynolds Bill	5
31.	Robson Sandy	1
32.	Ross John	1
33.	Stender Kerstin	1
34.	Thomas Megan	1
35.	Wass John	19
36.	Watson Kate	1

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

To the 26th June, 2005 there have been 40 programmed paddles, six of which have been cancelled, leaving 34 possible attendances.

CLUB PADDLE REPORT

It was disappointing that on four occasions Trip Coordinators saw fit to cancel the Club Paddle. On the first one no one had phoned but four turned up and, from South Beach, paddled to Carnac Island and back. Conditions were perfect! This was accepted as an official Club Paddle.

On the second, the forecast was horrendous, but the forecasters were 18 hours out on their estimations. An unofficial group, from Hillarys, paddled North along the coast, in ideal conditions.

Thirdly, despite the cancellation, a group organised an unofficial paddle on there own. The conditions were good.

The fourth, the forecasters got it right. Despite the conditions, with his boat, Eric went down to the Kwinana Wreck where he was joined by John Wass, without his boat. It was interesting to observe the continually changing conditions, minute by minute. Most of the time you would say you could paddle in this, then suddenly a squall would hit and the rain would be horizontal, the wind buffeting the vehicle around wondering if it was going to tip over.

Eight thirty having passed, we decided to check out the Level 3 participants at the causeway. Over there, the wind being off-shore, the sea was like a mill pond, until the next squall came through. It only lasted a few minutes. Admirably, the Level 3's went out into the bay without mishap.

The moral of the story is: look out the window, then make a decision. Better still: make the decision on the beach. *Eric will be there.*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Geoffrey Mullins



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from.....P4

to see so much water in the river, wondering how far it would reach upstream. However, more pressing needs; we need to find a campsite! Easy! Over the first sand dune was a lovely little hollow protected on all sides from the wind, not that that was any worry for the moment. The conditions were very balmy.

By the time we had settled in it was mid-afternoon, so we decided to explore the river by walking its banks on the north side. We must have gone a couple of kilometres when we ran out of bank. This is where John's Rogaining experience came into play. We had to take to the bush and skirt the expansive wetlands. Every change of direction he drew an arrow on the ground. We couldn't get near the river so gave it away but it was a very interesting walk, coming across 4-wheel drive tracks leading to some ideal bush campsites; quite isolated. Wish we could keep it that way.

On return, near dark, we settled down to our evening meal where I prepared my "bangers and mash". I made too much, but no worry, John cleaned it up. Very tasty! I'd spiced it up a bit. The red wine added that little touch, too. We both slept well. Slept in again. Still made time to prepare baked beans on toast for breakfast.

Rather than head north as originally planned we decided to explore the river. If, within a short time it came to an end, we would go back to the original plan. It was surprising how far it went. We felt so isolated, passing wetlands in some places contrasted by high wooded banks on either side. Landing spots were a bit rare. One we found was quite interesting; a concrete pad, well worn and weathered, covering a vast area. It must have been a commercial operation of some sort in a time long gone by. On the way back we found a very inviting clearing where we stopped for lunch.

Being a sea kayak man I wasn't well practiced at landing in these awkward spots. John did a good job showing me how, saying how he had appreciated the instruction he in turn had received from Robyn Khorshid. By the end of the trip I had got the hang of it, much to the chagrin of John; I hadn't fallen in.

There was plenty of wildlife to be seen, but very timid. A very pleasant three hours or more which left us the afternoon to relax and do as we please. The weather was still great!

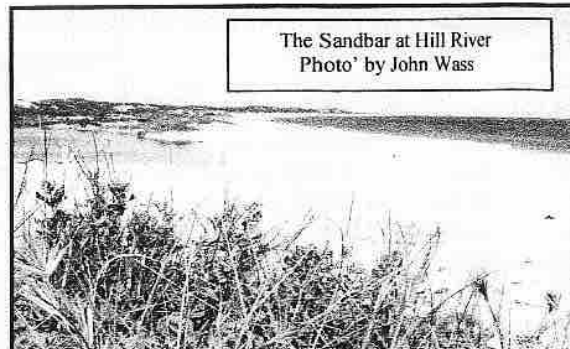
On our crossing from Escape Island we took note of these pyramid shapes protruding above the sand dunes causing us to contemplate what the heck they could be. We decided we would explore and see if we could work them out. There were no man made structures in sight so we put it down to the natural landscape, at a distance, playing tricks on us. We noted some very good campsites.

On our way back from a very lengthy walk

the seagulls were behaving in a very uncharacteristic manner. They were behaving more like overgrown swallows plucking insects out of the air. You wouldn't think they were agile enough for that. Sure enough, when we got back to camp, we saw some on the ground, some in the air, these oversize flying black sergeant ant like insects, very cumbersome and slow in their flying action. There must have been millions of them but so well spread you would hardly notice them if it wasn't for the action of the gulls.

There was some of the afternoon left, so I went fishing while John enjoyed a read and a sleep. Helier would be disappointed in me. Despite information from the locals, of whom only a few were coming and going, I had no luck at all. There were only two 4WD weekend campers, one north and the other well south of us.

Early dinner; early to bed. We had to be up



The Sandbar at Hill River
Photo' by John Wass

early, the forecast being a bit daunting with a few cold fronts expected to pass through late morning. We roused at 5.30am, had breakfast, packed and were on the water by 7.30am. Conditions were perfect but we could see the threatening fronts on the horizon. We stayed within reasonable distance of the sandy shore getting closer as we got to the point. Just as well! It was a nor-wester and by this time we were surrounded by thick black clouds spewing out lightning flashes. It was like we were in the eye of a storm. The nor-wester picked up when at first we were in the shelter of the sand dunes but as we rounded the point we copped the full blast; a good twenty knots. Headway was pretty slow; visibility was pretty poor. We were very keen to sight the jetty when blow me, after battling this for twenty minutes to half an hour it died right away. The jetty was a sight for sore eyes. As we approached, all was perfect for landing.

The caravan park people gave us great greetings, allowing us the run of the place; cleaning up, showering, etc, being on our way well before mid-day. We lunched at Cataby where I went feral and had pasty, sauce and chips arriving at my home at 2.45pm. Transferred John's gear to his vehicle and he was on his way in plenty of time to wash his tea towels ready for work tomorrow.



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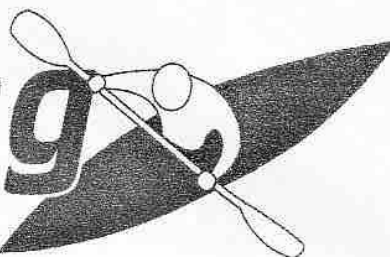


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OBJECTIVES OF THE SEA KAYAK CLUB WA INC.

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 at all levels.

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