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Issue of June 19 July 19 July



Newsletter of the Sea Kayak Club WA Inc. 28 Aurelian Street, Palmyra, WA. 6157. Phones: President Judy Blight 9433 3719. Secretary/ Treasurer Eric Pyatt 9339 2952.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By the time this issue terest. goes to press, President Judy bers wish you well Pres'. We purchase their equipment.

know you will have a good time and gain many experiences, particularly with your paddling. All the is an opportunity to promote our cause at a "CanoeEd.

EDITORIAL

Australian Canoeing have had their problems of late but out of it all there is a very good chance there will come some changes that will benefit canoeing/kayaking overall; particularly sea kayaking ing for a hand, so, any volunteers please phone and recreational paddling in general. So far, from submissions put forward from interested parties throughout Australia a format in draft form has been put together, the main interest from the sea kayaker's point of view is it will be easier, quicker and cheaper for prospects and new members to be processed and accredited and be on the water without the on one job and one job only and do it efficiently hold-ups they've experienced in the past. Submissions close on the 1st July and from there, three months is estimated to have the final draft prepared, although originally it was proposed that the status quo remain until 31st December.

An interesting proposal has been put forward that a new category be introduced to the sea kayaking agenda headed "Coastal"; believe it or not, "Sit on tops". Under the heading "Other Changes-Coastal" from the publication "AC Online" is the following quotation, "The majority of boats sold this year (more than all other types combined) are sit on tops. The fastest growing section of commercial on tops. Most 'Coastal Guides' work in situations where they will rarely see a traditional sea kayak and in fact will never use a traditional sea kayak. In acknowledgement of this the coastal stream (coastal cruising in sit on tops) will gain a complete structure from Basic Skills to Instructor".

It will be interesting to see how this is going to effect the ardent followers of current "Sea Kayaking" philosophy. A change would have be made to the OP & SG. Is it foreign to all of our intentions? It would be another category to be entered into the programming. On the positive side it could be an avenue for increasing membership; an avenue to introduce people in the community to what sea kay-

aking is all about. They would graduate! The outcomes, I'm sure, will be looked upon with great in-

The club has purchased a sea kayak; for trainwill be on her way to Canada ing purposes only! There will be charges for its use; for two months. What with the obviously to cover depreciation i.e. for non-profit. It pressure of preparation we is good value, ideal for the purpose: plastic, near understand her not having the new, easy adjustable footrests, complete with padtime to put together a report dle, spray deck and PFD2. An avenue for prospecbut know that on her return tive and new members who want to experience what there will be plenty to fill up we all love doing best while they gather information the columns. The club mem- on what are their best options when they are ready to

> While we are looking for new members, there Week" organised by the Dept of Sport and Recreation in cooperation with the various canoeing bodies down at Mandurah. It hinges around national "Physical Activity Day" on Friday, 1st September. It clashes with our trip to Peron Peninsular; however, Wayne has volunteered to organise a stand on the waterfront on that particular day. He would be look-Wayne on 93374080/0438 374 080.

> The year is two thirds the way through, so, it is now the time to look at next year's committee. It is about time some of the responsibilities were delegated around the members to remove the load on so few. All that has to be done is that one member takes while working in with other members of the committee; spread the load. Don't say, "I'm too busy!" The old adage is, "If you want to get a job done, give it to a busy person!" Please don't say, "I'm too new!". The future of the club is not only with the established, experienced members but also with the new; we are a very new club, barely eight years old.

> A reflection of the club's progress, in that short a time, is the support given to the mid-year banquet organised by Susan. The attendance of seventeen was a vote of confidence in the social arm of the club. A great atmosphere prevailed.

Attendances to club paddles and events have guiding is short (3 hours or less) coastal tours in sit been the most consistent ever in the short history of the club. May we go on to better times.

COVER PICTURE

Hazardous landing among the rocks of Saint Alouarn Island south of Cape Leeuwin.

Part of the assessment of the prospective instructors, LWE at Augusta.

Refer Roger's report on Page 4.

Photo' curtesy of Roger Lloyd

BOARD

PERON PENINSULAR SHARK BAY

30th August to 5th September, 2006

Five days on the water, two days travel

Introduction to Sea Kayak Skills Awardees are eligible. The shoreline is followed all the way. The committee is bound to bring to the attention of those wishing to participate in club excursions by quoting the minute of the 12th October, 2005, that they "must also participate in not less than four club paddles of an equivalent grade in the three months prior to the trip". Experience has shown that the Sea Leader needs to observe the prospects for fitness, check the requirements of equipment standards and group dynamics application.

Phil is to lead this very popular excursion:

Phone: 9383 7190.

2006

LONG WEEKEND

Sep 30/Oct2 Donnelly River/Broke Inlet-beautiful.

Phone Eric: 9339 2952.

WEEKENDERS

Jul 29-30: Bunker Bay-lots of options. Phone Eric: 9339 2952.

Dec 1& 2: Rottnest Island-speaks for itself. Phone Judy: 9433 3719.

BUNKER BAY DEADLINE

WEDNESDAY, 5th JULY, 2006.

SO FAR, ONE STARTER; ME!

ANYONE INTERESTED, PLEASE, LET ME KNOW, NOW!

ERIC: 9339 2952

Opinions expressed in articles in this Newsletter are <u>not</u> necessarily the view of the Sea Kayak Club WA Inc. DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE Midnight WST, Friday, 25th August, 2006.

AUGUSTA LONG WEEKEND

3-6 JUNE 2006.

by Roger Lloyd



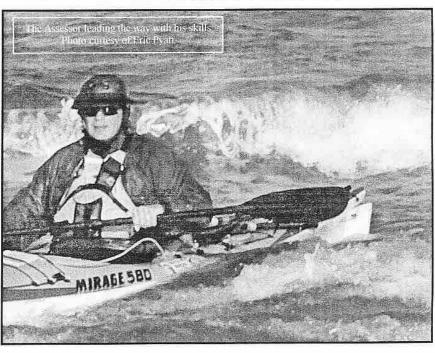
And what a weekend it was !!, perfect autumn weather, good sea conditions, great paddling, good company and pleasant camping at the excellent Turner Caravan Park which fronts the Hardy Inlet. The starters, Eric, Les, Helen, Dave, Rod, Wayne, Kelvin and Roger, arrived in dribs and drabs during

Friday and early Saturday am and set up camp beneath the paper bark Maleleucas. There are numerous "wild" ducks wandering the grounds at Turners and in the process of setting up camp an egg was found on the ground near Rod's tent. As he was not there at that moment, the egg was placed on top of his cockpit cover, Rod was later heard to exclaim in amazement that a duck had laid an egg on his boat but, on turning it over, it was found to have a bar code and someone who will remain nameless exclaimed that wonder of wonders there must be a duck in the grounds with a bar coder in it's bum, ai'nt technology wonderful!

Saturday dawned overcast and coldish and after breakfast we all donned radiator tops, extra thermals and Cags before reporting for the briefing. Les was assessing Rod and Roger for Instructor

awards during the weekend and we were anticipating a surprise dunking or two during the day. By 9-00 am we were paddling down the inlet and the sun broke through as we went out onto Flinders Bay through a low surf at the entrance. Proceeding west along the coastline, we arrived at Sarge Bay which lies in the eastern crook of Cape Leeuwin' A low swell s arm. could be seen bursting onto the rocks of the Sea Island reefs in the distance. As we loitered in the middle of the bay, debating where to land on the steep beach in the 1 -2 metre swell, we were suddenly confronted with a five metre wave which reared up out of nowhere and steepened rapidly as it approached, it appeared to be about to break on top of the group but did not and there were a couple of muted "yehas!" as the boats burst over the crest of the wave followed by a somewhat stunned moment of silence. Les commented that had the wave dumped on us it was big enough to have damaged boats and injured paddlers. It was a salutary lesson, when loitering off a shore exposed to the southern ocean swell, loiter far out and maintain a good watch to seaward. We encountered a number of these big sets during the weekend but none quite as inspiring as the first.

After landing and refreshing at Sarge Bay beach, we headed offshore in a south easterly direction past the Sea Island rock islands and reefs and paddled six kilometers out to Saint Alouarn Island. Saint Alouarn is a large precipitous, granite rock with a limestone cap and low vegetation. There is only one potential landing spot, a small rock strewn cove between two short rock headlands, an impressive but not a pretty place. There was a little sand filling up the gaps between the rocks on this occasion but a two metre swell bursting around the western headland as a largish breaker, thirty metres away, made a safe landing seem problematical. After assessing the situation it was apparent that the surge subsided quickly as it rounded the rock and a daredevil paddler, who will again remain nameless for reasons of modesty, reversed in keeping a close eye out for any bigger sets coming through and made a faultless and technically brilliant landing on the one small tongue of sand that came down to the waters edge. The rest of the group followed in one at a time, the boats were carried up over the rocks

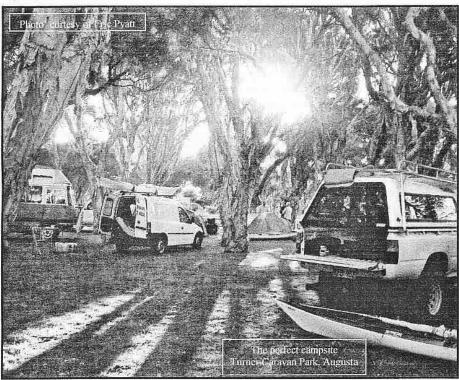


on the warm granite bedrock. Following lunch the however we found a shallow sand bottom and several daredevil went out first, having previously used up reef patches off shore which helped to break the his entire allocation of adrenalin for the weekend, and the rest of the group followed with Wayne, who's boat was towed out last, risking the White Pointers by swimming out and doing a reentry on the water. The trip back across Flinders Bay was uneventful and we paddled up the inlet to the caravan park after a few runs through the surf at the entrance. Eric who was recuperating after his recent surgery and was consequently not paddling, later told us that we had paddled past a whale to seaward of us without spotting it. A great day out taken all round followed by drinkies and dinner at the pub for some and an early night for all.

and we had an enjoyable lunch lounging in the sun along the way had it been necessary. At Ledge Point swell and provided a relatively easy landing. Lunch was enjoyed by all except for the person, who will once again remain nameless, who completely unpacked his boat but could still not find his lunch even though he knew it was in there somewhere and next day found it jammed right up in the pointy end of his bow hatch. After re-launching we had an easy paddle back to the inlet, a few more runs through the surf and a leisurely return to the caravan park. After a hot shower and clean up most people went to the pub again for dinner where the Beef And Guinness Pie with mashed potato and salad seemed to be the go because we all had it except for Eric who is a health

food kind a guy and demolished a mountain of rabbit fodder and sea food.

Most people left for home on Monday morning to beat the long weekend traffic jam. We all agreed that Augusta is a great place to paddle with it's exposure to the southern ocean offering a totally different paddling environment and the opportunity to develop and practice skills that we do not often have the opportunity to use in the Perth area. We really do need to do this more often. <<



Sunday dawned fine and sunny after another cold night. After breakfast and the usual briefing the group launched for the inlet entrance again where we spent an hour or so practicing our surfing skills. The low south west swell providing us with excellent practice waves of one to one and a half metres. Rod impressed us all with his rolling ability in surf which he demonstrated on numerous occasions and which he later assured us were intentional but, I ask you, is it not a bit exhibitionist doing a roll after an end-over on the sand bank at 15 knots !. Surfer Girl Helen also impressed with her rapid increase in confidence and some good runs in. After a break and a few war stories on the beach, we set off eastward for Ledge Point some six kilometers away. There was a moderate swell with occasional large sets breaking close in which would have made for a difficult beach landing

FROM YOUR SG& OP MANUAL

Kayaks on club paddles must have the following:

- Grab handles must be fitted to the bow and stern of the boat.
- Deck-lines must go around the deck perimeter in front and behind the cockpit; min 6mm
- Towing points must be fitted to enable towing in an emergency and must be located near the bow.
- Pumps must be of a type that can be handled hands-free (i.e. foot and electric). A portable hand pump is suitable as a back-up only.

DIRK HARTOG ISLAND

10-17 MAY, 2006

by Wayne Stocker

Imagine if you will; paddling to Rottnest then back again the next day and then keep doing the highlight of the trip was rounding Cape Ransonthat for 6 days, that was what the Dirk Hartog trip was like. A total of 131 kilometres spread over 6 days admittedly conditions were always easy going with no white caps experienced at any time during and Surf Point came into view. A very special very the trip. What was noticed by most was an improve- isolated place which upon closer inspection revealed ment in paddle fitness as the days passed or was it white sandy beaches, crystal clear waters, a most just the fact we had used more and more of the 30 litres/kilos of water and the 6 days of food supplies we each started with.

some observations. Many thanks to Eric P for all the kilometres to the south, a full moon rising over the prior preparation and planning, the chalet we stayed bay being reflected in the mirror smooth waters at everyone heard everyone else snoring but not himself? Our thanks and congratulations go out to Roger

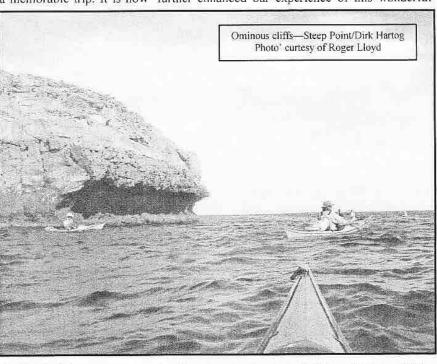
confirmed by our own eyes and photographic evidence that Dave O can indeed walk on water (Kelvin L has the digitally recorded evidence of this and reckons it must be a carpenter thing). Dave O also gave a demonstration of "paddling whilst asleep" (a valuable skill for the Zuytdorp Cliffs?). A few glitches like "navigating whilst asleep" and "eskimo roll whilst asleep" are still to be ironed out though. Rod Coo and Wayne S are the best in navigators the whole world (when their GPS batteries

stunning pictorial record of our trip, maybe a quick goats, sheep and signs (tracks in the sand) of smaller zip through them after the next General Meeting? marsupials (tiny native mice, bilbies? who knows?). Other observations were "all this gear fitted in my Meanwhile the usual list of suspects were in the air boat in the garage at home. How come when I come on and near the water; shags, gulls, terns, pelicans, to pack it on the beach on the first day of the trip it sea eagles, ospreys, wedge tailed eagles. The real doesn't fit?" and that all time classic "it will be em- action lay in the water with whale sharks exciting barrassing when I launch my fully laden boat and it all, real sharks raising even more excitement and the sinks like a stone"

Noteworthy was the lack of disquiet and disagreements experienced during our time in the Shark Bay area. Mostly due to the decision-making process namely; suggestions for what to do were put forward, these options were discussed, one was chosen by consensus and then implemented. Another factor would have been all 5 of us being on the same wavelength in just about every aspect of the trip.

I think all my fellow travelers would agree net at the southern end of Dirk Hartog Island the excitement level rising as the vista of Steep Point, South Passage, the deep blue of the Indian Ocean perfect surf break (with no one riding the waves, unheard of in 2006?), a beautiful coral reef full of coral, giant clams and sea urchins. When one adds to Various members of our 5-man crew made this the majestic Zuytdorp Cliffs disappearing 100 in was perfect with a strange phenomenon arising: dusk on a most memorable day and the conclusion was this is a "must visit" place.

An abundance of wildlife (land, sea and air) Lloyd for leading such a memorable trip. It is now further enhanced our experience of this wonderful



have some charge in them). Kelvin L has produced a location. Land animals included wallabies, rabbits, biggest manta rays I have ever seen (easily 12 feet tip to tip) one lashing it's tail at Dave Oakley's boat. A few turtles were seen bobbing around and swimming close in and a few dolphins thrown in for good measure. One blue marlin was also spotted but this is the subject of an investigation by a Royal Com- Division 4mission and as such I am unable to comment further. Size and projection of loads on light vehicles (Dave Oakley is at liberty to discuss this matter and Clause 11. Size and projection of loads. he has all the details)

A personal observation is to do with patterns and rhythms and slipping into sync with them. Sun comes up - sun goes down. Moon comes up - (1a)In the case of a vehicle, the load on the vehicle moon goes down. Tide comes up - tide goes down. Kayakers wake up, have breakfast, break camp, pack (a) 1.2 metres in front of the vehicle; or boat, set off, travel, arrive, unpack boat, setup camp, (b) !.2 metres to the rear of the vehicle. have dinner, go to sleep then do the same next day. freeing up brain and body space to take in more of what is happening around one. Possibly another attraction that keeps us paddling albeit a subtle one.

The night of the fifth day saw a giant line (a) of thunder and lightning bearing down on us. No comments or warnings were given by anyone but to a man everyone secured their kayak and camp in preparation for a pounding. Then all of a sudden the (b) squall line went quiet and all we got was an hour or two of light rain and a few distant rumblings of thunder the next morning. The gods saw fit to let us [Clause 11 amended in Gazette 3rd Jan, 2005 p.8-9; off. (This time!)

"Well, with wit and grit and no small amount of courage, we accomplished something on that day, a feat of daring-do, an enterprise not ignoble."

We merry band, unbound by the constraints of society

and the prejudices of the common ruck.

We happy few.

LOADING OF KAYAKS ROAD TRAFFIC (VEHICLE STANDARDS) **REGULATIONS 2002**

- (1)A vehicle and its load must not exceed a size limit set for the vehicle in Part 7 Division 2 of the Vehicle Standards
- must not project more than-

- So the day to day logistics become second nature (4) Where any portion of the load on a vehicle projects in such a manner that it would not be readily visible to any person following immediately behind the vehicle, driver of the vehicle must
 - mark the end of the load, by means of a brightly coloured flag or piece of material, with each side at least 300 mm long, so that it is clearly visible to persons in the vicinity; or
 - at night time, fit to the extreme end of the load, a light showing a clear red light to the rear, visible at a distance of 200 metres.

13th Dec, 2005 p.5991].

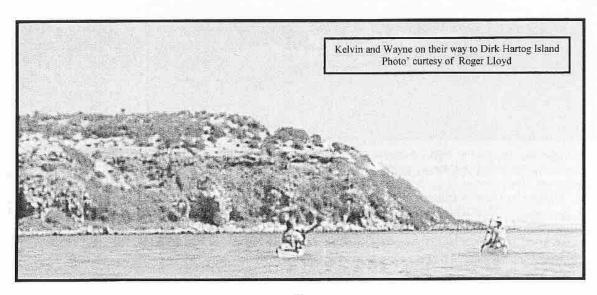
Division 5—

Placing and securing loads

Clause 12. Loading obligations

- (1) A load on a vehicle must not be placed in a way that makes the vehicle unstable or unsafe.
- A load on a vehicle must be secured so that it is unlikely to fall or be dislodged from the vehicle.
- An appropriate method must be used to restrain the load on a vehicle.

Full text is on the WA Govt Printer's website: http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/index.html



CAPE TO CAPE

Kelvin Lewis

near Cape Leeuwin at 10 am on Sunday 12th Febru- crays. On the way back I saw a python of about six seas and a SE wind reaching 20-30 knots in the afbe from behind me once I rounded the cape.

dropped me off and headed past the lighthouse and around the Cape. I raised the sail but within fifty awoke before dawn and when the sun appeared it meters decided that conditions were too choppy for revealed banks of mist rolling down the valleys and sailing and returned to paddling. I headed straight spilling onto the sea. As I was about to set off a coufor Cosy Corner while staying well off shore and ple of guys arrived to go fishing in their dinghy matching the occasional breaking wave against the which was next to where I'd pitched my tent. They bombies on the chart to ensure I wasn't going to get were very interested in my kayak and my sail system caught out. The SW swell combined with the SSE and we spent a while talking before I left. The mist chop to ensure I had to keep paddling to avoid had thinned but there were still misty patches and it broaching as I listened for the larger swells. Once was overall quite hazy with almost no breeze. As I into the relative calm of Cosy Corner I sailed and set off for Gracetown it was the flattest day of the surfed the small waves up to Hamelin Bay where I trip, which led me to make an error of judgement at spent the first night.

ers who were still getting good rides at lunchtime. The next bay after the river mouth was Kilcarnup where I made my way around the breakers and into the calm bay that was to be the site of my camp on the second night.

I walked up to the ridge and along to the As I prepared to launch from Dead Finnish point where I met a couple of guys snorkelling for ary the weather forecast predicted 2.5m swell, 2m feet in length slowly crossing the white sandy vehicle track. Back on the beach a sea eagle was on the ternoon. I knew my trusty NDK Explorer would lookout from a branch about forty meters from my easily handle the conditions and the SE wind would tent as I took a refreshing swim. I spent much of the afternoon reading as a couple of groups arrived to I said goodbye to my brother who had dive for crays from their boats in the sheltered bay.

An almost full moon was shining when I the entrance to Cowaramup Bay. Since they'd come

into sight about ten minutes earlier I'd been closely watching the waves on the rocks at the point on the south side of the bay and had concluded that they weren't breaking on the outermost rock, so I could take a short cut through the inside. Unfortunately, my passage coincided with a larger set that did break and required a ten-second sprint to get through before the next wave. I made it ok.

A local resi-

The intrepid Kelvin-the beginning Photo' curtesy of his Brother with Kelvin's gear

Margaret River had attracted a number of board rid- snack I set off again.

Monday was calmer with the breeze continu- dent was doing his morning exercises where I pulled ing from the SE giving me some assistance until it on to the beach and after stopping to talk, I made my dropped off after about an hour. I had a glimpse of way to the phone booth for an up to date weather some dolphins just before Conto's but failed to lo- forecast. I carry a prepaid CDMA phone that allows cate them again. There were the usual surfers and me to check for coastal warnings but does not allow fishermen enjoying the ocean as I continued north, me to call 1900 numbers such as the one for a full enjoying the scenery and avoiding hazards such as forecast. The ocean conditions were going to conbombies and lobster pots. The nice clean waves at tinue much the same so after visiting the shop for a sail so I paddle/sailed up to Injidup. As usual in that. summer, there were quite a few people at Injidup, playing in the shore break at the car park, sliding been intending to do for many years. It really makes down the dunes and enjoying the picturesque beach. me appreciate the wonderful environments we have her kite surfer but I measured a maximum of 8 knots them the way we do. whereas she needed about double that. I was surprised when she said it had been extremely hot on her property during the day as out on the water it accessible; sail, had been cool and pleasant.

Three dolphins were fishing in the bay as I paddle on deck packed and ate breakfast, adding a cheerier element (in front) and to the gloomy overcast conditions that threatened rain. The breeze was back and apart from rudder What an initiastrokes, I didn't need to paddle most of the time. tive! Don't you Two species of large sea birds swooped low over the feel you would water throughout the morning but even after check- like to make one ing my bird book when I got home I'm not sure if or, easier still, the were albatrosses or petrels.

Heading north, I experienced patches of light really test your drizzle and as I got closer to Sugarloaf Rock, I could skills. see a ranger's vehicle beside some toilets on the marks, Kelvin.... Cape-to-Cape track. I'd been needing to empty my bladder since passing Yallingup about 2 1/2 hrs earlier but was not willing to risk a surf landing there so would have to hold on till Bunkers Bay.

The chop had increased throughout the morning and near Sugarloaf Rock it combined with clapotis, making it too rough to sail despite giving it a couple of hundred meters leeway. It's amazing the way the different waves interact in those conditions to give the impression that they are doing things you know they can't. For instance, I'm sure I saw one wave overtake me and then make a 90 degree turn, but I know that's not possible.

A seal was swimming at Cape Naturaliste and after the point I raised the sail again. There was surf breaking at Shelly Beach so I didn't land there and the sail training ship Leeuwin was anchored in Bunkers Bay with most of the crew on the beach. I decided to continue straight to Eagle Bay to empty my bladder that by this time was getting urgent. My original plan had contained an option of continuing all the way to Bunbury but as the rain was increasing, and the thought of paddling around Geographe bay in the rain didn't appeal to me, I rang my brother to come and pick me up. I was then disappointed to find the shop in Eagle Bay was no longer open, so my plan of a long relaxing lunch while I waited for my ride had to be replaced with biscuits and nut bars on the beach. Fortunately, the rain cleared up and I was able to read my book while I waited.

Some people may have concerns about my doing this trip solo and while I don't recommend solo paddling, sometimes I do paddle solo. Last year in the SKCWA newsletter Les Allen expressed his opinions on solo paddling and I don't think I can

The wind had picked up enough to use the express it any better than he did so I'll leave it at

Overall, it was an excellent trip and one I had A woman was trying to find enough wind to launch so close to home and how lucky we are to enjoy

Note: Kelvin's propulsion equipment readily

conventional "that" paddle! have one Full





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

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your enjoyment and safety on the water.

Ph: (08) 9314 3109 E: info@finnkayaks.com W: www.finnkayaks.com Although this looks like a picture taken from a Hollywood movie, it is in fact a real photo, taken near the South African coast during a military exercise by the British Navy.

It has been nominated by National Geographic as "THE photo of the year".



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

.Nathan Cantwell

A PERSONAL NOTE

BIRTHDAYS:

DIN HIDA I D.	
Les Allen	26/07/2006
Nathan Cantwell	02/08/2006
Phil Evans	29/08/2006
Roz Evans	01/07/2006
Susan Harrington	13/08/2006
Neville Holden	25/08/2006
Daniel Mahony	05/08/2006
Eric Pyatt	05/07/2006
John Radovich	27/07/2006
Ian Rawlings	19/07/2006

WEBSITE

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

CLUB PADDLE ATTENDANCES

Quote from the minutes of 3rd May, 2006: "The committee decided that the attendance list no longer be published in the newsletter".

WEST COAST KAYAKS

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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.
- 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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