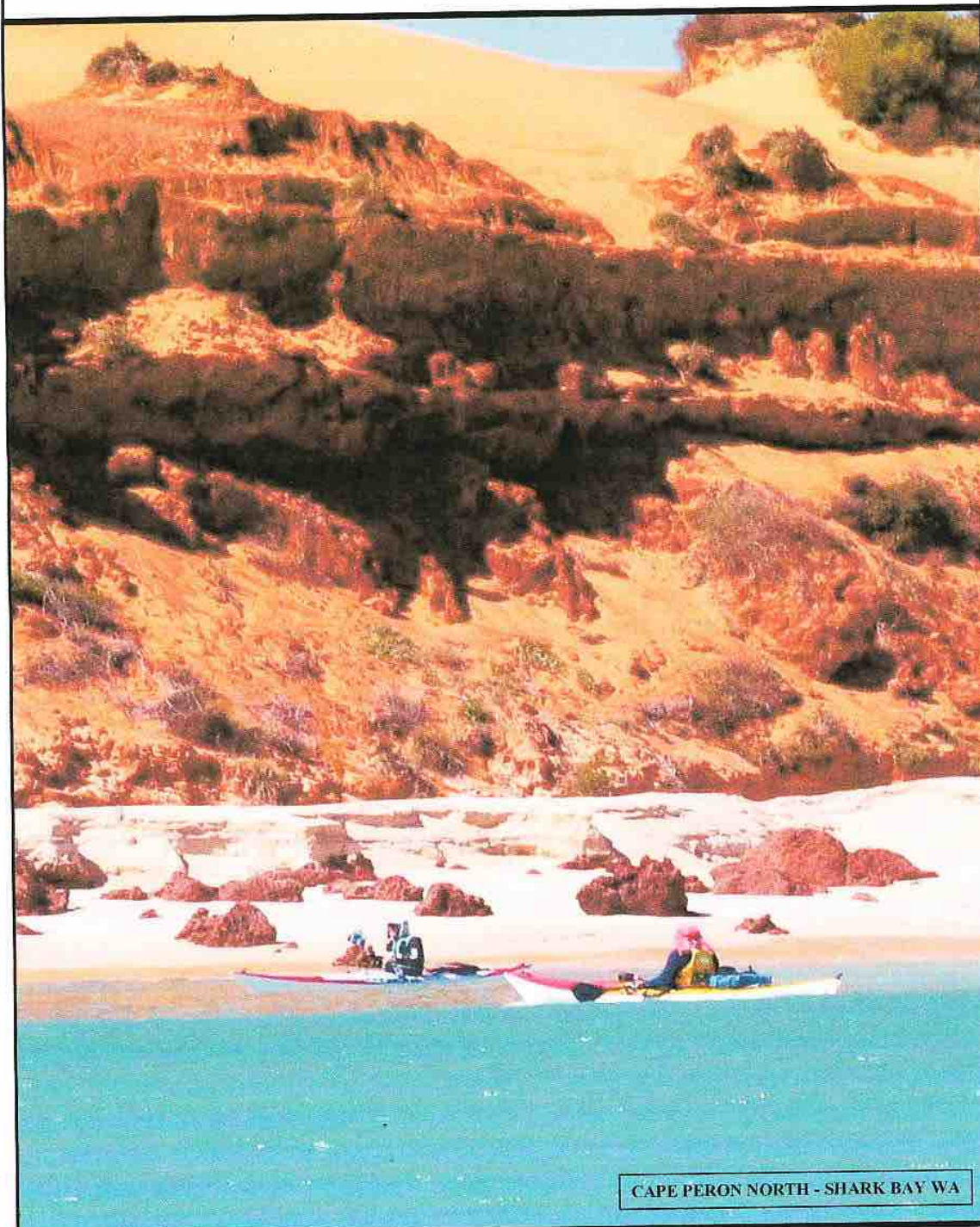


WA Seakayaker



CAPE PERON NORTH - SHARK BAY WA

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE - SEA KAYAK CLUB W.A. INC. - Issue No 63 Nov - Dec 2006

PRESIDENTS REPORT



Not having stood as Club President at the last AGM I virtually came into this role by accident due to the resignation of Roger Lloyd in February this year. It has been a big learning curve but I am gradually getting my head around the Constitution and the relationship between Canoeing WA, Australian Canoeing and our club.

It has been really satisfying to have three more instructors in our club; Roger Lloyd, Rod Coogan and Phil Evans. As they are all regular paddlers it means we can have new people on trips under their guidance. This had been very frustrating for new people to the club as they were not able to paddle until their testing and qualification had been finalized.

After my 2 month trip away, (where I was able to experience paddling in conditions very different from ours) I returned home determined to try to open our club to more women and to try to expand our paddler base. I realized that we are a very top heavy club with the majority of our weekend paddles being patronized by Sea Leaders and Instructors. Hopefully, we can expand our base and still continue our learning of skills and achievement of levels but at the same time cater to the group that doesn't want to follow that path.

Eric resigned his membership of the club. It was a shame to end his club association in this way after many years of almost running the club single-handedly. We are hoping that over the next few months we can involve him with the club in some way as we are very grateful for the many hours of work he has put in and his wonderful efforts in editing the club magazine and introducing new members to the club. I know for my part that as usual I will be seeking advice from him on the best way to fix my kayak. Thank you also to Eric for drawing up the by-laws from all of the recommendations from past meetings. We will be using these to guide us in the process of establishing the club by-laws.

I met with Lindsay Wiland (executive officer of Canoeing WA) and we discussed a whole range of issues. One interesting and relevant piece of information was that as long as a peer group paddle is recorded with the club then it is covered by insurance. I have copied the insurance information in a grey folder for perusal.-this has presently been extended until November of this year but I will keep members updated on this issue. Documentation of correspondence between OAMPS and Canoeing WA with regard to club instructing is also recorded in a folder.

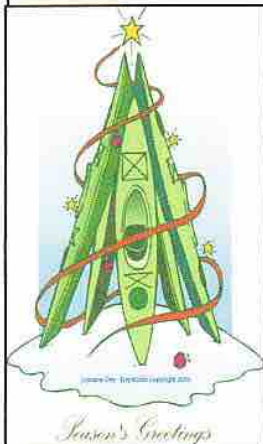
Thanks to a keen and capable committee for all their work.. Judy.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICE BEARERS - 2006 / 07

President	-	Judy Blight	ph - 9433 3719	email - carita@iinet.net.au
Vice President	-	Phil Evans	9383 7190	pevans_2@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer	-	Rod Coogan	9535 4515	rodneycogan@optusnet.com.au
Secretary	-	Wayne Stocker	9433 5588	wds1@bigpond.com
Programme	-	John Radovich	9242 3529	jrado_7@hotmail.com
Training	-	Phil Evans	9383 7190	pevans_2@bigpond.net.au
Web Site	-	Russell Hobbs	9335 5182	sueandruss@bigpond.com
Newsletter	-			
Social	-	Sue Harrington	9335 5182	sueandruss@bigpond.com
Committee	-	David Oakley	TBA	TBA

Address for mail - Secretary, Sea Kayak Club W.A. Inc. - 30 Davies Street, Beaconsfield, WA6162

NOTICE BOARD



CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY - Sunday 17 December 2006

*This year, the club annual Christmas party will be held at the Chidley Point Reserve, off Chidley Way in Mosman Park, UBD map ref. page 306 /K9. The **BREAKFAST BBQ** will commence at 9-00 am. Paddling before, during or after is optional.*

Bring your own boat and paddling gear, B.B.Q. pack, liquid refreshments, chair, beach umbrella and music (everything else is supplied). There are gas barbeques in the reserve.

*Contact Sue Harrington ph 9335 5182
or email sueandruss@bigpond.com for further information.*

ROTTNEST ISLAND TRIP.

1 - 3 December 2006

The annual trip to Rottnest Island is scheduled again been booked at Kingston Barracks you are urged to book your group normally paddles day morning. Bodies and the ferries. Contact Judy 9433 3719.

for the above date. A house has and as bed numbers are limited, A.S.A.P. Weather permitting, a across from Cottesloe to Rotto. on the Fri-boats etc can otherwise be taken over on one of Blight to nominate, or for further information, on ph

TRIP IS NOW FULL

"SEAKAYAKER" NEWSLETTER.

In the interests of saving the club some money, the newsletter will henceforth be distributed electronically to members with an email address and a hard copy posted to all others. If we are to have an interesting and informative club journal, lots of "stuff" preferably but not necessarily relevant to sea kayaking will be required. Please send copies of anything you think may be of interest to members to the editor.

CLUB SAFETY GUIDELINES AND OPERATING PROCEDURES.

The club Safety Guidelines And Operating Procedures, first issued two years ago, have been revised and updated. The new document will be emailed to members during the next 2-3 weeks. A hard copy will be posted to anyone not having an email address. This document lays out the standard procedures to be applied to all club on water activities. It is of importance to members safety, integrity of the club, liability management and maintenance of our insurance cover. All members should familiarise themselves with it's contents.

Please contact the club secretary if you do not receive your copy by the end of November.

"QUOTABLE QUOTES"

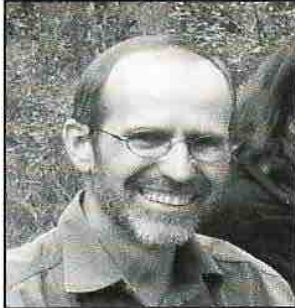
"A man who is not afraid of the sea will soon be drowned, he said, for he will be going out on a day he shouldn't. But we do be afraid of the sea, and we do only be drowned now and again".

*John Millington Synge
"The Aran Islands"*

Shark Bay Shallows in September.

(AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2006)

by Russell Hobbs



The idea of a 5-day kayak trip at Shark Bay conjures up images of lazy afternoons spent fishing or snorkeling. Those of us who had this in mind at the start of the trip were going to be out of luck.

There were 10 paddlers on this trip, and we all arrived in good form to stay overnight in cabins at one of the caravan parks in Denham. The sunset was beautiful from the town's beach and the cameras went into overdrive. The weather next morning was fine for the 9am start, and luckily the snorers had not been so noisy to put us off a good night's sleep. Leader Phil Evans divided us into 2 groups of 5 for the day and we set off in fairly calm conditions with a little high cloud and smooth water. Visibility in the water was excellent so we all saw lots of rays and the occasional shark. Laurie saw a yellow-bellied sea snake. Our destination was Big Lagoon, 23 km from Denham.

Close to the lagoon, the tide was going out so the flats were becoming shallow. This slowed us down somewhat, but the shallow water did not seem to worry the sharks, some of which appeared to use the approaching kayaks to help herd the prey fish within range. We all had close encounters with these sharks but none were big enough to worry us as long as we stayed upright.

Finding the deep channel into the lagoon was not too difficult but there was some very shallow water near the mouth. We all succumbed to the temptation to cut corners inside the lagoon rather than taking the long way around in the channel. However, we paid for our sins by having to drag our boats back out into deeper water just before arriving at the campsite. Helen and Russ went for a dip in the channel in front of the camp – the water was clear and refreshing.

Those of us who went for a pre-dinner walk were rewarded by close sightings of emus and red kangaroos, and the camp layabouts were visited by a small pod of dolphins fishing in front of the camp. It was a warm and calm evening, and we all fitted under the shade of the communal tarp for a very pleasant dinner.

The wind picked up overnight so on Day 2 we started out against a moderate southerly until we rounded the corner to exit Big Lagoon. Eric cut the corner a little too close to shore and although the tide was far more favorable than the afternoon before, he still got himself caught among some rocks. Pretty soon though, we were all out of the lagoon and heading north with the wind behind us. Kevin and Helen had their sails up and didn't need to paddle. Even without sails, according to the GPS we were drifting at 4-5 km/hr. At one stage Kevin had to drop his sail so that he could stay back with the paddlers in the group.

The sky looked decidedly threatening in the early afternoon. Visibility was not as good as it had been the day before, but we were treated to schools of sharks in the shallow water again. Some of these sharks were well over a metre long and there were some with attitude. Phil saw one nearly 2m long pass beneath his bow. The idea of a swim in these waters had somehow lost its gloss. Although the water was shallow in the afternoon, there was enough depth at the campsite to paddle right to the beach. It had been an easy 26km day of paddling.

On reaching camp, the afternoon cloud had dispersed without dropping any rain on us at all. However, the wind had not abated and after 2 attempts at erecting the communal tarp, we had to give up. Eric's beachfront villa became the social focus of the late afternoon, but by dinner time most of us retreated to a slightly more sheltered site among the dunes. Dinner conversation again centred on food and we all seemed to be obsessed with what other paddlers were cooking. Roz and Phil outdid us all and cooked steaks. This was day 2, and nobody else had expected fresh meat to last that long.

There were just enough clouds in the sky to give us a beautiful sunrise on Day 3. Then the wind came up to blow them away, but it was ESE so we were sheltered for the paddle to the Cape. Roger had promised some spectacular red cliffs before the Cape and we were not disappointed. Nathan, the serious photographer among us, was desperate to get some shots of the cliffs at Broadhurst Bight but was not game to use his camera from his kayak. In he went for a perfect beach landing in a gentle swell while Phil and Roger hung about in support. Meanwhile Helen took the opportunity to test out her tacking skills with her sail.

Up until this point we had been in shallow water, but rounding the Cape we at last had some deep water and since we were coming into the wind, there was quite a sea to contend with. We now had the prospect of a long paddle with the wind in our faces, so it was a great time to break for lunch.



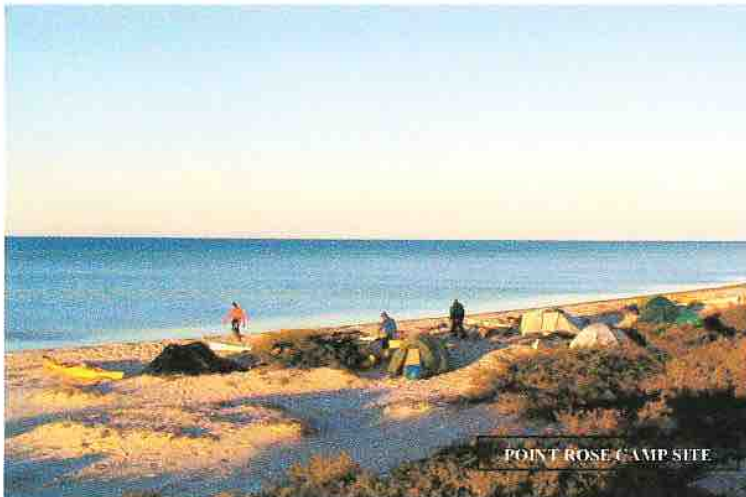
After lunch it was back into the shallows and shallow it was indeed. At least in the shallow water there were no waves to punch through, but the wind made it hard work. The wildlife seemed to be less common on this side of the Cape, but there were still some sharks, rays and turtles. We slowly made our way south to our preferred campsite only to find that it was too shallow to get in close. Roger knew there was a good site further south so on we went. We finally made it to that site and Roger pad-

dled in as close as he could before leaving his kayak stranded in the shallows to walk in to shore. It didn't look far at first, but after Roger had walked for some time he seemed to be just a speck in the distance and he still hadn't reached the dry sand.

Back home after the trip, a close scrutiny of Google Earth and some GPS coordinates revealed that he'd walked about 400m to shore. The prospect of lugging 3 full loads of gear each (or 6 loads for Eric), plus the kayaks did not look all that attractive. However, dusk was approaching and we had already paddled a long way into the strong wind. Roger and Phil went into a huddle with Kevin and Rod, and it was decided to push on to the western side of Guichenault Point. There was no guarantee of an easy landing there but Roger reckoned it was much more likely than where we were. So on again we paddled. To our great relief, the paddling was much easier because we were not paddling into the wind, but across it. The decision turned out to be brilliant and we took the kayaks right into shore between some mangroves. We had paddled nearly 34km, most of it into the wind, so in failing light but rejuvenated spirits we pitched our tents and started into dinner preparation.

It was a cool night and Day 4 began with a strong breeze from the southeast. We must have all been pretty keen to get moving because we were ready to go 30 minutes before start time. The tide was high so we were confident we could find our way around Guichenault Point despite Roger having previously experienced shallow water in this area. Sure enough, the Point was a piece of cake but then we had to contend with constant wind in our faces; 16 knots gusting to 24 and our progress was down to 3-4 km/hr before the morning break. It seemed to take forever to make it past the impressive cliffs of Herald Bluff. The wind dropped off after the break, but unfortunately so did the tide. We then had to pick our way through leads in the shallows below the beautiful red cliffs.

Once again we had trouble finding access to a good campsite due to the timing of the low tide. Eric found a good lead and Roger followed him in, but they were stranded about 80m offshore. It was close to Cape Rose and about as good a campsite as we were going to get, so we determined to carry the gear in. Helen and Kevin decided to go sailing instead, experimenting with how close to the wind they could run. After everybody else had unloaded and pitched in to carry each other's kayaks we felt pretty smug about leaving the two sailors to carry their own gear in, especially since by this time, the closest they could get to the beach was about 150m. In the end however, they outsmarted us all and just left their kayaks anchored until the tide came in far enough to drag them in.



On Day 5 we awoke to a magnificent sunrise, except for Eric who had been up well before sunrise to organise his gear for packing. This was the last day and we only had 11km to go, having already covered 102km. Although it was cool and breezy, we all savoured our last breakfast in the wilderness. We hit the water early with Cape Rose providing protection from the worst of the wind, which was blowing at 18 knots, and gusting to 25 from the SSE. It wasn't long before

we rounded the Cape and lost that protection, but as long as we stayed close to the shore we kept up a pace of 4km/hr. Since it was at our estimated time of arrival at Monkey Mia coincided with feeding time for the dolphins, we stayed out wide for the last kilometre or so, and it was here that we really started to cop some strong offshore winds. Finish-line fever took over and it was a hectic pace against the wind for all. Sure enough, just as we arrived, the dolphins came in. Also on time at Monkey Mia were Carolyn Coogan and Helen Cooksey's artist friend Helen to return the drivers to Denham to pick up the rest of the vehicles.

It was perhaps just as well that we'd paddled so hard in the morning, since by mid afternoon the southerly was running at 23 knots, gusting to 30. The only accommodation at Denham that night was the tent site at the caravan park. It was not easy to put up the tents in those winds, which increased again in the early evening. Some of us wondered if our tents would still be there when we returned from dinner at the pub. Sleep is not easy when being beaten around the head by flapping tent walls, so several gave up and tried their luck in their cars.

So, was it worth all the effort and pain, considering that not one of us caught a fish or donned a mask and snorkel? Absolutely! It was a great trip. For some of us, the experience of cruising along at speed under sail without even dipping a paddle made it all worthwhile. For others it was the chance to test out new gear, being able to check out the possibilities of alternative camping cuisine, or just being together with a bunch of like-minded friends, and having the confidence of knowing that there was always good leadership and support if anything had gone wrong (which it didn't). The scenery, wildlife, clean air and wide blue skies were just a bonus. Thanks to Phil Evans for an excellent job as Leader, and to all the other paddlers for their friendly support throughout the week.

Russ Hobbs



"The mottley crew"

Roger - Phil - Roz - Eric - Russ - Nathan - Laurie - Kevin - Rod - Helen

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Kayaking in San Francisco

by Judy Blight

I began my two months away with a one week stay in San Francisco. I had read an article in Sea Kayaker magazine about a guy who had paddled in the Bay and had enjoyed a trip around Alcatraz. I had also heard about the strong tides, and so being safety conscious, I decided to kayak with a company called City Kayaks who leave from the Fisherman's wharf area. I booked a half day paddle and was lucky with the weather on the day we set out. I met some interesting people from the Manhattan SKC in New York who invited me there for a paddle during their summer season (they don't paddle in Winter because the water almost freezes over). Their club is run by Eric Stiller who wrote the well known "Keep Australia on your Left". Anyway, the four of us took off with a guy who was meant to be a guide but turned out to be rather inexperienced and ran a Fawltly Towers type operation.



As we paddled toward Alcatraz I said "Is that a Ferry coming towards us"—he said "oh yes" and "sorry that I didn't mention it before". One of our group tried to sprint across in front of it and luckily just made it—with the ferry captain looking none too pleased.

The weather started to come up and the chop was quite rough as the weather in SF is a tad unpredictable. Wind funneling through the Golden Gate opposing an ebb tide creates steep, standing waves and I knew that the tide was changing. Also, in summer, fog banks come in faster than you can paddle. At several locations in the Bay, currents can get as high as 6 knots (yes, knots not kph) during extreme tides. After a few hours in the Bay I was pleased to return before the weather became really rough. It was interesting to launch from a jetty (another new skill attempted).

The best kayak store in San Francisco is across the Bay by Bart (underground train) to Oakland where the California Canoe and Kayak company has a great range of gear and runs excellent courses and hires out good kayaks. The paddling in that area is also in softer conditions and more protected from the vagaries of the weather.

Judy



SANDY'S LONG AUSTRALIA PADDLE (S.L.A.P.)

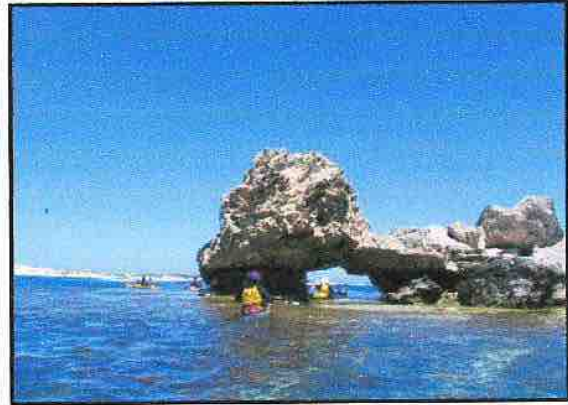
Club member Sandy Robson is planning to circumnavigate the coast of Australia by sea kayak with the aim of paddling as far around the coastline as she can in one year.

The expedition will begin in December 2006 on the Mornington Peninsular of Victoria. From there she will proceed up the east coast of Australia and circumnavigate the coastline in an anti clockwise direction paddling approximately 200 - 250 km per week..

The journey will be largely a solo undertaking although she will be supported at specific stages by fellow adventurous paddlers who will paddle with her. Logistical support will be provided by a network of people including friends, family, sea kayak clubs and interested volunteers. If you are interested in offering assistance with trip logistics such as food drops, vehicle support, accommodation or contact details of other people who may be able to assist her along the way, please contact Sandy, her contact details are as follows.

Ms. Sandy Robson, 170 Lesmurdie Road, Lesmurdie WA 6076. Phone 08 9368 9613. Mobile phone 0427 992 251. Email robsos@penrhos.wa.edu.au.

She has a website under construction - S.L.A.P. will be on the web soon.



Rottneest Island weekend 2005



FINN KAYAKS

Finn Kayaks are pleased to offer an extensive range of sea kayaks, racing kayaks, sit on kayaks and surf skis. Included in this range are the Salamander expedition sea kayak, Gecko sea kayak, Fantasea double fiberglass 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.

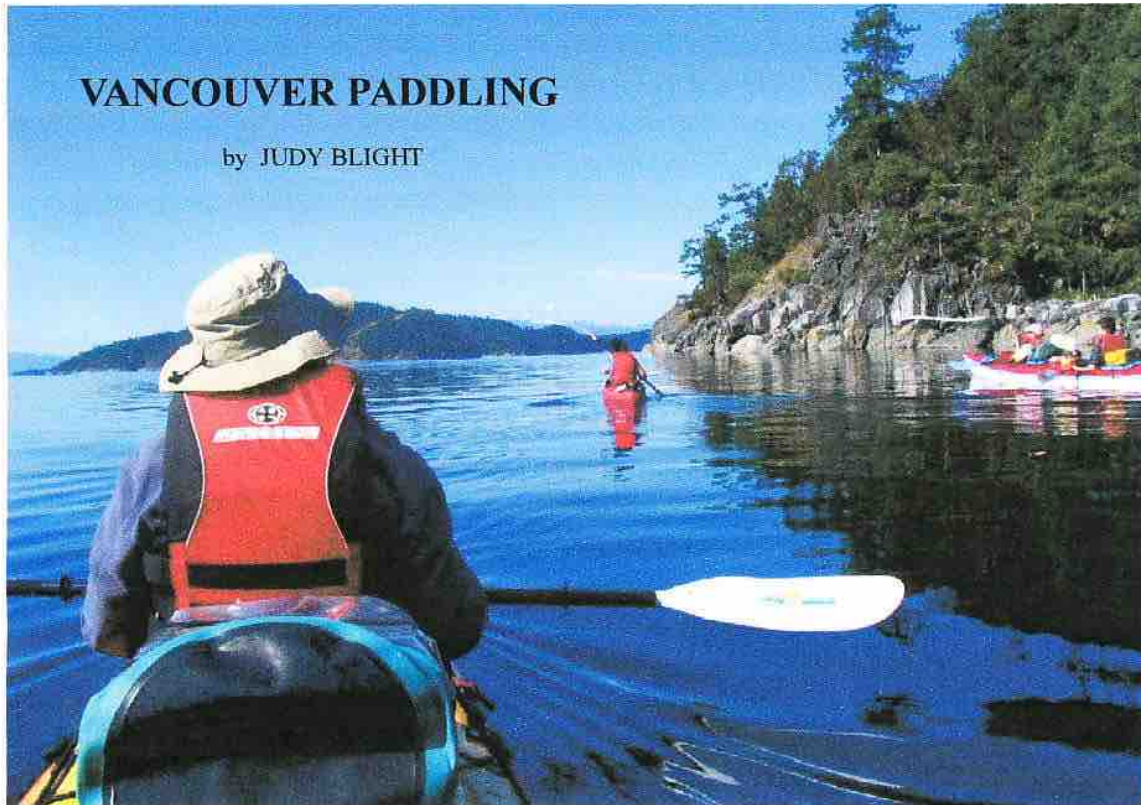
Call in and see us at

17 Sainsbury Road, O'Connor.

Phone	(08) 9314 3109
e mail	info@finnkayaks.com
Web	www.finnkayaks.com

VANCOUVER PADDLING

by JUDY BLIGHT



After leaving San Francisco I caught a train to **Seattle** (the infamous Amtrak) and then by bus to Vancouver via Seattle. North of Seattle are the famous **San Juan Islands** (172 of them) which have abundant wildlife and are a famous viewing spot for seeing the killer whales. Many of the islands are accessible by ferry and there are many kayak companies which hire out kayaks or organize trips. It is near the San Juans that the famous kayak instructor Nigel Foster lives-he actually invited me to stay (by e-mail) but unfortunately the dates weren't quite right.

The north-west of USA and the west coast of Canada are fantastic sea kayaking areas supporting large numbers of kayak outfitters. For me it was heaven to spend hours looking at all the gear I couldn't really afford and to hire various kayaks and experience paddling in kayaks with skegs instead of rudders and to paddle in kayaks that had more maneuverability than my kayak at home.

After arriving in **Vancouver** I went to the famous Eco-Marine store in Granville Island and hired a kayak to paddle around the city and into English Bay. I had to watch out for river and harbour traffic but kept clear of shipping lanes. It was summer time and so there were many kayakers enjoying the paddling. It was important to check the tides as they have much more effect on paddling than they do here in Perth. I actually won a womens 10 km. race but it was the start of their season so I probably had an advantage.



(Vancouver Paddling cont.)

My next experience was a 6 day kayaking trip to **Desolation Sound** which is situated between Vancouver Island (north) and the mainland. It was an amazing experience as the area is a marine park and so we were paddling in pristine areas with magnificent snow capped mountains as backdrop. I was the most experienced person so was able to use a single kayak for the first few days but I also enjoyed the Current Designs doubles that enabled me to take more photographs.

I learnt that beaches are not really what I call "a beach"—I was looking around for the sand but no—just a whole pile of rocks that we had to walk over and land on. None of this front on landing on white sand but only side on landings on "hard stuff." When you have flimsy thongs (the foot variety and not what Americans call thongs) you realize how stupid that decision was because you slip off every boulder and end up with scars all over your feet and ankles.

The other learning experience was the huge tidal variations. After landing we had to empty the kayaks and then we had to haul them up the slopes over rocks for about 20 metres. Nothing was easy but at least I didn't have to cook. The life of a kayak guide is definitely not easy and the money they earn is minimal.

The next amazing thing is that we were told we had to use the other side of the islands we stayed on for all ablutions and toilet visits. The latter must be on the rocks below the tidal line. This sounds easy but when you have older joints and take up strange positions on jagged rocks of varying sizes it can be much more difficult than a paddle into the wind all day. O yes—and then you had to collect the paper and burn it—sure thing.

It was fascinating to see the Bald Eagles, the seals in abundance, Dall's porpoises, Great Blue Herons and the hundreds of intertidal animals such as sea stars, sea urchins, crabs, anemone, moon jellies, tube worms, nudibranchs and sponges. Also, the intertidal plants like bull kelp and rockweed were in large amounts in some areas and in the past provided food to the first nations people who inhabited the area.

Judy.

