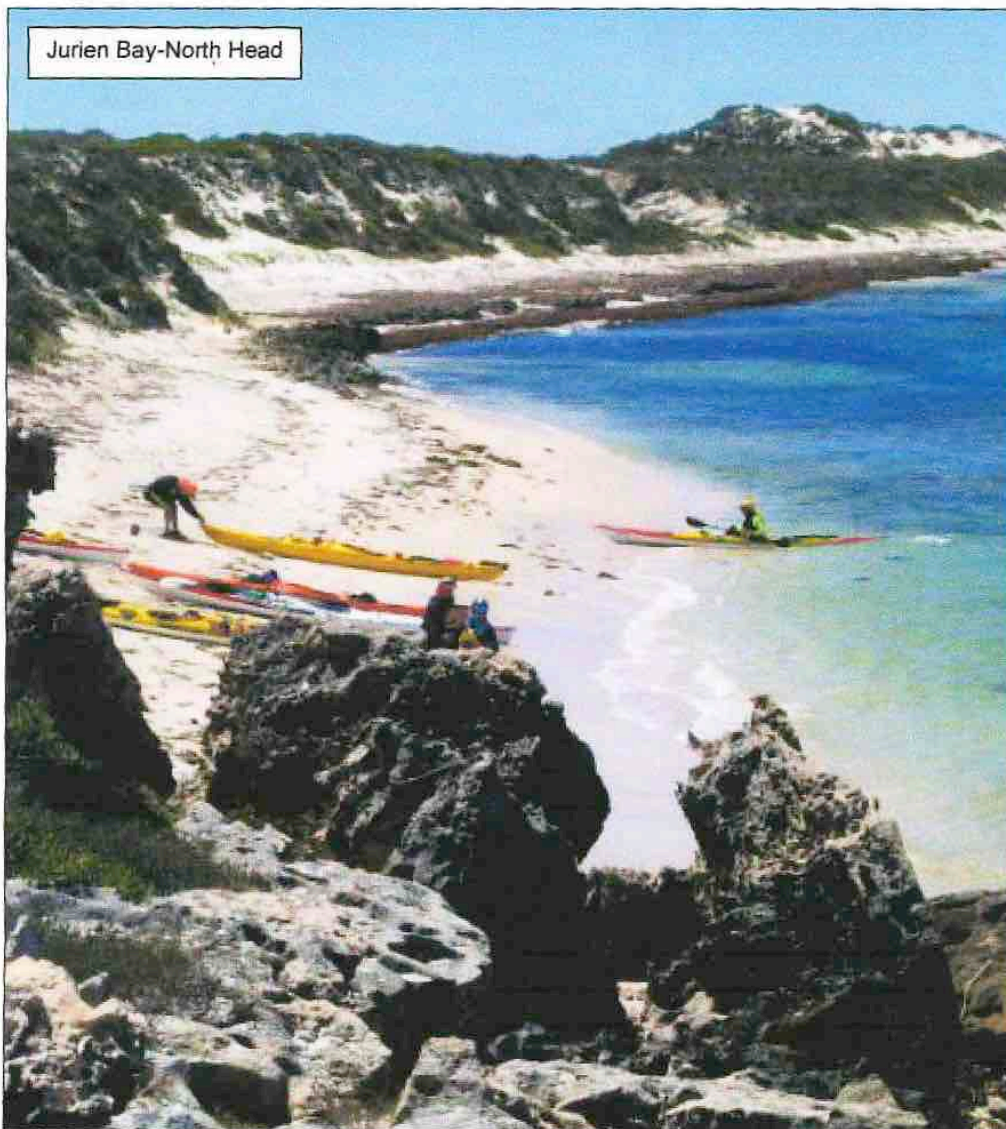


# WA Seakayaker



Jurien Bay-North Head



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SEA KAYAK CLUB WA INC. – Issue No. 65 Mar-Apr 2007

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



A couple of events happened recently that affect us as sea kayakers.

**Firstly**, we were shocked to hear of the disappearance of adventurer Andrew McAuley (a member of the NSW Sea Kayak Club) after he had nearly reached New Zealand from Tasmania and was actually within 100 km of

the coastline. Many people followed his journey every step of the way from his website so it was with amazement we heard he had vanished. After hearing about the discovery of the kayak it then led to a number of questions such as "why wasn't his Epirb attached to him?" "Had he removed his lifeline?" "Had the fatigue affected his judgement?"

The **second** big issue is the separation of the NSW Sea Kayak Club from Australian Canoeing. It is no secret that many people have been disappointed and frustrated with the performance of AC. The main gripe was that they were only interested in high performance paddlers. The NSW vote for separation was very close and we are watching with interest from afar. There will be a great deal of discussion within our club on the pros and cons of being attached to the National body.

Sandy Robson, our brave young club member is continuing her journey from Melbourne to see how far she can get along the coastline in one year. She has had a lot of help from sea kayakers across Australia which is wonderful and we wish her all the best. Check out her website and read about her clashes with blue bottles, big surf and the presence of the odd shark or two. Presently, she is heading along the north coast of NSW.

**Judy Blight**

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICE BEARERS – 2006/07

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Committee	Dave Oakley		



## NOTICEBOARD

### Duck for cover award

This award is back again and has been awarded by Phil Evans to Judy Blight for her performance at the social evening/barbecue. It was a great setting with the lake and appropriate wildlife setting the scene. Judy was rightly proud of the expensive piece of steak she had just cooked and went to top up her red wine. Suddenly, a duck appeared and was last seen dragging the large piece of steak across the lawn with Judy in pursuit yelling "Come back you B-----d"

### Club library

There are a number of DVDs available from the library which are really worth looking at. Just give Judy a ring (9433 3719) or email (carita@iinet.net.au) if you are interested in the "Kayak roll" or the latest "This Is The Sea 2". The club has "This Is The Sea 3" on order.

### Trip to Dirk Hartog

The trip to Dirk Hartog will be from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>. May. Any person interested to contact trip leader Kevin Piper by April 1st. His number is 94478623 or 0427569171. At this stage he knows that Judy, Helen, Martin, Steve and Jim may be attending.



"I think it's time we came to grips with our paddling addiction!"

## Jurien Bay Paddle and Camp, March 2-5 2007

by Martin Burgoyne



Martin takes off with his double kite (Steve Foreman)

Despite years of white water kayaking the number of self supported kayak camping trips I have done is small. The number of self supported sea kayaking trips is even smaller – zero! So the club's Jurien Bay Paddle and Camp long weekend was going to provide me with a new experience and a taste of the sort of sea kayaking adventure that I had been looking forward to.

When I sorted my gear out for the weekend and then wondered if it would all go into my kayak, I had my first surprise. It all went in and with room to spare – no worries! Even the cask of Muscat, three kites and accompanying paraphernalia, 12 litres of water, food, stove, sleeping bag, tent and the flares all disappeared in the hatches. This looked like it was going to be a relatively luxurious camping trip. A little different from white water camping trips where one had to dismantle the seat and take out the bulkheads and buoyancy to get anything in. Even then there was no water, no tent or kites and certainly no Muscat or crazy creek chair!

An early morning call on the Saturday, caused by an electricity transformer blowing up, ensured we were awake and ready for an early start. Our flotilla for the weekend consisted of Jim, Judy, John, Steve, Helen, Rod and myself. With the exception of Steve and I all had been on a similar trip in years gone by, so had stories to tell.

The Saturday morning's paddle to Boullanger Island was straight forward. My kayak even seemed to go better as it settled that bit lower in the water with its cargo. After weaving our way around Boullanger and the neighboring small islands we decided to have a look at the big swell breaking on the outer reef. We looked and looked, and considered making a dash through a gap in the breakers to the deep blue sea beyond. Picking my moment I made my dash between the breakers only to have two large ones appear as usual from nowhere. Oh dear!! But no, they were going to pass under me, and I just hoped no one was following too close or they would surely get caught. Fortunately Judy had waited and missed them otherwise it



would have been interesting! We had our morning tea which turned into lunch as well on Boullanger. Jim's beach combing provided him with a massive shell which only just went into the rear hatch.

Leaving the shelter of Boullanger behind, we decided to head towards Essex rocks as an interesting deviation on route to a camping spot on the coast south of Jurien Bay. But as the wind picked up from south west – no surprise there then, we decided to give Essex Rocks a miss and head straight for the coast. Probably a wise move as the wind increased to around 20 knots giving us a bumpy ride to the coast.

Pitching camp and seeking some shade in the trees behind the beach we had a relaxing couple of hours, before we got the itch for some more exercise. I decided to fly my kites, though I had some concerns about launching them in such a strong wind and on such a narrow beach. But as Judy and Helen had decided to go for a walk down the beach they arrived and helped me to get one kite airborne. It was going well and I was having fun – if only there was some way to harness its power to the kayak!!! The kite soon brought the rest of the boys down to see what was going on. This of course prompted me to attach a second kite and climb into the harness for some serious

space we'll try three, or may be all four, and introduce you to art and sport of power kiting!

The culinary delights of the evening meal were washed down by the contents of various casks of red wine brought by the girls, and as a desert wine we broke open my Muscat. This was particularly well received by the man with the red bandana, who as the casks were drained, somehow gained the title of the Gay American! Not sure if this had anything to do with the partial eclipse of the moon, or was it the sun, which Steve, our resident astronomer, briefed us about.

The morning's paddle was going to be out to Essex rocks, but with a forecasted strong southwesterly for mid-morning we decided to head straight to Boullanger to cut down the time we would have to paddle into a head wind. This turned out to be a wise move as the paddle across to Favorite island became a challenge as we battled against a strong 20 knot head wind. Lunch and a snooze on Favorite Island gave the wind time to drop, making the paddle across to North Point and our evening campsite straight forward. We did look at the swell and breakers around North Point but decided against paddling round the point, opting for an early camp and a swim instead.



Martin and Rod marking time before breaking into the surf.



Camping on the beach 2<sup>nd</sup> night tempting fate



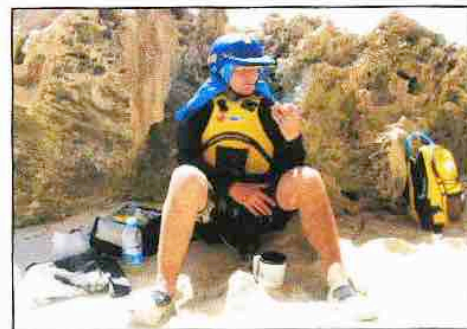
Martin, Jim and Rod unloading at first campsite



Rod taking another photo

The remains of the red wine casks, and Muscat ensured we had an enjoyable and relaxing evening meal, though the contents of Helen's food stash attracted the local colony of bees. What did she have in there?

Monday morning, and another blue sky and very little wind, a relief after the buffeting through the night. Rod's time check reminded us that we that were leaving spot on time for the paddle back to Jurien Bay. Unfortunately there was very little swell and with virtually no wind as well there were no breakers for us to play on as we paddled back. We took a route close to the shore to enjoy the



President at lunch break enjoying a treat but not looking one.  
All photos by Steve Foreman.

scenery the crystal clear water and a spot of rolling practice.

It was all over far too quickly – but now there is Dirk Hartog to look forward to!



## Headlights on satellites, and swimming in tents

### An instructor qualifying weekend

by Phil Evans

Meet at Jurien boat harbour! Simple. So four of us turned up on time and unloaded all our gear inside the harbour where we had perfect sheltered conditions. The remaining five including the assessor whistled by our location 15 minutes late and unloaded on the ocean side – what a great well organised start! Never mind. After a pre launch briefing together we split up to launch. The harbour people launched in serene conditions and paddled round to meet the rest out on the ocean. Now the fun as we set off to the West with a 15kn head wind as we headed for Favorite Island.

The plan was for a nice relaxing weekend with a few challenges so that everyone could have a pleasant holiday and the assessor could have a lazy weekend away. Nice in theory and almost like that in practice except that the conditions were more challenging than planned. Outside the reefs the swell was running around 5 metres and the wind was consistently up around the 15kn range. Nice for some but we had a few beginners with us and this was going to be interesting.

After a brief visit to Favorite Island we headed to Boullanger Island for morning tea. Along the way we closed on the reefs to watch the swell breaking over the outer areas. It was lumpy inside but no bother for anyone. The adventurous among us put our noses into the broken waters and enjoyed the moment. The journey to Hill River was shortened so that we could enjoy the reef country on the way there and then we pulled into shore for the evening. The decision was made to camp on the beach rather than behind the dunes as the sand was

a lot softer. We were only just above high tide mark on the narrow beach and had to pull the boats up close to the tents. Steve and Brad were very proud of their fresh cow flesh hanging over the sides of the pan for the first night dinner. Greg and Jane are curry experts and the delightful smells from their pot was a welcome relief from noodles and spam. Wayne had his Trangia on a piece of canvas which acted as a door mat to his tent. Great mirth erupted from everyone else except him initially as he set fire to it. He made sure it was properly extinguished later that night by welcoming a wave under his tent. I did say it was a narrow beach! Clare's boat was pivoted by a wave as well but did not float away thank goodness.

The next day saw us heading back the way we had come so that we could go to North Head for the night. There was a lot of reef time today including a few of us running up on top of the huge expanses of flat reef and enjoying the water running under us. Sometimes we sped back over the lip where the water churned in the undercut reef. Magic. Steve and Brad experimented with fishing most of this day and had great competition between themselves. They even had success! A visit to a small rocky island saw us welcomed by about 20 female sea lions. Their frolicking was an absolute delight. From Boullanger the run to North Head was a challenge for some of the group. As we cleared the most sheltered areas we had a swell of about 2.5 to 3 metres running from our beam and combined with the steady strong wind it made for a nice trip across the bay. Even more nerve racking for a couple of the group when we turned to

have following seas so we could pass around a shallower area. The following seas were not normal beginner conditions.

Our camp this night was on another narrow beach. This time a few of the group were inspired enough to tie the kayaks together and to rocks – no sense of adventure! As usual the tall stories ran thick and fast and Brad was at his entertaining best. Phil now bought out his dinner – fresh steak – on the second night of a trip? Fresh field mushrooms on the side – yep – a camp dinner from heaven. Special curries were again the order of the evening. Is it pronounced “parmissan cheese” or as someone would have us believe “Parmeesian” cheese? How can such a simple question take up so much time. Later in the evening some of the group were trying to spot satellites passing over. When Phil explained that they are only visible for a short time after sunset Clare stunned us all by stating that she thought they had headlights and that is how we could see them! This led to discussion about the need for the space station as a service centre for new batteries and light globes etc. Ohh we need no help when it comes to taking the piss. That night brought another wave lapping in under Wayne’s tent. Won’t he ever learn but once again Clare excelled by actually allowing a tongue of surf to explore the inside of her tent! It didn’t even wake her up – amazing.

Our final day and we wanted to explore around the corner of North Head. Conditions were too rough to venture around but just the thought of being close to these conditions was a bit much for the fear factor of a couple of people. It was a good experience for them to be able to paddle close to severe conditions and while being in a little bit of discomfort they were not in

danger. We eventually turned and set off for home. Once again the swell was around 2.5 metres off our starboard beam and the wind was doing it’s usual. Three of the novice paddlers followed Les for a while and they drifted a little closer to a bombie line. As to be expected a larger than average swell came through and started to break perilously close to the group. I was following a short way behind and watched them paddle over the lip just before it broke. Brad executed a perfect brace over the top just as it started to break – most impressive and from a relatively new chum as well! A bit further on a suggestion was made about a potential landing for a break. There was doubt about the ability of the group to negotiate the run of swell through the reefs and so (kamikaze) Steve volunteered to go in. It was a long wait until he finally stood on the beach and even longer before he rejoined us. No one else was going in!!!! Within a kilometre of the finish Jane developed a bad case of seasickness. Talk about real life scenarios for a test. Les supported and comforted her as Rod towed them towards the shore. After the release of the tow she made a perfect landing through the break and we had about an hour of looking after her in the shelter behind the dunes. Finally she walked the last stretch to Jurien boat harbour and her kayak was towed home empty.

Coffee after in the town was a fitting finish to what was an eventful but thoroughly enjoyable weekend and I somehow passed the test to now be an instructor!

(Footnote: satellites travel relatively close to Earth and fall into it’s shadow within a short time after sunset. That is why you only see them for up to an hour or so after sunset)



## Nepal White Water Kayak/Rafting Trip – Sun Khosi October 2007 Martin Burgoyne

I have organised a few white water kayaking trips over the years and we often end up with a multi-national group, as friends ask friends, and then they pass it on to their friends. I currently have 6 people interested in the trip and a few maybes. Mainly kayakers though some may want to crew a paddle raft or ride on the gear raft. On the last trip – there were quite a few couples with girlfriends/partners who then formed the crew for a guided paddle raft - many hadn't rafted before and really loved it. So that's an option if you have friends/partners interested.

I have paddled quite a few rivers in Nepal over the years but always left the Sun Khosi for another year. It's possibly the mellowest/easiest of the big multi-day trips. You may be aware that the Sun Khosi is a classic of Nepal and to quote the guide book ....*'one of the ten best white water rafting trips in the world. Big rapids, warm water, beautiful scenery and great camping make this a classic multi day river trip. A great trip for intermediate and advanced kayakers. At its best in medium to high flows'*.

It is mainly big volume grade 3 / 4- (minus), with one rapid Hakapur down as grade 5- (minus). It is walkable if you don't fancy it on the day, but then so much depends on the water levels and how late the monsoon rains lasted. The river runs at a monster 2400 cumecs in August but then drops down to 800 in October and then down again to 400 in November. Hence the time to paddle is mid-late October or early November, the level is dropping, the air is clean and clear



Martin Burgoyne

and so are the beaches. In October it starts at around 100 cumecs at Sukhute Beach, and builds to around 500 cumecs (15,000cfs) as you go down stream. It's a safe river and they actually do introductory kayak courses as part of a river trip if people want.

If you want more info try 'White Water Nepal', the guide book by Peter Knowles. Get the second edition ISBN 0-9519413-3-X I got the first edition back in the early 90's and it was inspirational and lead to another four trips to Nepal and other places in the Himalayas!

Equator are the company who will do the trip logistics for us – possibly the best in Nepal, and with a world wide reputation. They provide the camping gear, food, gear rafts, cook boys etc etc so we can paddle with empty boats! You just take personal paddling gear. For more information look at the Equator website.

[www.equatorexpeditionsnepal.com](http://www.equatorexpeditionsnepal.com)  
[www.equatorexpeditions.com](http://www.equatorexpeditions.com)  
[www.nepalgate.com](http://www.nepalgate.com)

Equator also provide the kayaks and have a reasonable range to choose from.

The programme and costs including kayak hire are below. There is also a possible down hill mountain bike ride to the put in for any one interested. You can save a bit by taking the gear bus, overnight and very bumpy, back to Kathmandu instead of flying from Biratnagar. **Note** that you can do the trip in a 2 week break, - flying out to Nepal on the Saturday or Sunday returning two weeks later.

If you have the time you may want to do some other rivers while you are over there - Equator can provide the boat and you can either join a raft trip on another rivers, or do your own thing on local transport – very easy and cheap. Or you can go trekking Again Equator can help or it's just as easy to do your own thing.

If you need any more information please contact me on 9525 9280 or email me at [madburg@westnet.com.au](mailto:madburg@westnet.com.au)

### **Sun Khosi Programme**

Mon 15 Oct – Day 1  
Arrive Kathmandu. Hotel at Kathmandu  
Tues 16 Oct – Day 2  
Bus to Sukhute Beach  
Warm up paddle on Upper Sun Khosi or Balephi Khosi  
Sukhute Beach camp  
Wed 17 Oct – Day 3  
Start Sun Khosi trip from Sukhute Beach - probably after lunch.  
Thurs 18 – 24 Oct – Day 4 to 10  
On the Sun Kosi - kayak, raft and play.  
Thurs 25 Oct – Day 11  
Paddle out to Chatra  
Bus to Biratnagar  
Fly back to Kathmandu  
Hotel  
Fri 26 Oct – Day 12  
Free in Kathmandu for what ever takes your fancy!  
Hotel  
Sat 27 Oct  
Bye Bye!!

### **Costing for Sun Khosi**

6 people US \$ 700 per person  
7 to 12 person = US \$ 650 per person  
13 and above = US \$ 600 per person

### **Cost Includes**

1. B & B accommodation on Twin sharing in Standard hotel in Kathmandu
2. Full board at Suket Beach
3. Full board on the river
4. Kayak hire
5. Raft support
6. Transfer to and from the airport
7. Transport in Nepal (e.g. internal flight back to Kathmandu from Biratnagar)
8. Flight ticket from Biratnagar / Kathmandu