

The official newsletter of the Victorian Sea Kayak Club Inc.



Sea Trek

November 1997 Issue 29

Contents

November Issue No 29

Keep sending the articles. On disk would be great. PC or Macintosh-disks will be returned.
Pease send all articles to Chris Sewell.
6 The Grange Bairnsdale 3875.
Fax (051) 568759

Alternatively email your article to
lofty@netspace.net.au

Deadline for next issue January 1998

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Club news

New Members

We welcome the following new members

Glen Evans
7 Dingley Street
Lower Templestowe 3107.
(W) 0418 5400 87. (H) (03) 9850 4588.

Dean Cahill
7 Jack Street
Newport 3015.
(W) (03) 9399 3640. (H) (03) 9741 1822.

Ian Jones
10 Campbell St
Coburg 3058.
(W) (03) 9383 7237.

Jan and Michael Sexton.
Tucks Rd
Shoreham 3916
(W) 0359 892077. (H) 0359 898315.

and events

This issue

The warm weather has certainly produced many people taking their craft onto the water. The AGM-weekend saw many people coming out on two interesting paddles with 16 participants on Saturday and 14 on Sunday. See this issue for a review of both trips.

The past year has seen a limited number of trip reports published in Sea Trek. I need your help! This year I am hoping to get a more thorough report on paddles you have done or attempted. Information should include participants, weather encountered, tide and wave conditions. This will help the club in formulating skills training by collection of such information. Trip reports of non club trips are also appreciated.

Chris Sewell

**Memberships subscriptions are
now due, see back page.**

Front Page - Rod Cope - near Tasman Arch Tasmania.
All photographs are taken with a Nikonos 4A camera.

Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Sea Kayak Club Inc.

Saturday 8th November, 1997

Meeting start 3.25 pm

Welcome to all members who attended the meeting and special guests.

Members present: John Hyndman, Therese Pollard, Chris Sewell, John Basemore, Brian Wallace, Ian Dunn, Ian Hill, Peter Torokfalvy, Joe De-Vos, Bob Adams, Ian Jones, Paul Buchhorn, Steve Weston, James Weston, Glen Cant, Pete Dingle, Dean Cahill, Laurie Ford, Cecily Butouic, Anna Buchhorn, Rex Brown, Bill Robinson, Tina Rowley, Julian Smith, Ray Musgrave, Mike Cromie, Glen Evans, Eleanor Hughes, Robert Dewhurst.

Apologies: Jan and Michael Sexton, Michael Loftus-Hills, Mal Cowell, Keith & Robyn Anker, Leigh Brennan-Smith, Ray Lendrum, Pierre Fabrice, Jane Sullivan, Hrvoje Miskov, John Stomps, Tony Payne, Peter Maganor, Keith Mitchiner, Derek Wigley

Minutes previous meeting
Accepted

Presidents report
Copy sent to members prior to AGM Accepted

Treasurers report
Copy sent to members prior to AGM Accepted

Business arising
EPERB: Mal Cowell can purchase personal EPERP at the cost of 5 X \$270 each. Moorabbin Airport are selling them for \$250 plus tax. If they are purchased for club trip use can the club forego sales tax?

Treasurers Report
What were the costs incurred on the skills day in February.
Answer: Banners and signs. These were purchased for the club to use on future occasions as well. The club also received payments from the commercial businesses that displayed on the day.

Correspondence
VCA – seeking confirmation of membership, representation and insurance, etc.
ORCA- New leadership qualifications for outdoor activities. ACB qualifications may now be overseen by ORCA.

Election of office bearers

President
Therese Pollard Moved by Ray Musgrave, Seconded Mike Cromie

Vice president

Julian Smith Moved by John Basemore, Seconded John Hyndman

Secretary/treasurer/public officer

Ray Musgrave Moved by Rex Brown, Seconded John Hyndman

Trip/technical adviser

Ian Hill Moved by Glen Cant, Seconded Mike Cromie

Editor

Chris Sewell Moved by Brian Wallace, Seconded Rex Brown

Assistant & layout editor

Michael Loftus-Hills Moved by Chris Sewell, Seconded Ray Musgrave

Equipment officer

Ray Musgrave Moved by Chris Sewell, Seconded John Hyndman

General business

Coming Club Events

To be updated every magazine, instead of yearly program. Trips can be added throughout the year. Contact Ray Musgrave to include your proposed trips.

Canadian Bay Boat Club

Bill Robinson offered to trial a regular (every two weeks) paddle from the Canadian Bay Boat Club at Mt Eliza. Bill is a member of the club (President) and sign in people to use the facilities. Bill to put onto program.

International Sea Kayak Signals

Everyone accepted that when under distress or in any rough conditions it would not be possible to make the suggested signals. It was stressed that the group should keep together and keep in visual and verbal contact on a regular basis. Let someone know where you are.

Discussion on using Coast Guard radio network and Police to monitor the return of members on a trip. The general feeling was that this was not suitable and could cause a rush of unnecessary searches. The weather and conditions can quickly change and the group may be forced to stop for shelter. You are responsible for your own safety – don't go out if you cannot cope with the situation. You should not expect someone else to be there to rescue you. Before you go let someone know where you are going. (Advice from Rex Brown)

Flinders Island – Tasmania

There is a supply boat that regularly (every 2 weeks?) travels from Welshpool, Flinders Island, Cape Baren Island and Bridport (Tas mainland). At the moment it can take 1-2 passengers (need to book well ahead). Apparently next year it may be able to carry up to 14 passengers.

Special business

Training needs of club members
PETER DINGLE

MOTION: The VSKC undertake Pete Dingle's survey of training and trip requirements. Moved Rex Brown, Seconded Ian Dunn.

A questionnaire was distributed and members asked to answer questions and rate themselves. This information is to be used to assess how you feel you are going with your kayaking and what style of kayaking you enjoy.

The membership of the club is growing and we need to take care that the club is fulfilling the general needs of the membership.

We need to follow up members who need training and encourage them to attend training programs.

A comment was made to Pete that a check list of skills could be provided (for self assessment?).

The best way to learn is by attending training events and learning the skills correctly.

Guest speaker

Laurie Ford – Mattsaayker Sea Kayak Club.

We were very lucky to have Laurie attend our meeting and give an inspirational talk about his club and activities. Some of his comments were:

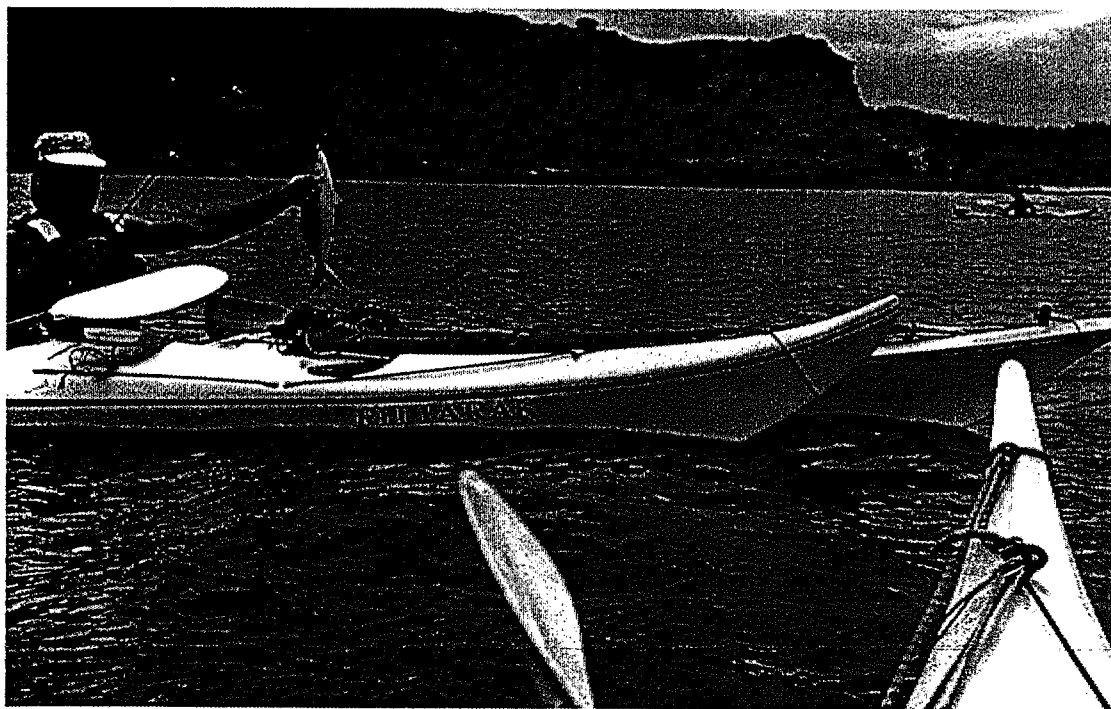
*Deleted: Quoted by Paul Stanger.
not Laurie Ford.*

If you think you need an EPERB – what are you doing there?!

Don't put anyone at risk – if you can't do it, don't go.

What is a leader – ability to successfully lead a trip to Matsayker Island (SW Tasmania).

Meeting closed 4.30 pm



John Hyndman shows off his dinner – Storm Bay Derwent Estuary. Photo – Pete Dingle

Membership survey & training scheme

In this Sea Trek there is a membership survey. Please complete it as soon as possible and return to:

VSKC
PO Box 426
Seaford
3198.

The sooner we get them back the quicker the club can get a training scheme up and running that will suit membership. So please take the time to fill out and return.

Sea Trek needs You!

We need your input. Have you thought about contributing to the world famous Sea kayak newsletter. Club trips, your thoughts on sea kayaking, please contribute. Hand written is ok however on disk would be great (with hard copy) Send your articles to CHRS Sewell (see address on index page)

Victorian Sea Kayak Club Paddling Agenda

Nov 1997 / March 98

Suggested Equipment list

- Well maintained sea kayak with bulkhead(s) and buoyancy.
- Safety Essentials; To be carried on all off – shore trips.
- PFD (Buoyancy vest, in good condition & correctly fitted).
- Bilge pump and/or baler and sponge.
- Bow and stern toggles (in preference to loops).
- Decklines (minimum 8mm rope).
- Spraydeck (correct fit & in good condition).
- Sprayjacket (wind proof & accessible at all times).
- Sun-protection (hat & unblock).
- Drinking water (accessible at sea).
- High energy snack (accessible at sea).
- Throw / tow-line (with adequate anchor points).
- Basic first-aid kit (plus personal medication).
- Survival kit (including emergency bag / shelter).
- Waterproof light.
- Compass.
- Thermal clothing.
- Maps and charts relevant to area.
- Repair kit.
- Whistle and signalling device (attached to PFD).

Safety Desirables: (particularly for trips to remote areas).

- Flares.
- 27 mhz or VHF marine radio
- Mobile phone (not to replace the marine radio but adjunct).
- EPIRB (now a legal requirement if more than three kilometres offshore except the Bays.)
- Spare paddle.
- Paddle float.
- Transistor radio (receiving weather reports).
- Strobe-light.

Paddler magazine

The VCA publishes the Paddler magazine six times per year. Find out about all aspects of canoeing in Victoria. For more details contact the VCA on 9459 4277

1 Port Phillip Bay

Date: Sunday 21st December 97.

Contact: Bill Robinson (H) (03) 9787-4704. (W) (03) 9787-3444.

Where: Canadian Bay Boat Club. (melways 101.D/10.)

Time: Meet 10-00am at club house.

Distance: Depending on the day will head either towards Mornington or Seaford, and return to Canadian Bay.

Approx 22 kilometres round trip.

Comments: This paddle is aimed at novices who wish to pick up a few clues and idea's from other paddlers with a strong emphasis on sea kayaking safety. One of the best ways to learn about sea kayaking is to get out and do it. Forward strokes and support strokes can be shown plus rescues at sea. These will be done near the boat club for those wishing to partake.

Showers and BBQ facilities are available at the club house at the end of the day.

2 Western Port Bay.

Date: Sunday 11th January 98.

Contact : Mike Cromie (03) 9878-4582.

Where: Warneet to BHP Jetty or Hastings or Tooradin and return to Warneet.

Time: 9-00am at the Jetty or Yacht club at Warneet. (melway 142. E/11).

Distance: Warneet to BHP and return, approx 25 kilometres.

Warneet to Tooradin and return, approx 25 kilometres.
Comments: This paddle will suit most people wishing to have a look at one of Melbourne's better waterways. The reason for two choices is dependent on weather and tidal effects on the outcome. Its suitable for beginners upwards. A reasonable degree of fitness is required its not a strenuous paddle but tide and wind can make it interesting. See how other paddlers set their boats up it a great chance to meet and talk to other members. If you have any doubt about your ability or want further information please contact Mike Cromie.

3. Port Phillip Bay.

Date: Sunday 18th January 1998

Contact: Bill Robinson (H) (03) 9787-4704. (W) (03) 9787-3444.

Where: Canadian Bay Boat Club. (melways 101.D/10.)

Time: Meet 10-00am at club house.

Distance: Depending on the day will head either towards Mornington or Seaford, and return to Canadian Bay.

Approx 22 kilometres round trip.

Comments: This paddle is aimed at novices who wish to pick up a few clues and idea's from other paddlers with a strong emphasis on sea kayaking safety. One of the best

Paddling Agenda cont.

ways to learn about sea kayaking is to get out and do it. Forward strokes and support strokes can be shown plus rescues at sea these will be done near the boat club for those wishing to partake.

Showers and BBQ facilities are available at the club house at the end of the day.

4. Wilsons Promontory.

Date: Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th .Monday 26th. 1998 Australia Day Weekend.

Contact: Ray Musgrave. (03) 5975-2414.

Where: Port Welshpool to Johnny Souey Cove or Five Mile Beach.

Time: At the present time 8-00 am at Port Welshpool long pier near caravan park.

Departure time will depend on tides.

Distance: Approx 27 kilometre's to Johnny Souey 29 kilometre's to Camp site at 5 mile beach one way.

Same distance on return.

Comments: A maximum of 12 paddlers can be on this trip as I will organise 2 groups of 6 paddlers as that is the maximum the parks will allow per permit per site cost at present is \$4-00 per person /night. I envisage 6 experienced paddlers to 6 paddlers with basic skills who wish to see this part of the coast. A reasonable degree of fitness is required especially on the crossing from Port Welshpool to Entrance Point can be quite windy – requires head down and keep paddling, these conditions are generally worse on the return trip. Weather permitting a trip out to Rabbit Island is well worth it – especially on the Bass Strait aspect. We have found over the last few years it's a must to take drinking water. So please don't hesitate to call as positions fill fast. (03) 5975-2414.

There is a caravan park at Port Welshpool for those wishing to go down on Friday night. We generally meet at a pub on Friday this time at the Port Welshpool pub. Cars can also be left at the park for the duration of the trip.

5. Novice day. Port Phillip Bay.

SATURDAY 31 ST JANUARY 1998.

TIME. 10-00am

RICKETTS POINT BEAUMARIS. (melways 86 C/9.)

This is at present the only time the club puts on a general public display of sea kayaks. Its open to all members and friends as well as the general public. We hope to have some instructors giving advice and demonstrating the skills required in sea kayaking. Its an excellent chance to meet other members swap stories see how other people set up their boats. We also might have some retailers showing their wares. If there is enough interest a paddle can be organised to HMVS Cerberus at Half Moon Bay and return.

Will have demonstrations of setting up kayaks for touring, Reading of tides Weather information. Etc.

For further information please contact Ray Musgrave (H) (03) 5975-2414 or Mike Cromie (03) 9878-4582

6. Port Phillip Bay

Date: Sunday February 8th 1998.

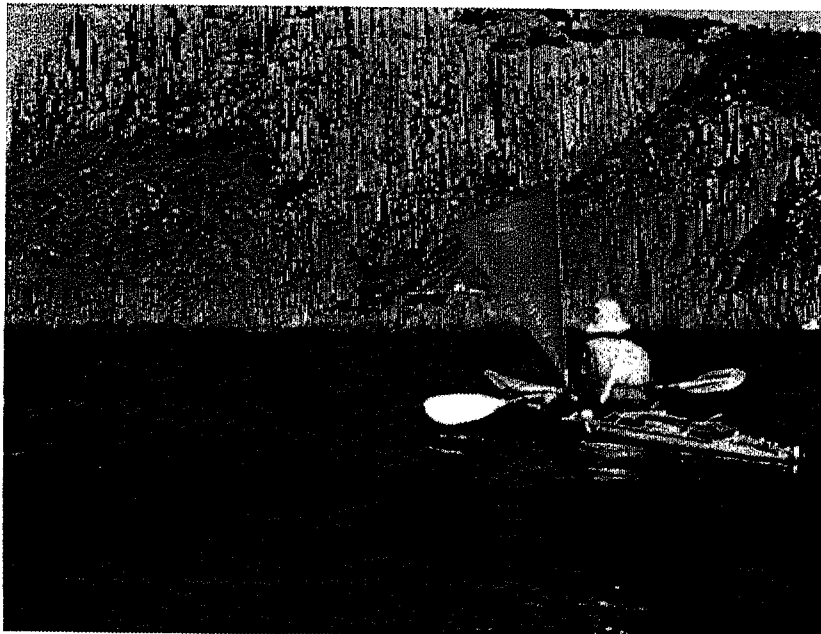
Contact: Julian Smith. H (03) 9776-9583. W (03) 9702-8000.

Where: Patterson Lakes Frankston- Patterson Lakes. (melway 97. G/8. ?)

Time: 10-00 am at Palm Beach Drive Patterson Lakes.

Distance: 22 Kilometres.

Comments: Another excellent paddle suitable for beginners up see parts of this world you may never see again. A quiet paddle in the lakes then out onto the Bay.



Mike Emery off the Tasman Peninsula.
Photo – John Hyndman

Your subscriptions are due!. See back page for details.

Paddling Agenda cont.

7. Port Phillip Bay.

Date: Sunday 15th February 1998.

Contact: John Hyndman. H (03) 9499-1084. W (03) 9270-1411.

Where: Sorrento- Mud Island- South Channel Fort- Sorrento.

Time: 9-00am at Sorrento Front Beach. (melway 157. About C/8).

Distance: 20 Kilometres.

Comments: A great part of the Bay to paddle the bird life at mud island is great. And a chance to visit the ruins of the South Channel Fort, or how we were going to stop the Russian's invading in the 1800's. If we are lucky enough a chance to paddle with the Dolphins. As we have found in the past if you plan trip to see them you don't this time play hard to get and they will be there.

8. Port Phillip Bay.

Date: Sunday 22nd February 1998

Contact: Bill Robinson. (H) (03) 9787-4704. (W) (03) 9787-3444.

Where: Canadian Bay Boat Club. (melways 101.D/10.)

Time: Meet 10-00am at club house.

Distance: Depending on the day and what fellow paddlers want to do, either go for a paddle or learn more about paddle strokes, rescue techniques, or what ever the members want within reason of course. **Comments:** This paddle is aimed at novices who wish to pick up a few clues and idea's from other paddlers with a strong emphasis on sea kayaking safety. One of the best ways to learn about sea kayaking is to get out and do it. Forward strokes and support strokes can be shown plus rescues at sea these will be done near the boat club for those wishing to partake. Showers and BBQ facilities are available at the club house at the end of the day.

9. Snake Island. (Corner Inlet/Port Albert).

Date: Saturday 14th / Sunday 15th March.

Contact: Brian Wallace. (H) (03) 5156-0544.

Where: Snake Island (Corner Inlet/Port Albert area).

Time: At the present time 8-00 am at Port Welshpool long pier near caravan park.

Departure time will depend on tides.

Distance: 45 Kilometres Port Welshpool – Snake Island ^ Port Welshpool.

Comments: An excellent paddle for those wishing to extend themselves that little bit more. Because of some of the conditions expected to be encountered, possible surf and waves up to a couple of meters it is envisaged paddlers with some surf skills and a degree of fitness would participate. An overnight on snake island possibly at Clonmel Banks. There is a caravan park at Port Welshpool for those wishing to go down on Friday night.

We generally meet at a pub on Friday this time at the Port Welshpool pub. Cars can also be left at the park for the duration of the trip.

10. Port Phillip Bay.

Date: Sunday 22nd March 1998

Contact: Bill Robinson (H) (03) 9787-4704. (W) (03) 9787-3444.

Where: Canadian Bay Boat Club. (melways 101.D/10.)

Time: Meet 10-00am at club house.

Distance: Depending on the day will head either towards Mornington or Seaford, and return to Canadian Bay.

Approx 22 kilometres round trip.

Comments: This paddle is aimed at novices who wish to pick up a few clues and idea's from other paddlers with a strong emphasis on sea kayaking safety. One of the best ways to learn about sea kayaking is to get out and do it. Forward strokes and support strokes can be shown plus rescues at sea these will be done near the boat club for those wishing to partake. Showers and BBQ facilities are available at the club house at the end of the day.

Paddles for March will be in the next edition of Sea Trek.

Notice of intended paddles:

- Anzac Weekend. Julian Smith.
- July school holidays: Whitsunday – Mal Cowell.

Team Black Betty

Needs two male paddlers and one female paddler to compete in a team of 8 in the mixed open relay section in a Mirage double sea kayak.

Each team member will paddle about 20km a day and will have a team uniform, camp at various towns along the Murray, and enjoy a great life experience.

Please call Bruce Charlton on
(BH) 9781 4066
(AH) 0359 750 709

Environment Conservation Council's Investigation of Victoria's Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Areas.

Report on a public meeting held at Point Nepean
Visitor's Centre on 12th November 97 (5.00pm).

Originally there was a survey done by the Land Conservation Council, "Investigation of Victoria's Marine Coastal and Estuarine Areas". In June 1997, the Land Conservation Act (1970) was repealed and replaced by the Environment Conservation Council Act. Under this act, the Land Conservation Council (LCC) ceased and the Environment Conservation Council (ECC) was established to respond to specific references from the Minister of Conservation and Land Management. Prior to June 1997, the VSKC put two submissions into the LCC on how the proposed changes could affect us. On the surface it will not affect us in marine parks with the exception of sanctuary areas within those parks. These are a 'no take' area (fish, shellfish etc). "Boating and other forms of low impact recreation will generally be allowed". I brought this point up at the meeting mentioning the low impact of sea kayaking on the type of environment the ECC wishes to achieve. From what I understand, marine parks will also extend 1km inshore from high tide mark which might affect camping at a later date. I could not get a yes, no or even a maybe regarding permission for future use of these areas. Another point I raised was the use of "wind surfing, sailing or other non-motorised boating" which will be permitted both outside and inside sanctuary zones. Also mentioned is the "use of personal water craft (eg jet skis) not permitted outside or within the sanctuary zones. Under which category was sea kayaking placed? I was informed under the "wind surfing, sailing or other non-motorised boating".

The point has to be underlined in the previous submissions, but it is most important the point is stressed that sea kayaking is an environmentally conscious activity which impacts a lot less than other non-motorised activities. This way a point is again written into the minutes of a meeting. All it takes is the slip of a pen by a bureaucrat and we are classed as threatening.

A personal view is the marine park with sanctuary zone will not greatly affect sea kayaking – at the present time or in the near future. However there could be repercussions by blatant disregard of Marine Park Sanctuary Zone rules and regulations by either club members, or non-club members which will still reflect on sea kayaking as a whole.

Sincerely yours,
Ray Musgrave.

A letter to the Victorian Coastal Conference
re -Seakayaking on the Victorian Coast

Dear Sir / madam,

Unfortunately, the Victorian Sea Kayak Club (VSKC) is unable to send a representative to the Victorian Coastal Conference on Nov. 19 – 21 at Lorne.

The VSKC however feels that it could have some input into this or future such Conferences, either through presenting a session or display.

The VSKC has been in existence for some 20 years. Our membership paddles the Victorian bays and coastline on organised Club trips every fortnight, and have learnt something about journeying in Victorian waters. Though our Club started out as addressing purely recreational needs, the membership interests have now become more diverse. With this diversity, past attitudes and practices, like most community organisations, have been challenged and changed.

Membership activities now include running introductory sea kayaking sessions for new members, training sessions in rescue and safety, day and overnight tours, interstate paddles, night paddles, island visits, dolphin, penguin, seal and whale paddles, surf skill sessions, coastal history tours (shipwreck, naval, boating, lighthouse,), special interest trips – fishing, photography, rockpool studies, aboriginal middens, coastal 'bush-food' and environmental (bird watching, geological).

Though we are relatively new at the concept of using well the medium of sea kayaks to learn about and know our magnificent coastline, we are becoming increasingly aware of the environmental degradation and destruction of the areas we visit and camp at. Though minimum impact camping and journeying is a focus of the Club, we are alarmingly aware of how there is little public concern or understanding of the role of the local ocean in OUR ecosystem – we are desperately in need of a maritime equivalent of the public concern over the effects that deforestation has on our well-being and lifestyle.

Further coastal management is clearly needed and we would like to play our part in making the coast a better place for all users while still addressing the issues of sustainability, access and impact.

I wish you well with your conference. Could you please forward any papers (or let me know how to obtain them) that are presented. I am happy to pay.

Let me know if you think the VSKC can contribute to any future sessions.

Peter Dingle.

A letter to the committee

by Robert Dewhurst

After reading Pete Dingle's eloquent piece in the newsletter, I decided to put some of my ideas about the club down on paper. I think that there is a need for the club to operate as a communication connection via the newsletter, and as an activities organiser. From my point of view the newsletter side of things is running well and has no need to change. However if the club decides to operate as a more structured and active organisation these are a few of my suggestions and ideas which I'd like to put forward:-

1. I would like to see the club more frequently have paddles in challenging areas ie. like the private trip run by members to Croajingalong.

2. In regard to safety on club paddles; because of the potential dangers which could even result in fatality, I believe there is a need to keep safety standards high. This means that the boundaries of personal stamina and adventure may be pushed, while ensuring risks are minimised. I propose that the club could purchase items which can be carried by the organiser or coordinator of any club paddle:-

- Spare paddle
- Flares
- Hand held marine radio
- First aid kit

Although these items might be thought of as necessary for all paddlers, not all paddlers carry them and it is better to have one person with these than none.

If the club members decide they would like to be more active as paddlers, the following points might help activities along:-

1. A grading system to grade paddlers for different trips.

2. More skills days. eg Like the surf skills day run by Derek Wrigley.

3. Other skills courses eg first aid, navigation, boat repairs, etc.

4. Purchase of a double kayak which may be used to initiate beginners.

5. Fund raising.

6. Purchase of an EPIRB which may be available for club members to rent on more extensive trips where this may be required.

Thanks to the committee members for all their hard work and thanks for giving me an opportunity to voice my suggestions. Any help I can give towards the club I would only be too willing. Safe paddling – thanks for listening.

Queensland's New Boating and Safety Equipment Regulations

Chris Sewell

from the "Claytons Cub" newsletter – Brisbane

Queensland's Transport Dept has introduced new boating regulations as on 1st November 1997. On the spot fines for failing to comply with these regulations have come into force. I'm not sure of the following definitions of 'water', but probably mean lakes and small bays, and estuaries, open water in large embayments (Harvey Bay/ Keppel Bay) and open water. Best to check it out

Smooth Water

- signalling device (torch, cylaume stick) between sunset and sunrise

- PFD 1,2,3

- sailing equipment

- anchor with 18m cable

- paddles

- drinking water

Partially Smooth Water

- signalling devices (as above)

- PFD 1,2

- V Sheet, flares (2 red, 2 orange smoke hand flares)

- map and compass

- bailing equipment

- anchor and 27m cable

- paddles

- drinking water

Outside Smooth and Partially Smooth Water more than 2 Nautical miles from Land

- signalling devices (as above)

- PFD 1

- V Sheet, flares (2 red, 2 orange smoke hand flares)

- map and compass

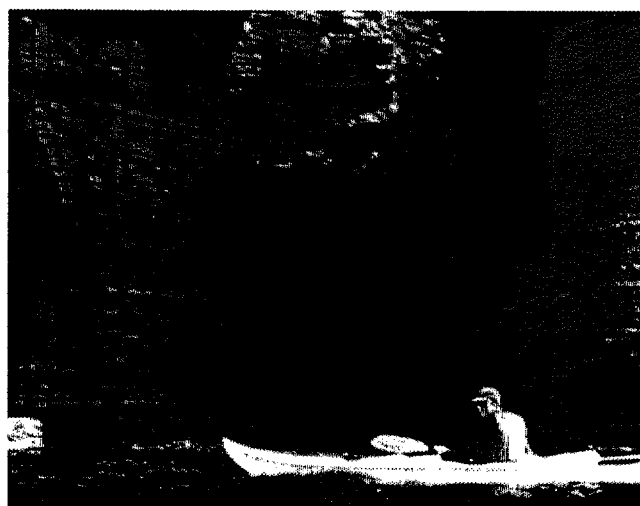
- bailing equipment

- anchor and 27m cable

- paddles

- drinking water

- EPIRB



Off the Tasman Peninsula – Photo John Hyndman

Saturday 8th – paddle before AGM. Ray Musgrave

Participants:

John Hyndman Greenlander
 Therese Pollar & Chris Sewell Tasman Twin
 Brian Wallace Pitterack with moulded foot hump
 Ian Dunne Skerry
 Bob Adams Cape Charles design (made a nice job of it)
 Laurie Ford A hybrid of a racing kayak
 Rex Brown Greenlander
 Bill Robinson Hybrid of a Cape Charles (?) A kayak that has won its class in the Murray Marathon. Handled up to 3 metre seas so far.
 Tina Rawley Arctic Raider
 Julian Smith Roscoe
 Ray Musgrave Greenlander
 Mike Cromie Greenlander
 Glen Evans Strip cedar, cannot remember type of boat. very well made and handled up to 3 metres well on Saturday and Sunday.
 Eleanor Hughes Mirage 19
 Robert Dewhurst Pitterack (?)

Met at Flinders Pier car park, supposedly at 9.00am, but typical of a large group of paddlers we got on the water by 10.30 am. Weather was not conducive to paddling around to Cape Schanck so it was decided to paddle to Point Leo and return to Flinders. The group sort of stayed together, with Mike Cromie checking out and encouraging the newer members of the club from behind to ensure their safe progress. Seas were running up to 1.5 metres with wind blowing from the south.

After a briefing we headed off, a pleasant paddle was had towards Shoreham and Point Leo. Kept well out to sea from Shoreham to Point Leo because of a large number of reefs, which could be seen by breaking waves. Occasionally a large wave

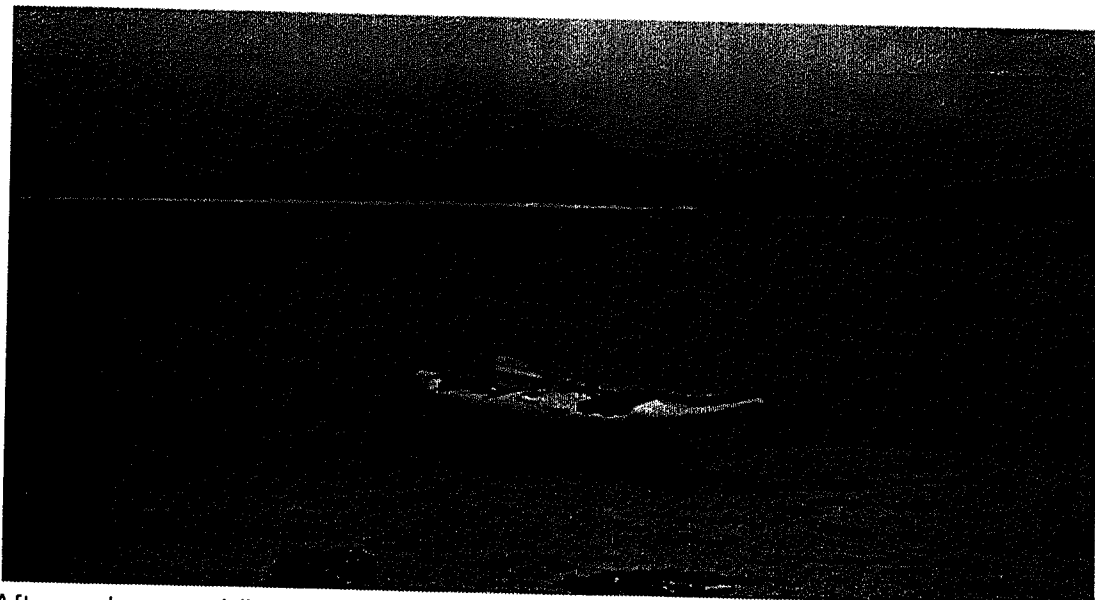
would rise up off a shoal without breaking which makes for interesting paddling, people get to read the water. Rounded the head at Point Leo and proceeded into a sheltered inlet ant East Creek Beach. Near Point Leo Yacht Club. Pulled into the rocky beach and had lunch. After lunch, headed back to Flinders into a headwind. Paddling into wind and waves gives a different perspective to sea kayaking. After a couple of hours, made it back to Flinders. Some then went out to the point at Gunnery and practised surf skills. A good paddle was had by all and a good point was made by Laurie Ford that its not up to the slower paddlers to catch up to the more experienced, by for the more experienced to wait, or come back to make sure the integrity of the group is upheld. A point on which many of us agree

Sunday AGM Paddle John Hyndman

On the Sunday of the AGM weekend thirteen kayaks and fourteen keen paddlers, (some even 'battle-scarred' from the evening before's tussle with the 'demon booze'), set out to peruse the Bass Strait coast between Flinders and Simmons Bay.

The weather was fine and mild and the sea calm, with a forecast of light sth/easterlies, swinging to the nth/east in the afternoon, with sea breezes less than 15 knots. Ideal conditions for those with no ocean paddling behind them. A typical base swell for this area is around two to three meters and Sunday was right on par.

As we rounded West Head we were greeted by the neat little 'stand-up' waves that occur when the strong ebb-tide is in conflict with the sth/westerly running swell pattern, and shrieks of joy were heard in abundance, as one-after-the-other, we all came through unscathed. I recall ploughing through the curling crest of a two meter swell, and slapping down into the following trough, then, looking back over my left shoulder to see how the following flotilla fared. The sight that greeted my eyes was awe-inspiring as,



After a days paddle. Photo John Hyndman.

Trip reports. Trip reports.



Sea Kayaks in full sail off *GREAT MUSSELBAY* Photo John Hyndman
Bay (TASMANIA)

looking up at an angle of 45 degrees, I saw four kayaks become almost totally airborne, then slam heavily into the trough. It was one of those occasions when I regret not being ready with the camera!

Once round the corner it was plain sailing all the way to our lunch destination in the sheltered cove at the west end of Simmons Bay. No one seemed to want to venture in too close to shore (except Brian Wallace of course!), but the lazy swell and moderate rebound from the cliffs made for a most enjoyable cruise.

The lunch break provided a forum for some light conversation and an opportunity to pick the brains of our Taswegian guest, Laurie Ford, and scrutinise one-another's innovations. The greatest admiration seemed to go to the handy-work of our wooden-boat builders, and particularly new member, Glen, for his efforts in building a strip-cedar kayak from scratch. During the interlude Ian Dunn entertained us (and himself of course), with a session of surf-play.

After breaking-out through the surf on our return journey I was beckoned over by the 'master of understatement', Mike Cromie'. "Er! . . . excuse me John, but I wonder if you'd mind rafting-up for a second? I think my front hatch might be leaking a little bit". The rubber lid of his VCP hatch had ripped open going out through a wave, so that it was only hanging on by a thread, and flapped open every time a wave came over the bow! A hasty lashing of cord, and we soon caught up with the group. The trip back to Flinders was rapid and un-eventful.

I was amazed at the ease with which Laurie Ford seemed to instinctively home-in on the route through the maze of reef at the entrance, and it was a good experience for us all to have him along for the weekend, as he was only too happy to share his hard-won knowledge of sea canoeing, and entertain us with stories of his real-life adventures.

Paddlers 'n gear: by Chris Sewell

Chris 'n Therese, Tasman Twin. Tina, Arctic Raider. Julian, Rosco.
Laurie, North Sea Tourer. Ian, Skerray Glen, Owner-built strip cedar.
Ray, Greenlander IV Mike, Greenlander III
Robert, Pittarak Nautilus
Elleanor, Mirage 19 Brian, Pittarak Nautilus Bob, Owner-built Cape Charles
JPH, Greenlander IV

September in Queensland Kayaking After a kangaroo, one evening and two days travelling, a change from heavy winter clothes to summer shorts we arrived in Rockhampton. A further morning's drive saw the four of us buying food for a proposed six day paddle from Seaforth (a small coastal town about 50km north of McKay) to Midge Point via the Newry Islands. On arriving the wind was blowing from the north at 30 knots. Therese's uncle and aunt put us up for the night with a great barbecue. Too hot to sleep, all were up at the usual 5:30 in the morning and ready on the water by 7:30. We paddled out to Newry Island – the 30's style resort had wonderful cold beers. The swimming

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pool had seen better days. The last cyclone had filled it with sand. After inquiring about places to camp, we continued around to Rabbit Island. The sea rapidly turned into a seething mass of white water. We made the tough decision to camp, but where?? The only camping was on the south eastern point and this was being constantly hammered by the gale. In the end Therese and I pitched the dome, Glen pitched his tent behind us, and Brian (with a very used K-Mart special) left his down until the last moment. Sand flies invaded our space and a concoction of repellents were applied. Bed was seen at 7:30 – nothing like having a social evening around a candle.

The wind abated to 10 knots in the morning. We paddled around the western edge of the island and entered a fascinating mangrove creek. We hoped for a crocodile and imagination overtook us. 30 cm long mud-skipper had the appearance of small crocs as they ran across the receding puddles. Meanwhile the cracking and gurgling sounds echoed throughout the mangrove forest. Fiddler crabs waved their huge claws at us as we silently glided passed. We ran out of water and retreated to the rapidly retreating channels. Therese and I retreated around the southern edge of the island due to having a boat with a deeper draft, while Glen and Brian continued around the island. We made it back just in time, the 4 metre tide had left a huge mud flat where no one would move for the next two or so hours. We collected a few coconuts from the neighbouring island and returned to camp. The others returned, mentioning that we did have a protected campsite when compared to other beaches. Brian got out of his boat, somewhat wetter than Glen and a bit embarrassed. Glen commented he knows of only one other person to roll whilst keeping his hat on. Brian was still completely puzzled on what capsized him – seeing the sea was at that stage almost flat.

The gale returned with a vengeance only minutes after their arrival. Brian's tent was flattened and anything not secured was lost. We erected a large fly to offer a bit of shelter. This made the afternoon more pleasant. Later on

boredom developed and we amused ourselves by tossing old coconuts into the palms and tried to knock off the others. After nearly hitting the other campers, we succeeded in doing the above. Getting a thirst (temperature around 32°) then drinking the contents, we knocked a few more off. The question was – how many ways can you use a coconut? Therese made a coconut damper with one, the rest we left around the palms for other campers to share.

Discussion followed on where to from here. We decided we had seen about all there was to offer, as the winds prevented us from continuing northward. It was decided to return next morning and head south to the Keppel Group off Rockhampton.

On arriving in Rockhampton we called it a lay-day to buy more supplies, see the national parks for information and permits, and visit the botanical gardens. The parks staff were very useful, telling us about the better places (and the not so good). We took up the recommendations and bought a three night permit for Humpy Island, about 3 km from Great Keppel Is. After visiting the gardens (a must for garden lovers), we entered the underground shopping complex somewhat warily due to a not so small boat on top. On doing so a couple (Alex and Pauline) started chatting about the Tasman Twin. They bought the first commercially built kayak about ten years ago and has accompanied them around much of Australia. They were filled with loads of local information about the Keppel Group. We dropped around to visit them later that evening to see their modifications, and to hear their tales of past paddles.

To beat the wind we woke at 5:00 and were on the water by 7:00am. The 15 km crossing was made in a little over 2 hours. Glen decided it was his turn to take swimming lessons about 3km from shore. After having a quick cool off, we continued on our way. Upon landing on the sand beach, Brian exclaimed he had found paradise – no mossies, no sandflies and no nasties that chomp holes in



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food or tents. We found a great campsite under the sheoaks, water laid on and even a flushing loo. Again the wind got up to a fresh breeze around noon and everyone adjourned for the midday snooze, Brian paddled around the island and across to Great Keppel. The rest of us were content to explore the small island. Brian was also the first to don his snorkelling gear and made the usual exclamations about the fish and coral. Due to fire bans, we had to be content to sit around a candle until the obligatory lights out at 7:30.

Whilst the weather held, Brian decided to circumnavigate Great Keppel. Glen's shoulder was still playing up a bit so we took the softer option of paddling across to the resort. After sampling a hamburger and cold drink, watching the people pour money out to the resort we headed back. We paddled over some magnificent stands of coral (the water being much clearer than the Whitsundays). We continued passed Halfway Island and decided to continue around Humpy Island. Unfortunately Murphy was watching and caused a huge tangle in my trailing line. I was forced to wind in. We passed a point and saw several large rays leap out in front. What we thought to be a pod of small dolphins turned out to be school of mackerel tuna. We paddled through the school and could only hope that one would land on our lap. On landing back at camp, I quickly replaced the line and ran back – only to find an empty sea. We found a sheltered section and spent the rest of the day snorkelling above some of the best coral anyone of us has seen.

The next morning the weather report suggested strong to gale force SE winds. (The local Rockhampton radio (AM station) has very good coastal forecasts). Brian elected to paddle again to Great Keppel and do one of the many

bush walks. We had a lay-day and snorkelled whilst the winds remained calm. The water had incredible clarity and at times it was though you were swimming in your own private aquarium. The rangers arrived to inspect our permits and clean the facilities. They mentioned where the best places to snorkel were and also about the local water rat population. These 'rats' only worry you if you leave anything fishy around. Their small prints are seen along the nightly high tide mark. When asked about the weather, he suggested we should have left about two hours ago, explaining Keppel Bay gets a horrible chop due to its shallowness. Brian returned and again we snorkelled – it was hard not too. That afternoon the weather changed with a vengeance. I found a sheltered cove and collected a pot of oysters for soup. Brian's tent was flattened in the wind but due to the noise we were all unaware of his problems. The next morning we surveyed the damage whilst listening to the weather report. With a 25 knot winds and very sharp 2 metre chop, we became marooned on a desert island. A walk was declared so we once again circumnavigated the island, but this time in the opposite direction.

Back at camp, we came across two soles that had battled the winds and took a bit over three hours to cover the ten kilometres from Pelican Island. They had never seakayaked before and had six days to visit the islands. They had hired their boats and had no pumps or bailing devices of any sort, no decklines or any other equipment that might be used in case of emergency. Ignorance is bliss??

Next morning we listened to the forecast: SE winds abating to less than 10 knots, seas abating from 2.5 to less than a metre by the afternoon. On hearing the report, we had a lazy morning, packing our craft and set off for the



Seal landing off the Tasman Island. Photo John Hyndman

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mainland by 11:00am. On reaching the shore we all agreed to return – a fortnight could easily be spent exploring this unique area.

October 18,19 Shallow Inlet by Chris Sewell

After numerous phone calls – people umming and ahing and generally undecided, seven of us met at Manns Beach seeking shelter from the gale that has of late plagued this trip. (Oh – to be in North Queensland again). Rugged up in balaclavas and other warm gear, we tried to work out from shore where the channel wandered, as the markers seemed to disappear. Despite the winds, paddling was reasonably easy. The surrounding islands provided sufficient cover and the lake system was calm. Saturday saw us paddle 8 kilometres. We stopped on the unnamed island barricading the ocean from the lakes. Therese found an idyllic garden and campsite, sheltered from the wind, but a long way from deep water. We paddled on, around to the next entrance and found another great site, fully protected from the Sou'wester (though showing abuse by uncaring people leaving their rubbish behind). A fabulous deep looking fishing hole was only metres away from the tents. Lunch and tents were organised, cold cans were produced and cockles were gathered for later. The ones who remembered their fishing gear were quickly dispatched. Shortly after Ray dispatched a nice salmon. The others walked over to the ocean beach, and quickly realised how protected we were.

There was an immense lagoon running along the beach. The shallower end had innumerable migratory waders. As we approached them, they would all take off – wheeling above us as one group then joining back into their own species.

On returning, we collected firewood and dug a hole in the damp sand. Numerous goodies were produced (several cheeses, salamis, oysters, and other fine delicacies), including the cockles which though small, were amazingly sweet. The fire behaved itself, nobody was smoked and a grand evening was had by all.

ALSO NOTE FOR PADDLERS GOING TO FLINDERS ISLAND AND TASMANIA:

A ferry service is to start up taking passengers from Port Welshpool to Bridport via Flinders and Cape Barren Islands. At present it is taking 1 or 2 passengers, but next year it hopes to take up to 14 passengers.

After a great sleep (some say alcoholic enhanced), a leisurely repacking of boats and a quick clean up of the site, we set off across the entrance toward St Margaret Island. We sailed continuously but had to be mindful of the sandbars. Russell was having trouble keeping up, so several of us rafted up. The stability of four boats, (three with sail) was incredible, the speed – awesome. On approaching St Margaret, a small pod of dolphins kept us amused. Rex decided to leave the raft and sailed across to join them. St Margaret Island, we learnt was completely burnt out in February. We landed and ventured inland out of the fresh 25 knot winds and discovered a forest of flowering grass trees in peak condition. These ancient wonders had all (even the non interested botanists) oohing and ahing. The trunks were 1.5 metres tall and the flower spikes towering another 3 metres above. we estimated them to be about 150 years old (It was thought they grow about a centimetre a year). We left this flowering wonderland and continued sailing down towards Maclauchlins Beach. At times wind and rain squalls hit, making life a bit more miserable. John and Ray landed at the 'beach'. However, the remaining paddlers found a huge mudbank separating us from the town. We decided to give the town a miss and head back to Manns Beach. It was only 13 westerly kilometres away and with a bit of luck the northern side of the island would provide a bit of shelter. Unfortunately with the tide out and only grassland and low bushes along the banks, the going was a bit of a slog. We stopped for lunch behind some spindly trees and thought of the others munching hot pies and chips. Eventually they caught up and told us of the depressing landscape – not even a shelter shed was available to get out of the weather. We continued on, sometimes running out of water and having to push the craft through mud. We passed several collapsing homesteads and outstations. Each one would have been worth investigating, but the winds kept us paddling on. After a couple hours of hard slog, we made the cars.

I have often been asked why run the trip this time of year, the weather is usually appalling. When you have such amazing sights as prolific birdlife and wildflowers, great sheltered campsites it makes it all worthwhile.

VSKC WWW

The VSKC web site needs your help. Would you like to learn about maintaining a web site, have you any creative ideas for what should be on our site? Phone Michael Loftus-Hills on 93297679 now.

Time constraints are limiting my input into the VSKC site and it desperately needs a spruce up and more information. If your on the net you can access our site from your PC or my Mac is always available.

Memberships subscriptions are now due

If you wish to retain your membership please sign this disclaimer:

Disclaimer,

The Victorian Sea Kayak Club is a group of people who enjoy paddling open waters. We organise trips to help members and visitors share this activity, and are pleased to be able to share our accumulated experience with those who are interested in taking up the sport. However, we do so on a voluntary basis only, and any person taking part in a club trip, or using club equipment, or acting on advice from a particular club member or office bearer, does so entirely at their own risk. In particular, trips listed in the Club's published programs will often have some indication of the expected difficulty or exposure that can be expected, and/or an indication of experience required of a participating paddler. That is why the trip organiser must be notified if you wish to partake to see if the trip will suit your skill's level. If a person turns up for a trip without notifying the organiser, they have the right to say no. Also if the Kayak does not meet the minimum requirements for a trip, plus safety equipment, a refusal to participate will apply. This advice is given in good faith, but because there is no such thing as a completely safe trip, as even the most sheltered and protected waters can become dangerous in adverse weather. Such weather is not always predictable, adverse changes can occur suddenly, even with the best information at the time available, conditions can be misjudged.

I agree with this disclaimer

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