

SEATREK

The official newsletter of the Victorian Sea Kayak Club
Inc. No A17985B

Summer 1999 Issue 36



IN THIS ISSUE

**AN EMAIL FROM ICELAND AND NSW
AGM REPORT LIGHT RELIEF
COMMITTEE REPORTS
PADDLING DATES
INFO ON TIDE AND WAVE READINGS
REPORT ON THE NSW AGM**

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT
ISSUE:
END OF JANUARY**

Hello, new editor here, sorry this edition is late, communication break-down..... Any way I didn't have a lot to print this issue, I guess with the AGM and the new electorates things have gone a bit haywire. I feel we cannot write every report, as this would be too boring so I feel it lies on you the club members to become more active and send in any club/private paddle reports which you may have done. Feel free to send in any technical info of value or perhaps you may like to let other members know your thoughts on the kayak you may have or have recently purchased.

front cover picture : Canadian Bay

Incoming Presidents Report

Hi and welcome to the first post AGM newsletter. I'm not going to bore you with 5 pages of blabber so we will stick to a few points. The AGM went well I thought, pity a few more members didn't turn up.

Norm Sanders displayed what was required in a sea kayak for a day paddle offshore. With the changes to our club waiver that we sign before we paddle and when we renew our membership the paddle coordinators or (trip leaders) a term I didn't prefer are very aware of the legal consequences of a mishap or incident caused by lack of skill, neglect, due care or unseaworthy kayak.

Trip conveners will be making sure kayaks are properly fitted etc, pumps, positive buoyancy, deck lines, paddler clothing, spare clothing, first aid kits, food and drink, flares, towline, helmets for surf work +. These are some of the basic items that are required for anything above beginners trips, we still see people turn up with totally empty kayaks for a day paddle. In future this will now mean exclusion from the trip. If you choose to paddle as it is a public space you will not sign the waiver and will be deemed not part of the VSKC trip.

Now if anyone still wants to paddle we'll turn our attention to more fun things.

POOL NIGHTS (ROLLING NIGHTS)

Jubilee Pool Frankston Melway 102 J5

First Friday of month 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm cost \$7.00

Pool is heated. Seven dollars should see you rolling if you haven't managed before, you could pay a lot more elsewhere!

We have paddling and marathon training every Tuesday and Thursday 5pm at launching way Patterson Lakes (Carrum). You may wish to try out a marathon kayak or a whitewater kayak or try some eskimo rolling practice with others.

We also paddle regularly on Saturday at 1.30pm where for \$5.00 you can paddle whitewater and seakayaks provided by Patterson Lakes Canoe Club and receive free advice on their use.

For info ring Julian 97769583.

Don't forget monthly Canadian Bay paddles if you have skills to share with others or would like to improve your own. BBQ available after with coffee and tea, snacks. Ring Bill Robinson (9787 4704 H) for details.

This up coming millennium club year should see us more active on and off the water than ever before and we, the committee won't be frightened to ask members for some help occasional¹ ly with trips, club planning, etc. We also have members interested in paddling across Bass Strait to Tassie in February.

Some members are attending the NSW sea kayak clubs AGM November 27-29. This should be interesting and informative as they are a large and active club with many knowledgeable and qualified members. See the next (Autumn) newsletter for a report on that one.

I feel privileged to have been elected president of Australia, sorry VSKC and thank you to those who nominated me. The committee wishes everyone the best for xmas and the new year and look forward to seeing you all on the ocean,

Bye for now,
The Millennium President.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Julian Smith has covered several matters in his President's Report, but I hope that the membership will still be interested to hear of some of the items of news and kayaking gear that I come across in my role as Hon. Sec..

The Ultimate Sea Kayaking Weekend---Cowes---October

The weekend was co-ordinated by Tony Miller of the VBCE and about a dozen of our members attended, ranging from those taking the basic entry course to those undertaking instructor intake. I was able to obtain my Sea Proficiency, so I am pleased to say that all the members of the Executive of the club now hold this award. I found that I learnt a great deal, both on and off the water, and encourage all members to aim to achieve Sea Proficiency.

Julian Smith and Tina Rowley will be attending the AGM of the NSW Sea Kayak Club in late November. Their policy is for the club to assist all members to obtain Sea Proficiency, so it will be interesting to hear their report and to see what we can learn for our club.

Rolling

Rolling nights are held on the first Friday of the month at the Jubilee Park Swimming Pool at Frankston. If you wish to attend contact Julian Smith 9776-9583. Julian is a great teacher, and at the last night he managed to get Jo Basri rolling, so it sounds as though Jo will be following established club tradition and Julian will acquire a six pack of stubbies from another successful student. Also, with the warmer weather it is possible to do a few practice rolls at the end of a paddle. With my wonderful Electric Water spray deck and dry top cag, I can do a few rolls and come up still warm and relatively dry.

Inuit Classic

One of the many highlights of Norm Sanders visit to our AGM was being able to see and paddle in the Inuit Classic, a sea kayak that Norm designed and built himself. I can only describe it as a kakak of elegant simplicity which turns easily, rolls like a dream and should appeal to both novices and experienced paddlers. It is 470 cm (15 ft 6 in in oldspeak), hard chine and is now being produced commercially at Batemans Bay, the fibreglass version selling for \$1600. It is available in fibreglass, carbon fibre (14 kg!) and also in a very clever 3 piece version, where it is unbolted in to 3 pieces which can be easily placed in the back of a station wagon and easily stored in a bedroom at home. Norm has completed many long trips in Inuits and when he came for a paddle down to Point Nepean with the members of the club Executive on the day after the AGM we were impressed with its performance. Norm has also designed a sail which is simple, effective and extremely easy to put up and take down. I am getting some brochures sent down from Norm and if you are interested, please contact me.

Olive Cleats

What are olive cleats?---If you read Norm Sanders' excellent writings on the the Internet www.nswseakayaker.asn.au you will come across frequent reference to these amazing little gadgets, which like all of Norm's inventions or discoveries, fall in to the category of elegant simplicity. They are inexpensive little plastic self jamming cleats, which are used with shock cord and are the best things I have seen for attaching gear to your boat. Don't rely on my description---front up to a Canadian Bay paddle and I will be happy to show them to you.

Murray Marathon

Between Christmas and New Year several club members will be competing in the Murray Marathon. I have completed the full distance every year since 1990 and find it to be another very satisfying aspect of sea kayaking. Other members competing will be Tina Rowley, Ian Ribbons and the "terrible twins" of Craig Thomson and Matt O'Kane. Craig and Matt are building their own double from plans they obtained from Chesapeake Light Craft in USA, and are working late in to the night in order to get it launched in

time. I strongly encourage our members to consider having a go at the Marathon one day--it is a challenge, but the personal satisfaction is great, you make a whole lot of friends on the water and you are also raising money for a worthwhile charity

Adventures in Greenland E-mail from Pete Dingle

Returned last week to Iceland from a 12 day seakayaking journey in Greenland. Greenland was FANTASTIC.

The remoteness of the place is stunning. No roads (except in each village) as the towns are so far apart and there are too many high rocky mountains, deep fjords, glaciers and icecaps in between. All travel is by boat, plane or helicopter. I enjoyed travelling with newly found friends in these remote places in such rugged terrain. Both Baldvin and Ottar work for Ultima Thule Expeditions with Oskar (my ex-student friend) and, as are all staff for UTE, are members of rescue teams in Iceland.

Seakayaking here in the birthplace of the seakayak is, on one sense, an honour, and in other senses, awesome and % magical. It is a reality check on life as it restores one's awe and wonder in life, particularly when one also gets to see the Northern Lights dance as well!!

For the most part the water is ideal for sea kayaking - sheltered and flat amidst the most amazing scenery one could imagine. The mountains rise out of the deep fjords for 1000 - 2000 m straight up out of the water. The fjords and open sea are scattered with varying amounts of sea ice and icebergs. We were all cautious about paddling too close to icebergs, knowing that they can roll over or break apart at any moment, sending huge waves of freezing water and tonnes of ice onto unwary paddlers.

The biggest icebergs get to be about 2 million tonnes apiece, though I suspect the ones we were meeting were far less. The glaciers here calve at only about 20 000 tonnes a day we are told - the bigger ones up north calve at 20 million tonnes a day!! The ice cap that feeds these glaciers is over 3 kilometres thick and about 2/3 the size of Australia!! The bigger icebergs are around 200 m tall - and that's only what you see in the water, 7/8ths of an iceberg being underwater. The tallest ones we saw were about 100 m high. Apparently the glacier that sank the Titanic came from up this way.

The mountainous scenery is stunning. Glaciers do amazing things to mountains when winding their way to the ocean - their power is awesome in the paradoxical sense of simultaneous destruction and creation.

We are careful not to fall in. The water temperature varied from plus 5 degrees to minus one degrees; air temp from plus 15 to plus 2 degrees. (I was aware that this was summer, the warmest time to be paddling!) We were very wary of the marginal chances of survival if we fell in - the close presence of our friends was our greatest chance of staying alive as swimming to shore would not be possible in such cold water, particularly where the waters edge was bordered by steep cliffs rise straight out of the water. There were times when paddling at cliff bases that you could see the cliff descend underwater on the near side of the boat, but in looking down the other side you saw nothing! The fjords, though only maybe 500 - 1000 m wide, were up to 500 m deep!

Whales (Minke) and seals were with us most days. I spent quite some time watching whales from elevated rocks on shore while they swam around below me. They were 6 - 10 metres long and very graceful. One surfaced and dove only about 2 boats lengths from me while paddling. Amazing sight. Seals were always inquisitive to come and have a look. One of the beauties about seakayaks is that they are so quiet - seals often bask on the surface, just rolling around, often half asleep. Even though their senses are acute, we could paddle and then glide to within, at times, 15 m of them before there was a wild rush and flurry as they dove off, only to stick their heads up some distance away, often behind you, just to see what was going on. They have good reason to be wary of humans - the the Inuits (they prefer not to be called Eskimos any more it seems, for eskimo means +eater of raw flesh+) hunt them in their power boats (they don't use sea kayaks any more for hunting) as seals still form a major part of their diet, trade and clothing needs.

My paddling companions, Baldvin and Ottar, must be from true Viking stock. Both in their mid to late twenties, they didn't seem to mind the freezing water too much. E. On the cold days, I wore gloves, for I was aware of the loss of hand movement/ motor control if I were to fall in if an eskimo roll failed to bring me back upright. (I had never capsized in such cold water, and wasn't particularly keen to try!) Up near the glaciers, the water temp was minus one and the 20 knot wind wasn't helping matters either. Ottar, however, quite happily played under the glacier-melt waterfalls that became the fjord, having the below freezing water fall heavily on his head and parka-covered body and bare hands. I shuddered at the thought and had to look away! Maybe I'm just getting old!! When I expressed my wonder at Ottar's ability (or inability) to feel the cold, he just laughed and said that he would prefer to spend a whole day in such water to the cold one experiences when ice climbing. He says the pain on ones hands is another dimension - I silently crossed ice climbing of my list of aspirations!!

We had been warned about the dangers of Southern Greenland, particularly the Foehn winds (pronounced Fern). These are very powerful winds (often

warm) that come down out of the mountains as a result of Orographic uplift on the other side of the mountains. The winds churn up huge waves, overturn most boats and shred most tents. many people have died we were told. They come without warning it seems. In the town of Nanortalik (means +place of the (polar) bear+), the evening prior to our departure, a local tried very hard to convince us not to go, warning us of all the dangers (which we knew) and telling us to go north instead of south (our trip was taking us around the southern most tip of the mainland). As I've so often found with +local knowledge+ - you must listen, but make your own judgement for few, if any, know the capabilities of sea kayaks. It was with great caution that we continued our journey, but always we were looking out for possible landing or camping places that we could retreat into if conditions suddenly worsened. We did end up getting a Foehn wind on our second day out. My anemometer only measures up to 58 knots (about 110 kph), and it was blowing right off the scale. Fortunately, we chose to stay put on this day when we saw the wind building up. Our tent was fortunately also sheltered from such a blast. Paddling into it, as we would have been, would have been impossible. Standing in that sort of wind was an effort, let alone paddle in it. One gets to feel acutely aware of one's insignificance in nature - at awesome power of raw nature, as well as its beauty. Human arrogance at our own sense of power is brought up short in this humbling environment.

In many places in the fjords we found evidence of old Norse (Viking) and Inuit ruins - old building sites, burial mounds, etc, up to 1000 years old! Clearly they couldn't dig graves, [so they simply placed the bodies on the ground (with a good view of the sea) and piled rocks on them. We didn't realise what they were until I looked inside a rockpile and saw what I thought was a river rock (strange I thought, finding a smooth rock this far from inland waters) and as I reached in to investigate, I rapidly discovered that it was a human skull! We were later to find up to three bodies in one grave; two was quite common. No headstones, just rockpiles.

A day after getting back from Greenland I went on a 4 day walk from Landmannalauger to Þórsmörk. (I had noticed an add on the Youth Hostel wall seeking 3 - 4 people to accompany a +Susan+ on the walk). As it turned out, unfortunately, it was only just the two of us on it. We had a good time, but she was a bit overbearing (do all American women talk so much, call everything +funk {y+ and smoke pipes??? Another one or two people would have shared the load nicely). But, the country was fantastic. I could never imagine that such colourful scenery could exist naturally - hot springs, rugged volcanic terrain, lava fields, deep gorges, snow patches, glaciers, waterfalls, exposed ridges and plateaus, glaciated stream crossings, + . You name it, we saw it. Amazing stuff.

The day after this I entered into a seakayak race - not really my scene (in fact, never been in a kayak race before), but went in it to make contact

with some fellow seakayakers. It was fun - for the record, I came forth out of 15 for a time of just under 5 hrs for 40 km. We got a bit of every weather imaginable just about in this short time - a good display of what the sea can offer. I was happy with result seeing I hadn't been paddling for over a year.

USA Versus Canada

This is a transcript of a radio conversation between a US naval ship and Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October 1995, released by the Chief of Naval Operations in October 1995.

Americans: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid a collision.

Canadians: Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans: This is the aircraft carrier USS Lincoln, the second largest ship in the United States Atlantic Fleet. We are accompanied by three cruisers and numerous support vessels. I demand you that you change your course 15 degrees North, that's one five degrees north, or counter measures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship.

Canadians: This is a lighthouse. Your call

Email from Norm Sanders the NSW Seakayaking President

I was out surfing on the Tuross River Bar in my kayak when I saw this great white splash, about 3 km offshore. Whales! I have been looking for them every day, but haven't seen a one all southward migration season. (Normally I see dozens, mostly Right Whales and Humpbacks, as they wander towards the

Antarctic from their winter breeding grounds on the Barrier Reef. This year, they were farther offshore.) Now, there they were! I paddled hard, but by the time I reached the area, they had sounded. I figured they were ambling south, so I had plotted my course accordingly to intercept. I sat quietly for a while and was about to give up, when WHOOSH! they surfaced right next to me. One was only about 50 feet away and was quite small. (About 30 feet long) At first, I thought it must be a Minke Whale, but then I saw a bigger one and realized that they were humpbacks, and that the little whale was a baby. The big whale (Mother?) came my way, which caused

me some angst. She was just checking me out and passed under the kayak. Then they started leaping out of the water. It seemed like the big whales were showing the baby how to do it. The baby was doing the classic leap, roll and splosh on the back maneuver. The adults (2 or 3) showed more imagination. They did hammer head stalls to the side as well as the standard back splash. One huge humpback actually managed a tail walk like a trained dolphin in a tank. THAT was a sight. A 50 foot long, multi-ton whale standing on its tail! When it fell over, there was a huge pile of foam and a big wave. One whale seemed to be fond of laying on its back and waving its huge flippers in the air. All of them had a flipper wave from time to time. During all this, they were moving steadily south and I reluctantly had to leave them to their sport. I paddled back to the beach, feeling privileged to be in their presence for even a short time.

A large crowd had gathered on the headland to watch the show. I considered how lucky I was to be able to actually see the whales close up. Later in the day, Mona and I took some Melbourne friends who were visiting on a drive down the coast. There, off Mystery Bay, about 25 km south, the same group of whales, including the baby, were still cavorting. I watched them with affection. However, standing on a cliff with binoculars is no match for actually getting in amongst them in a kayak -- an act of total trust. Cheers, Norm

WANTED IF YOU HAVE ANY GOOD PICS FOR THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE SEND TO TINA (WILL RETURN) IF YOU HAVE ANY ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF SEATREK PLEASE SEND BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY. I HOPE PEOPLE WILL ALSO SEND PADDLING DATES FOR THERE PROPOSED TRIPS.

We have over 150 members and I know a lot paddle whether it be private or on a club trip, some may feel a little shy or sheepish but we would like to hear some paddling stories or thoughts from you the member, just send it to Tina via mail or 46 Nabilla Ave Seaford. Vic.3198 or email tina@bluep.com If on disk done on word, or Quark is good.

VICTORIAN SEA KAYAK CLUB INC.

Registration Number A1785 B

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING---SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6th 1999
HELD AT FLINDERS MOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

Meeting started at 3.15 pm. Welcome to all members and to our guest speaker Norm Sanders

Members Present Peter Provis, Rex Brown, Tina Rowley, John Basemore, Peter Evans, Ian Dunn, Geoff Schirmer, Mike Cromie, Michael Young, Bob Adams, Gordon Paterson, Gillian Hutchings, Peter Beckman, Mark De Prinse, Glen Evans, Barry Wiggins, Steven Vegh, Chris Sewell, Helen Geddes, John Hyndman, Ray Musgrave, Leigh Braybrook, Colin Addison, Ian Ribbons, Peter Torokfalvy, Younes Mohammed Aly, Julian Smith, John Kelsall, Stefan Tulloch, Bill Robinson.

Visitors David and Nick Slocombe, Alan Knudson, Norm Sanders.

Apologies Therese Pollard, Andrew Lewis, Nicholas Taylor, Kellie Fielder, Robyn and Keith Anker, Ray Lendrum, Jurgen Weller, Peter Treby, Peter Dingle, Jim Harker, Jim Stockton

Minutes Of The 1998 Meeting

Posted prior to meeting

Moved Julian Smith , Seconded Tina Rowley Carried

Reports

Posted prior to meeting. Subsequent to his Secretary's Report, Bill Robinson showed the meeting the EPIRBS and radios that were purchased with the grant from Vichealth and also described how successful the Canadian Bay paddles have become and encouraged as many members as possible to attend.

Election of Office Bearers

Proposer/Seconder

<u>President</u>	Julian Smith	Peter Provis/Ian Dunn
<u>Vice President</u>	Peter Provis	Bill Robinson/Wolf Passauer
<u>Editor of Seatrek</u>	Tina Rowley	Rex Brown/John Basemore
<u>Secretary/Treasurer</u>	Bill Robinson	John Hyndman/Ray Musgrave
<u>Equipment Officer</u>	Ray Musgrave	Chris Sewell/ Rex Brown

All positions were filled by unanimous vote of the meeting

General Business

- Appreciation was expressed for Therese Pollard for her work as President and it was moved by Ray Musgrave and seconded by Michael Young that the Secretary send a letter of appreciation to her from the Club----Carried

- Wolf Passauer proposed a vote of thanks to Kate Robinson for the cakes and food she provided at the Canadian Bay Paddles. ---Carried unanimously
- Some members were not comfortable with the disclaimer on the membership renewal form. After much discussion it was moved by Gordon Paterson and seconded by Ray Musgrave that the Club liased with the NSW Sea Kayak Club with respect to the insurance policies and disclaimers used by them. A sub-committee which included Michael Young would report back to the Club- ---Carried
- There was further discussion re the disclaimer on the membership renewal form. Bill Robinson explained that the 1999/2000 one was based on that of the Bay Area Sea Kayakers in San Francisco, and that American disclaimers tended to be more forthright than those in other countries. A motion proposed by Col Addison and seconded by John Basemore that this disclaimer be used until the Sub-committee tended its report was passed. However a second motion was proposed by Gordon Paterson and seconded by Mike Cromie that the 1998/99 disclaimer, which has been used by the Club for several years, be used as an interim measure until the Sub-Committee tended its report. This was carried, which effectively over ruled the previous motion.

Guest Speaker

Norm Sanders, the President of the NSW Sea Kayak Club gave a facinating talk and demonstration on kayak design, clothing and gear. Norm is the designer and builder of the Inuit Classic which is a sea kayak of elegant simplicity which greatly impressed all those who saw it and who were lucky enough to paddle it. Norm's innovative sail design was also greatly appreciated.

A vote of thanks to Norm was carried with acclamation.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm and subsequently several members crossed over to the Flinders Hotel for dinner

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please note that membership renewals are now due---Many members paid me at the AGM and and I have received many other renewals in the mail with the renewal form which went out with the AGM material. If you haven't paid up yet , please do so ASAP.

I have enclosed a membership renewal form, of the format we have used in the past, with every copy of Seatrek, because at the AGM a small number of members expressed concern about the waiver on the renewal form which was sent out with the AGM papers. A motion was passed that the original form be used until a sub-committee reports on the newer waiver, and we are currently arranging a legal opinion.

Therefore if you have already paid up and had no concerns regarding signing the new form , you need to do no more. If on the other hand you prefer to sign the older form which is enclosed, please return it to me marked "duplicate", and I will attach it to your Club records.

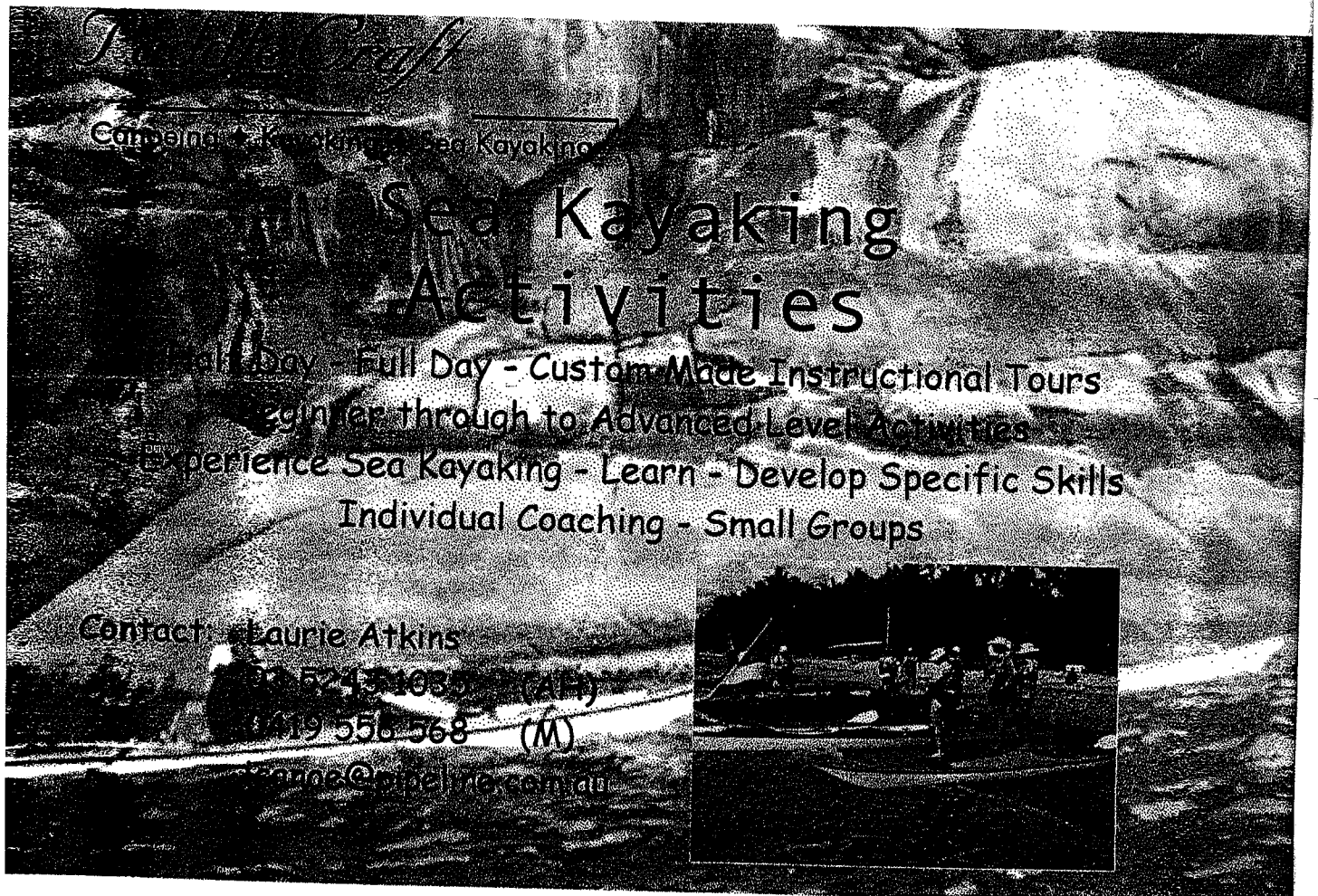
NSW AGM REPORT

On the weekend of 27-29 November Tina and myself attended the NSW Sea Kayak Club AGM, at the Currawong Caravan Park near Jervis Bay. The weekend was more of a sea kayak symposium with organised and scheduled activities for the three days. Saturday saw 60 kayaks on the beach for briefing, the group divided up into groups. Rolling practice, surf skills, efficient paddling technique and a group being assessed for sea proficiency. Saturday night the AGM meeting was quickly taken care of, we then watched the slides from the Cape York trip that Arunas Pilka was attacked by the crocodile. Sunday saw a similar format with a general discussion session on Sunday night covering many topics including kayak construction and the problems with Mirage paddlers, this only occurs in NSW it would seem. Monday found us exploring the Jervis bay entrance and the cliffs and sea caves of Pt Perpendicular, a top place to paddle if you get the chance.

Congratulations must go to Dave Winkworth and NSW SKC Committee for organising an excellent weekend, all most a dozen members passed their proficiency. Anyone interested in doing their proficiency in NSW can do so, it is all free to NSW members, you can also get a top newsletter all for \$25.00.

You can contact P.O Box 435 Curtin, ACT 2605 Sea proficiency is now required for all grade 3 and above trips in NSW SKC.

Julian Smith.



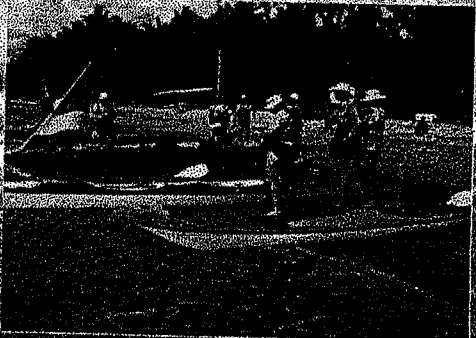
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Some more information on weather reading tides and waves.

A small amount of this information is anecdotal but before it can be dismissed as drivel try it out first.
Wave heights given as sea conditions can be misleading to the unwary.

You get the forecast in the morning of a proposed trip be it short or all day the forecaster says seas slight to moderate sounds good.

A slight sea .5 to 1.5 meters a moderate sea up to 2.5 meters, rough seas up to 4 metres. To judge a wave height sitting in a kayak if in the trough of a wave and you can just see over the top of the crest it's about one meter in height. I know it depends on the height of a person sitting up higher in the saddle etc its only to give an idea of approximating wave heights.

The Beaufort Scale: gives a good description of conditions to be encounter.

The Beaufort Wind Scale up to number 7 scale goes to 12						
Beaufort Number	At sea, far from land.	Probable wave height	Wind kn	Speed km/h	Description	On Land
0	Sea like mirror	0m	0	0	Calm	Calm; smoke rises vertically
1	Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed but without foam crests.	0.1m (0.1)	1 to 3	1 to 5	Light air	Wind direction shown by smoke-drift but not by wind vanes.
2	Small wavelets, still short but more pronounced; crests have a glassy appearance and do not break.	0.2m (0.3)	4 to 6	6 to 11	Light breeze	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vanes moved by wind.
3	Large wavelets; crest begins to break; foam or glassy appearance; perhaps scattered white horses.	0.6m (1)	7 to 10	12 to 19	Gentle breeze	Leaves, small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag.
4	Small waves, becoming longer; fairly frequent white horses.	1m (1.5)	11 to 16	20 to 28	Moderate breeze	Raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved.
5	Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed (chance of some spray).	2m (2.5)	17 to 21	29 to 38	Fresh breeze	Small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters.
6	Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere (probably some spray).	3m (4)	22 to 27	39 to 49	Strong breeze	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telegraph wires; umbrellas hard to use
7	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along the direction of the wind	4m (5.5)	28 to 33	50-61	Near gale	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against the wind.
Conversions knots (kn) to kilometres per hour are not exact because of established conventions						
Figures in brackets indicate the probable maximum height of waves in meters						

Even though the Beaufort scale goes to 12 which is a hurricane, up to 7 gives a fair idea of sea and weather conditions that can affect the choices on wether to paddle or not. Its all about judgement of expected conditions

and whether one is comfortable with paddling in those conditions. If in doubt **DON'T GO**, there is no shame in using what used to be called commonsense.

Weather Lore: A few traditional rhymes for forecasting the weather have some scientific basis.

Sky red in the morning

Is a sailor's sure warning

Sky red at night

Is a sailor's delight.

There are many similar proverbs and they all have a common theme (including one about a shepherd and his sheep). In middle and high latitudes there is a general tendency for weather systems, particularly cold fronts, to move west to east. If the setting sun

- Is red and its rays are lighting clouds, there must be a break in the clouds to the west. Conversely, a red sky in the morning means that a break in the clouds is to the east and a cloud layer, possibly with rain, may be moving in from the west.
- With an approaching depression, if the gale comes first then the following rain seems to flatten the sea. If there is little wind when the rain starts, it will probably blow hard before long. There is a saying dating back to tall ships.

When the rain's before the wind,

Topsail halliards you must mind; (Topsail a square sail carried on a yard set on a topmast. halliards a line for hoisting or lowering a

Sail, flag or spar)

When the wind's before the rain,

Hoist your topsails again.

- A ring around the moon could indicate rain the next day followed by squally seas and rising seas.
- Streaky white filaments of high cirrus clouds usually show an approaching front, which will arrive within 24 hours.
- Heavy jutting cumulus clouds with large bases on the horizon in the morning, with an otherwise fine day, could mean late afternoon thunderstorms.
- If seagulls stay over land or fly inland, storms are imminent. (Or the tip has some new delicious titbits).
- My favourite is the Queensland method; Take one rock and a piece of string suspend rock by string of somewhere outdoors.

If the is wet, its raining.

If it swings to and fro, the wind is blowing.

If it's hot the sun is probably shinning.

If it's doing all of the above open another bottle of fine cab/sav, and settle down for the duration.

- One piece of advice which we I have found handy is: **If you stand facing into the wind the centre of the low lies between 100 to 110 degrees on the left hand (looking back over your left shoulder if you don't have a compass).** This is Buys -Ballot's law.
- **Short-range weather forecasting;** Forecasting is generally based on what can be called the persistence method. The assumption is made that a front moving at 14 knots will continue moving at that speed, that a stationary high will remain stationary or that a fast moving cold depression heading east will continue the movement at the same speed, etc .
- In this modern day and age there is a quite a bit of weather information available to the seakayaker via the weather charts in newspapers, Bureau of Meteorology, TV, Coast Guard, VHF Services, MF/HF Weather reports and Nav Warnings, Seaphone, to name a few. Invest in a good barometer read it twice a day note what is happening whether its rising or falling and what effect this has on the weather patterns. All this plays a major part in choosing whether to paddle or not, if the perceived conditions are within the groups comfort zone for a safe paddle. It's still a good habit to get into to develop your own forecasting techniques. Example: pick an area where you like to paddle the most, make your observations check the highs and lows of the weather charts see how they affect the area The chart below gives an idea on what can be expected with the rise and fall of barometric pressures and associated winds.

Short-Period Wind Indicators	
Prevailing Wind	Barometer: Falling weakly.
N W N E S W S E	Weak front, generally moderate winds. Scattered thunderstorms possible with local strong gusts, otherwise light to moderate winds. Weak southerly change. Winds may freshen temporarily with the change. Freshening winds, particularly in the east.
N W N E S W S E	Barometer: Falling strongly. Strong front approaching. Gales possible. Strong winds likely. Cold front approaching. Strong winds likely. Rare in summer but can lead to strong winds, Particularly in the east.
N W N E S W S E	Barometer: Rising weakly. Light winds. Coastal sea breezes. Light winds. Coastal sea breezes. Moderate to locally fresh S W winds. Light winds. Coastal sea breezes.
N W N E S W S E	Barometer: Rising strongly. _____ _____ Strong winds moderating quickly. Winds moderating quickly.
These conditions apply to Victorian Coastal Waters only.	

WIND FREQUENCY:

Wind speed and direction is the main inhibiting factor to sea kayaking. Information is available from the Regional Office of the Bureau of Meteorology for representative Victorian coastline stations from west to east for the mid-season months of January, April, July, and October at 9 am and 3 pm.

CANADIAN BAY PADDLING AGENDA

Canadian Bay Paddles have become an important part of club activities. They provide us with a monthly meeting and forum where we can get together. It is an opportunity to get some exercise, learn new skills and techniques, see other boats and gear and to socialise with other Club members.

Kayaks are checked to see if they meet the safety requirements of the club, and if they are not up to standard, assistance and advice can be given. It is the policy of the club that new members attend at least one Canadian Bay paddle before they come on a listed club paddle, in order for us to see if their boat, gear and paddling is to the standard we require. If a kayak is not to standard it can be allowed to paddle in the B group, but the member would be encouraged to bring it up to standard as soon as possible.

We generally have two groups with the more experienced paddlers going further afield in the A group, while the less experienced have a less demanding paddle in the B group in company with some of the Club members with Sea Proficiency awards. After the paddle we can have a shower at Canadian Bay Club followed by coffee and cake and this is when many private paddles are planned as well as subsequent Club trips.

It's your club---come and join us

Details

Melway 101 D10 Meet at Canadian Bay Club, at the end of Canadian Bay Rd, Mount Eliza at 9.00 am, with the paddle starting at 10 am. Make sure you have adequate clothing, sunscreen, food and water. Include a towel and change of clothes.

Enquiries Bill Robinson 03 9787-4704

Dates

- Sunday December 19th
- Sunday January 16th
- Sunday February 20th
- Sunday March 26th

Date. January: Saturday 22nd / Sunday 23rd

Place: Corner Inlet (Wilson's Prom). Duck Point (Yanakie) to Tin Mine Cove return to Duck Point.

Meet at the Caravan Park at Yanakie on the Friday night or early Saturday morning departure times will depend a lot on the tide times as this end of the inlet is fairly shallow in places.

Distance: Tin Mine Cove is approximately 13 kilometers from Duck Point and the same back.

Comments: As the drinking water cannot be trusted on the Prom enough fresh water must be taken for the duration of the trip and some spare. Because of wind conditions that can be encountered especially from the Northeast it can be a hard slog it's a matter of head down and into it. Its better if you have some experience paddling in windy conditions, It can be like a millpond sometimes but you have to be prepared to slog it out.

If necessary the departure point can be changed to Port Welshpool. Approximately 15 kilometers to Tin Mine Cove.

There are some excellent fishing spots and numerous walks that can be done from the campsite so come prepared.

A maximum of 6 paddlers is about the best number: Firstly 6 camping permits are the maximum allowed by the park rangers. Secondly I envisage 3 experienced paddlers to 3 less experienced paddlers.

Both paddler and their seakayak must be seaworthy check the check list. The trip coordinator has the right of refusal if he/she thinks either is not seaworthy.

I will have to obtain the permits a couple of weeks beforehand, which means the first 5 who are suitable will be it. If you have any queries at all please contact me.

Contact. Ray Musgrave (03) 5975-2414.

Date February: Saturday 11th / Sunday 12th.

Place: Corner Inlet / Port Albert Area. Meet at Welshpool Pub Friday night or at the Caravan Park at what is known as the long pier at Port Welshpool on the Saturday morning early.

Distance: Up to 20 kilometers to furthest camp site less to the nearest. And return on Sunday to Port Welshpool

Comments: Either paddle around the outside of Snake Island to Port Albert entrance or Kate Kearney entrance this will depend a lot on the weather conditions. If the weather is not conducive to the outside plan, a trip up the inside of Little Snake and Snake Island is a just as good scenic wise. Once again drinking water is a problem so enough has to be carried for the trip duration. Because of lack of good campsites to accommodate large groups, again a maximum of 6 paddlers (3 experienced to 3 less experienced) is envisaged this number causes the least amount of damage to campsites. The paddle around the inside even though fairly sheltered can be hard against a strong head wind so once again paddlers will have some experience paddling into head winds. The paddle around the outside will only be attempted if (a) the weather conditions are right and (b) the group is deemed to be capable to do the paddle. There are some excellent walks on both the islands some of the last known coastal banksia forest left in this state of Victoria. A major problem can be sand flies so be warned. Any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Contact Ray Musgrave (03) 5975-2414.

Date: March Saturday 11th / Sunday 12th / Monday 13th. (Labour Day)

Place: Jonnie Sussie Bay (Wilson's Promontory) Meet Port Welshpool Caravan Park or Welshpool hotel Friday night or early on Saturday 11th. Paddle to Jonnie Sussie on the Saturday camp and return to Port Welshpool on the Monday.

Distance: Approximately 25kilometers one way.

Comments: This is one of the better small bays of the Promontory. Weather permitting a trip to Rabbit Island and circumnavigate said island, but as we have found out that on previous occasions you can be lucky on the day. Will have 2 overnight camps in this area. The idea being there are some excellent walks from Jonnie Sussie with fantastic views plus fishing can be very good. Once again drinking water is a major concern so enough water for the 3 days will have to be taken plus spare for a couple of days incase one gets weathered in. There is always a possibility on this part of the coast this could happen weather patterns are sort of predictable but the duration can be a bit of a concern. Maximum of six paddlers for the group once again because of permit limitations. Because of some of conditions that can be encountered experienced paddlers are preferred. I will be obtaining the permits early February would like to know by then of interested paddlers. Again kayaks and paddlers must be seaworthy; kayaks to the minimum requirements as listed in the club checklist. If you wish to partake and some doubts about what the requirements are or your abilities for this trip please do hesitate to phone and discuss it.

Contact: Ray Musgrave (03) 5975-2414.

Disclaimer;

The Victorian Sea Kayak Club is a group of people who enjoy paddling open waters. We organise trips to help members and selected 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 then a refusal to participate will apply. Also if the Kayak does not meet the minimum requirements for a trip, plus safety equipment, a refusal to participate will also 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.

Safety Essentials; To be carried on all off - shore trips.
1. PFD (Buoyancy vest, in good condition & correctly fitted).
2. BILGE PUMP and / or baler and sponge.
3. BOW and STERN TOGGLES (in preference to loops).
4. DECK - LINES (minimum 8mm rope).
5. SPRAY - DECK (correct fit & in good condition).
6. SPRAY - JACKET (wind proof & accessible at all times).
7. SUN - PROTECTION (hat & sunblock).
8. DRINKING WATER (accessible at sea).
9. HIGH ENERGY SNACK (accessible at sea).
10. THROW / TOW - LINE (with adequate anchor points).
11. BASIC FIRST - AID KIT (plus personal medication).
12. SURVIVAL KIT (including emergency bag / shelter).
13. WATER PROOF LIGHT.
14. COMPASS.
15. THERMAL CLOTHING.
16. MAPS AND CHARTS RELEVANT TO AREA.
17. REPAIR KIT.
18. WHISTLE AND SIGNALLING DEVICE (attached to PFD).
Safety Desirables: (particularly for trips to remote areas).
1. FLARES.
2. 27 MHz or VHF MARINE RADIO
3. MOBILE PHONE (not to replace the marine radio but adjunct).
4. EPIRB (now a legal requirement if more than three kilometres off, shore except the
5. Bays.)
6. SPARE PADDLE.
7. PADDLE FLOAT.
8. TRANSISTOR RADIO (receiving weather reports).
9. STROBE - LIGHT.



Victorian Sea Kayak Club Inc. A17985B
Membership Application / Renewal Form

Dated: _____

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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 level of skill. If a person turns up for a trip without notification the organiser has 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 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.

If you have any doubts at all about what is expected please contact either the trip organiser or any of the VSKC committee. I have read and understand the above disclaimer.

Signed

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone: _____ (work) _____ (home)

Canoe Qualifications (ACF or BCF) : _____

Years of Experience: _____

Main Areas: _____

Major Expeditions: _____

Send Membership Subscriptions To:

Treasurer

V.S.K.C.

PO Box 426

Seaford, 3198

Annual Subscriptions: \$25-00 Single / \$35-00 Family

* All Subs renewable November 8th

