



April 1988

VICTORIAN SEA KAYAK CLUB c/- POST OFFICE, MALLACOOTA 3892

April newsletter 1988

Dear Member,

Herewith the Minutes of the AGM held at Mallacoota on February the 20th, with very good attendance and equally lively discussion. It was a great weekend, including a Saturday arvo paddle on the lake and, on Sunday, some open-sea work, including sea-trials for Larry Gray's new kayak design (see Mallacoota "Mouth" article following).

Apart from the pressing business of an AGM, it was a good opportunity to get together socially as well as into the water. The prawns were running in 'Coota due to the Inlet being closed by a massive sandbar- first time since 1941, which meant that we all enjoyed masses of prawns to eat! Prawn mornay, prawn dips, prawn curry, prawns & beer (Advance Australia fair!!) all local, fresh and FREE!

For some time now, we have been very keen to set up a "Bayside Meet" to suit members and friends in and around the Metropolitan area. This has been difficult due to distance, pressure of work & other commitments, plus attenuated lines of communication. Malcolm Cowell will be conducting sessions over the weekend of May the 28th/29th, with his fleet of six kayaks available for those who haven't bought their own craft yet(!) plus qualified tuition. For details, contact him on (059)66 5110 or P.O. Box 45, Warburton, Vic. 3799. It would be a good idea to get in early to secure your berth SOON!!

It was with great pride and pleasure we learnt that the VACA has awarded the Olegas Truchanas Canoeing Award to Earle Bloomfield and the Australian Kayak Expedition to Greenland 1986. This prestigious award is being promoted by the Touring Committee of the VACA to further the level of achievement in Canoe Touring, and in recognition of Olegas' work..... bushman, canoeist, mountaineer and photographer...Australia owes a great deal to the man who, mostly alone, explored much of South-West Tasmania, and who, through his photographs, conveyed the beauty and splendour of the area....spent a lot of time with young people, teaching them to face the challenges of canoeing, bushcraft, and personal and mental achievement. He lost his life in 1972 while exploring the Gordon River.

Last but not least- don't forget to update your membership subscription, so we can keep the Club above water financially!

Cordially yours

Sally Barton.

Secretary-Treasurer.

20
120
103
70
57
370

The Incoming President's Opening Remarks;

First off I would like to express thanks to all who attended the VSKC AGM weekend. It was so good to see members Old and New turn up with Sea Yaks for an entertaining meeting. The intro to new members, both in the beautiful Mallacoota Lakes, also out at sea, in 20 knot 6ft swell, exciting conditions... Generosity and new ideas keep the sport on its toes.

My pleasure to be President this year. I hope members will make an effort to get together and plan a few trips. I can see more enthusiasm already, as in the planned Bayside Meet... also Sea Yak intro at the Prom (30th April-May 1st), plus over the Border NSW Nadgee and 'Coota areas being top spots for future trips. A small expedition down Nowa Nowa river to the ocean- turn right, turn right again at Lakes Entrance to be a trip for the future.

As I have been elected Technical Advisor for the Club, I would like to offer assistance to those kayakers thinking of turning to rudders to direct their boats, in contrast to learning correct technique, kayak loading, body English in relation to correct paddle placement... Not that I object totally to the choice of fitting a rudder, it's just that more and more people are inclined to fit one before they have developed the correct skills, or any sea kayak expertise to compensate. By fitting a rudder at an early stage, you deny yourself the chance of learning to feel your boat dance and live under command of the correct paddle stroke. Fine tuning takes a little practice and time...

It's sad not to experience the grace these little boats have to offer in their basic form- the way the Eskimos have since before the turn of the century and still do. The joy of leaning your sporty little boat into the ragged edge on a properly placed and comfortably braced extended paddle! To judge and deflect off the faces of side coming or quarter aft wind chop to pivot to your direction is so satisfying! There are wedge and chock positions for relaxation in extended arm and paddle braces, which are exciting in large following seas and assist totally in quarter aft seas (long accepted as the most difficult to control). Once you have these skills down, you will find yourself pivoting off chop to catch swells, reading the backs of troughs, to know when to paddle hard or to save energy in surfing the swell behind. Now the time has come to fit a rudder, if you feel you must, especially if you intend to sail.

I'm only too willing to give advice if you wish to learn more on these skills. Drop me a line, or organise a meeting in Mallacoota for some tuition.

Larry Gray
President VSKC

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the VSKC held at Mallacoota on Saturday February the 20th 1988 at 9pm.

Present: Grahame A. Albrey, Col Russon, Larry Gray, Helen Morkham, Earle & Joe Bloomfield, Anthony & Pamela O'Loughlin, Shelley (?), Annie & Micheal Watkins, Allan Ferrari, Joseph Stanley, Frank Bakker, Sally Barton, Gay Hutton.

Apologies: Tony Syme, Drew Moreland, Jon & Joycelin Grunden, Dave Cregan, Mark Harmshaw, Cath Hannon, Ian Dawes, Dave Allan, Rod Lewis, Fran Oliver.

After the President's address of welcome, the Minutes of the previous AGM were read:

Moved Anthony O'Loughlin

Seconded Annie Watkins "...that the minutes be confirmed..."
carried.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

1. Action re records & Map Collection from Steve Weston; Letter to set up meeting and handover to be sent ASAP. Aub, Earle, Lazza & Frank Bakker to take care of this.
2. Re Regional Register to be circulated:
3. Liason with Advanced Sea Kayak Club - Earle Bloomfield
Frank Bakker
4. Re necessity to Incorporate:
Earle Bloomfield prepared to implement this ASAP and to donate the required for same in view of the Club's severely limited finances.
5. Discussion re the Club's role, definition and extension of activities, fundraising etc. held over till General Business.

Treasurer's Report:

Col Russon then gave his report, as follows:

- A. INCOME
\$215 (Membership subscriptions)
- B. EXPENDITURE
\$68
\$50
\$22
\$140 (Acting-Secretary's expenses for Newsletter)
- C. BALANCE in Bank account
\$75

TOTAL: \$215

Moved Larry Gray

Seconded Helen Morkham "...that the Treasurer's report be accepted..."
carried.

Matters Arising from the Treasurer's Report:

Moved Helen Morkham

Seconded Earle Bloomfield

"...that we re-affiliate with the VACA and that costs be approved..."
carried.

Minutes of the AGM (20/2/88) at Mallacoota (continued)

All positions were then declared vacant.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS:

Nominated- Helen Morkham

Seconded- F.J.Bakker

"...that Larry Gray be elected President..." carried.

Moved Earle Bloomfield

Seconded Larry Gray

"...that a vote of thanks be recorded to outgoing President, Grahame A.Albrey..." carried.

Nominated Earle Bloomfield

Seconded Helen Morkham

"...that Sally Barton be elected Secretary-Treasurer..." carried.

Moved Anthony O'Loughlin

Seconded Joseph Stanley

"...that Earle Bloomfield be elected Vice-President..." carried.

Moved Larry Gray

Seconded Earle Bloomfield

"...that Frank Bakker be elected Vice-President..." carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Moved Earle Bloomfield

Seconded Sally Barton

"...that in view of the new directions of the Club the following new titles be created-
(a) Technical Officer and
(b) Coastal Advisor" carried.

Moved Earle Bloomfield

Seconded F.J.Bakker

"...that Larry Gray be elected Technical Officer..." carried.

Moved Earle Bloomfield

Seconded Joe Stanley

"...that Frank Bakker be Coastal Advisor..." carried.

Moved Earle Bloomfield

Seconded Frank Bakker

"...that the VSKC financial year commence on November the 1st and that the AGM follow within the 2nd week of November..." carried.

Minutes of the AGM (20/2/88) at Mallacoota (continued)

Earle Bloomfield then volunteered to donate the sum of \$100 towards Incorporation costs and newsletter expenses.

Moved Larry Gray

Seconded Grahame A. Albrey

"...that a vote of thanks be recorded to Earle Bloomfield..." carried.

Earle Bloomfield offered to transfer his subscription to the Advanced Sea Kayak Club newsletter to the VSKC in the interests of continued liason.

The meeting closed at 11:30pm.



Thinking of you.

THE V.S.K.C. MEMBERS
ON THE CAPE YORK EXPED!

Dave.

"That was incredible. No fur, claws, horns, antlers, or nothin'... Just soft and pink!"

The Biography of Gino Watkins (continued) Courtesy Earle Bloomfield.

three-horsepower motor, while Gino travelled by kayak. He was convinced that this would prove to be the most efficient form of Arctic summer travel and had had the most skilful eskimo carpenters in the district build him one of their hunting canoes. It was fitted with hunting equipment and painted white to look less noticeable while shooting seals among the ice floes. Eighteen feet long with smooth curves and slim, graceful lines, she looked a thing of speed, a thoroughbred of her type; but a dangerous toy for anyone who could not handle her. Gino went to Angmagssalik to learn everything about the use of the kayak and quickly mastered rolling with paddle, lance and even by hand alone as well as the complex and risky business of hunting from a kayak; harpooning, killing, inflating and towing home the game. By the time all was ready Gino was confident that he could feed three men by hunting from his kayak.

The first three weeks of the journey was undertaken in fine weather which allowed them to map the eastern coast as they went. Thereafter the fun began: the outboard engines gave up on a couple of occasions at the worst possible moments, icebergs collapsed narrowly missing them ^{and} the metal ice sheathing on the whaleboats was torn off as they were pounded on the rocks, ~~one night~~ ^{were wiped} missed them, though not always by much.

The journey was a complete success and proved Gino's theory of the possibility of living off the country on a summer journey and the great advantage of using kayaks even in severe conditions on wild coastlines.

All three parties reached their respective destinations without serious mishap and in November 1931 the expedition returned to Copenhagen and a reception committee complete with microphones, brass bands, reporters and photographers. Gino stepped from the tall-masted 'Hans Egede' in his dignified landing attire of complete suit, bowler hat, shoes and umbrella. He could easily have been mistaken for one of the dignitaries who surrounded him: Danish Government officials, German and English Legations and the King of Denmark. Gino had organised the greatest British expedition to the Arctic for half a century and yet he acted as quietly as if he had been a member of nothing more than a Scottish shooting-party. He was later presented with the medals of the Geographical Societies of England and Scotland and the Hans Egede medal, Denmark's highest award for Arctic work. The King of England also awarded him the Polar Medal with the Arctic clasp, an honour which had not been given for fifty years.

(to be continued...)

Mallacoota Mouth 25/3/88.



THE PITTERAK SEA KAYAK.

By L. Colquhoun.

Larry Gray's latest adventure is not paddling up the East coast of Australia, or down the coast of Greenland, but designing a new and improved sea-kayak called a "Pitterak".

The new design will suit a novice or an experienced kayaker. It is designed for the rough Australian sea conditions. The boat is strong, fast, comfortable, and accurate in design. Larry has designed a swinging seat so the kayaker can alter his position whilst out at sea, and be more comfortable.

"The storage space in the "Pitterak" can hold my digeridoo!" Larry said. The more practical entry into the storage space will be very useful for storing supplies on long journeys, the storage has been designed to fit longer equipment.

Larry got the idea for building the new kayak from other kayakers gripes about "the uncomfortable seat" and other problems most kayakers have. Being a long distance kayaker Larry knew most of the problems, and he knows how to make it more manouvrable.

The name "Pitterak" comes from a notorious wind in Greenland. This wind can gust up to two hundred kilometres per hour, and has killed many eskimos. Since the kayak comes from Greenland and the Arctic region, Larry thought it was a suitable name.

Larry has been working on his kayak for many months. The result is a longer, thinner, and faster boat.

Talking about the hull, Larry said that, "Flatter hulls have initial stability and a feeling of balance in flat water to a beginner. The V type hull of the "Pitterak", has secondary stability, which comes into operation in rough water, being able to sit vertically in choppy or breaking swells. Flatter hulls get thrown about with the action of the water. The "Pitterak" has not got a radical V hull so it is suitable for all types of paddlers."


Recently Larry has been testing the Pitterak proto-type out at sea. He said he was more than happy with its performance in swells, waves, and general monouvres.

Once Larry has finished the boat he will send it to a fibre glass technician who will make the first moulds for it, after that the kayak will be ready for sale.

Kayak Yak January 1988

Page 4

The next day I saw an "advertisement" in *Santana*, a newspaper for sailors, seeking letters to Senators and Reps. to save the Sea Elks, migratory sea mammals which winter in the bays of Baja and summer in Northern California. Their large antler racks have repeatedly made them targets for Russian and American hunters, especially since they make good drying racks for otter pelts. In recent years, the article states, Sea Elk (*Alcas Mar*) have begun to make a comeback, only to again become targets for trophy-hungry California hunters. Something must be done! Ever see one?

 Paddlers and the Law Bits and Pieces: A new California law makes it illegal for anyone to throw anything at someone on any boat. Of course. Next: an energetic paddler from England who joined us for several holiday paddles said a couple of his buddies actually got arrested for following the stern wake of a nuclear submarine at the end of a trip to Cornwall. The wake was easy to catch, but so were they!

Letter from Frank Bakker, Vice-President & Coastal Advisor...

54 Henry Street,
Traralgon, 3844
11/4/88

Dear Sal,

Please find enclosed a list of maps and charts that Earle and I picked up from Steve Weston. I have them stored in my spare room grouped into regional batches and labelled. Hopefully this will make them easier to find and use.

May I suggest, is it's not already too late, that you include this list of maps in the next newsletter, for reference of other Club members.

Most of the maps have been coated in plastic for water-proofing and are in good condition. Through work I am attempting to cover the rest of them to keep them in good order also.

I hope to keep in touch through the next few months,

Regards,
F.J.Bakker.

ADMIRALTY CHARTS:

Eddystone Pt. to Port Dalrymple (Flinders Is.)
Hobart to St Helen's Point
Low Rocky Pt. to Hobart
Entrance to Port Phillip
Port Phillip
Wilson's Prom to Kent Group
Goulburn Islands to Melville Is.
Darwin to Penguin Shoal (East sheet)

NATMAP SERIES: (plastic coated)

Warragul S J 5510
Wonthaggi 8020
Foster 8120
Mallacoota SJ 55-8
Eden 8823
Wilson's Prom 8119
Warnambool
Cape Patterson 8020-43
with Anderson Inlet 8020-I-3
& Lake Pourteney 8020-2-4-
Inverloch 8020-4-2
Dalyston 8020-4-4
Walkerville/Maitland Beach 8020-2-1/ 8020-2-2
Pender 3464
Broome
Point Torment.
Buccaneer Archipelago
Yampi SE 513
Derby SE 517
Pender SE 512
Broome SE 516
Flinders Island
Cape Barren Island
Clarke Is, & N.E. Tasmania (Banks Strait)