



December 1989

VICTORIAN SEA KAYAK CLUB INCORPORATED

November Newsletter '89

SECRETARY-TREASURER
"MAREE", 4 OAKWOOD LANE,
TECONA, VICTORIA 3160 7542476

Dear Member,

Well, our AGM was a resounding success and a good weekend was had by all (see John Basemore's report following)... and many thanks to Sue Patterson and Mal Cowall for their hospitality!

The Welshpool centre is sure to be the focus of all kinds of exciting Club activities in the future. A mere two hours comfortable drive from Melbourne and within spitting distance of some of the best Kayaking waters in the state, this new venue opens up a whole range of possibilities..

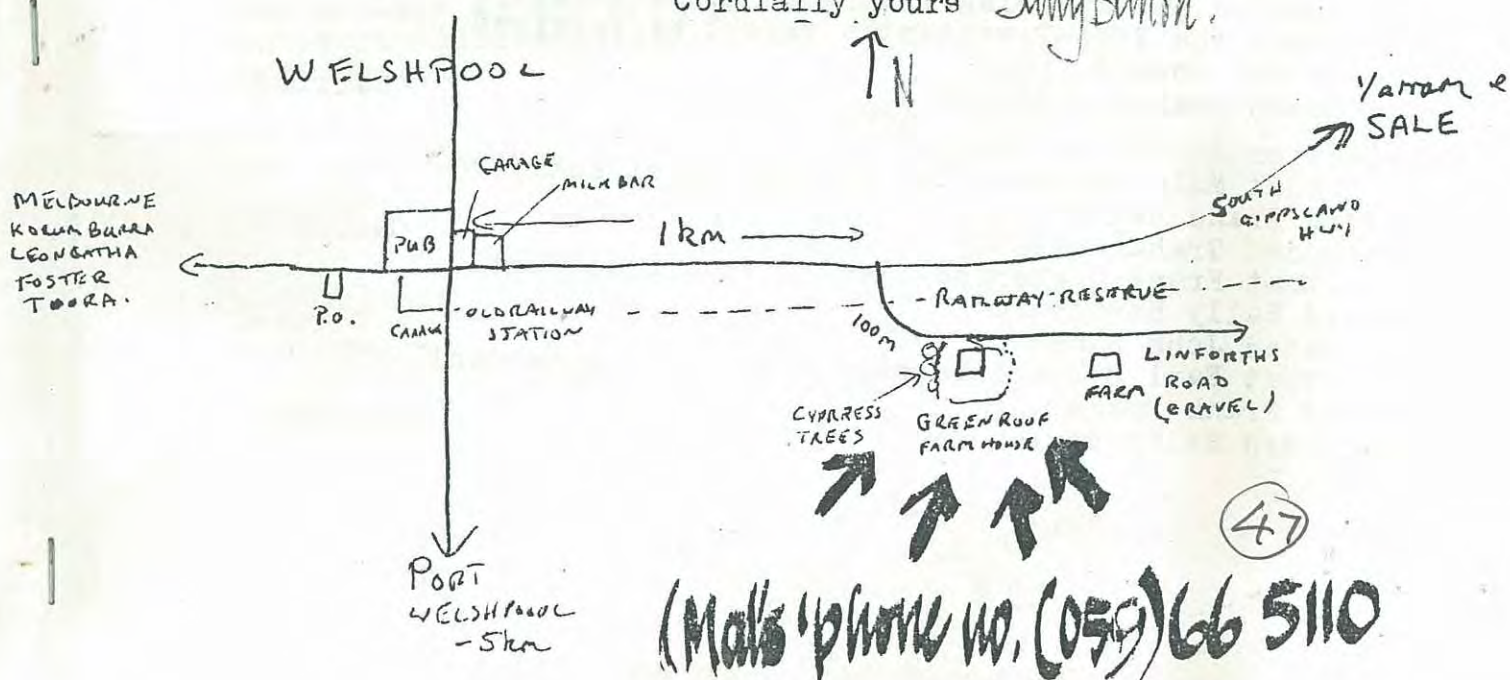
Congratulations to our incoming President Malcolm Cowall!. The remainder of the Executive stays the same as last year. Keep up the good work folks!

Membership subscriptions and renewals were due on October the 1st this year for the '88/'89 financial year, so if you haven't already done so, send yours in soon and keep the Club hoppin' along in a viable financial state.

For those of you who may have missed the October bulletin, directions to find the Welshpool centre appear below.

Cordially yours

Sally Bailin



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the VSKC
held at Welshpool on November the 11th 1989

The meeting opened at 9pm with Frank Bakker in the chair;
Present: Joe Stanley, Graham Albrey, John Basemore, Alice Hesse
Mal Cowall, Catherine Hannon, Bryam Ray, Keith Mitchiner, Geoff
Nicholls, John Hyndman, Graham Wilson, Frank Bakker, Sally Barton.

Apologies: Larry Gray, Helen Morkham, Earl & Gail Bloomfield,....
Robyn & Keith Anker, Anthony O'Loughlin, Dave Cregan, Colin
Addison.

The Minutes of the previous AGM were then read.

"....that the minutes be confirmed...."

Moved Frank Bakker

Seconded Joe Stanley

Carried.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

1.. John Basemore read the text of the proposed "flyer";

Text to be abridged for one page sheet, full contents to
be published in the newsletter and printed separately as
an article to be sent to interested applicants.

Action: John Basemore & Sally Barton.

2. Mal Cowall reported that Colin Addison is finding it difficult
to attend VACA meetings which are held bi-monthly.

Cath Hannon volunteered to liaise with Colin re same..

3.. Incorporation:

This has been effected by Frank Bakker. Earle Bloomfield
is now the Public Officer of the VSKC. Minutes of the meeting
particulars of Office Bearers, Club accounts etc to be fore-
warded by him to the Gov't..

President's Report from Larry Gray, read by Sally Barton

"...that the President's report be received ..."

Moved Joe Stanley

Seconded Sally Barton

Carried

(full text follows)

Vice-President's report from Frank Bakker:

Incorporation done earlier this year. Now that he's resident
in Cooma NSW distance is a problem. Accordingly, Mal Cowall now
has the map collection in a more appropriate location.

Thanks to Earle Bloomfield for taking on the Public Officer's
job. Thanks also to Mal Cowall for providing the new venue at
Welshpool. Activities this year have been pretty low key, with
interested people doing their own thing quietly.

"...that the Vice-President's report be received..."

Moved Mal Cowall

Seconded Graham A. Albrey

Carried.

Election of Office Bearers:

"...that Malcolm Cowall be elected President..."

Moved Frank Bakker

Seconded Graham A. Albrey

Carried

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

Moved Sally Barton

Seconded John Basemore

Carried

"...that Earl Bloomfield be elected Vice-President..."

Moved Frank Bakker

Seconded Sally Barton

Carried

President's Report from Larry Gray.

Greetings and apologies to all Club Members!

The year has raced by us, with many people planning
and completing extended sea voyages.

Two people from the US plan to paddle the entire
length of the Murray River in two sections.. After
arriving in Mallacoota without even knowing the front
end of a kayak from the back, they have been taught by
me and it's great to experience such enthusiasm from a
man and wife in their 50s. They stayed in Moota for
two months learning all the basic strokes, to finally
broaching in the surf..

With keen kayakers old and young alike, Yani Gray
has completed her first long distance sea voyage on a
survival trip, travelling with just the basics- 4 nappies,
a rattle and in case of emergencies, her dummy.. At 13
months, our youngest Member, still travelling in the lap
of her dad, but with the potential of many years kayaking
ahead of her.

As for myself, the Papua-New Guinea sea kayak voyage
has expanded to become Part I in a series of six documentaries..
This has set things back a little in the beginning stages,
but promises bigger and better things for the future.

The series of six ranges from PNG to Micronesia, the
Andaman & Nicobar Islands off Burma, the Galapagos Is..
Greenland and Venezuela- the Orinoco River. Contracts
have been signed and the show begins in April 1990.

A Company has been formed- Pittarak International-
with myself and two partners promoting and marketing
the boats overseas.. New designs and innovations are
underway for the future, keeping Pittarak kayaks at
the forefront of latest developments.

Safe voyaging!

Larry Gray.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report '88/89

Bank balance at AGM 4/11/88	\$147:51
Membership subscriptions and donations	\$283:00
TOTAL	\$430:51
Less out-of-pocket expenses	\$168:00
BALANCE	\$262:51
Bank balance at 10/11/89	\$262:66

Sally Barton
Secretary-Treasurer VSKC

Minutes of the AGM held at Welshpool on 11/11/89 (continued)

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

Moved Mal Cowall

Seconded Keith Mitchiner

Carried

"...that a vote of confidence in Sally Barton be recorded..."

Moved Graham A. Albrey

Seconded Mal Cowall

Carried

"...that a vote of thanks to our outgoing President Larry Gray be recorded..."

Moved Mal Cowall

Seconded Sally Barton

Carried

"...that Mal Cowall be appointed Coastal Advisor..."

Moved Frank Bakker

Seconded Graham A. Albrey

Carried

"...that Earl Bloomfield be appointed Technical Advisor..."

Moved Frank Bakker

Seconded Sally Barton

Carried

General Business:

Mal Cowall called for meetings to cater for different levels of skills & accomplishment, with an Agenda for same.

An Itinerary for the coming year was proposed, with adequate notice in the Newsletter given to members & others.

1. December the 16/17th

Sea-kayaking skills improvement proficiency course
Contact via the Victorian Board of Canoe Education.

2. March 3rd/4th

Sea-kayak instructors' weekend, 1st weekend in March
Welshpool centre. Contact Mal Cowall (059) 665 110

3. March 1990

Extended tour Mallacoota area. 2,3,4,-7 day trip
Contact Graham A. Albrey (051) 580 209

The meeting closed at 10:30pm.

✓ contact Mike Higginson,
VBCE for details, on
(03) 459 4251

VBCE 817-6030 wrong

Canoe Pass 817-5934
817-1820

Text of the "flyer" article, by John Basemore

Exploration is still alive and kicking. There is scarcely any part of any continent that hasn't been walked over, mapped, exploited and polluted, but don't despair! Exploring places new to you is still exploring. And still exciting. Come with us and explore our coast.

Those out of the way places where people rarely go are yours. Off shore islands. Quiet beaches. Feel the power of those big ocean rollers as they build up, just prior to crashing against the shore. From water level see the turmoil of foaming water at the foot of some massive cliff. But to go alone is foolhardy (if not suicidal). Always go in a group. We are that group.

The eskimos inspired today's kayaking, which has developed into specialized craft. Sprint. Marathon. Slalom. Wild water racing. Polo. And surf kayaking. Many people combine camping with their kayaking, either on quiet inland rivers, or white water trips. In our case along the sea shore.

Most but not all sea kayakers have participated in one or more aspects of the sport and have come back to where the eskimos started- with the greatest challenge of them all. The ocean.

The majority of Australians have easy access to the sea. So if you wish to paddle it seems logical that the sea is the place to go. In the past, sea kayaking was considerably very dangerous. With the wrong craft this is true. Today there are numerous designs ideally suited for a day's sport or a prolonged journey. They are capable of handling rough water, strong wind and will carry all you need for weeks on end. Don't dash out and buy the wrong boat. See us first.

The VSKC welcomes your enquiries and will render assistance wherever possible. Our Technical Advisor and Coastal Advisor, as well as the general membership, are here to help you. Further information through the Secretary on (03) 754 2476

Membership Update...to November '89

Geoff Nicholls, 29 Marine Pde. Marlo 3888 (051) 548218

Ron Willis, 191 Eastbourne St. Rosebud. 3939

Graeme E.A. Wilson, P.O. Box 392, Preston, 3072

John Taylor & Julia Aitkin, "Bungm", Harden, NSW, 2587

Bruce Jackson, 265 Nicholson St. Orbest, 3888

Alice Hesse, 7 Bellevue Crt. Mulgrave, 3799 (03) 5472271

Brian Ray, 91 Marley St. Sale 3850 (051) 441188

Bay City rollers

Ron Willis (059) 862928



Saturday morning our members arrive in ones and twos at Malcolm & Sue's place at Welshpool. Frank Bakker took us on a trip down the Albert River to Port Albert. The idea was to paddle down with the tide, turn left at the estuary, then a short paddle on open water and you're in Port Albert. If, however, the tide drops too low, as it did with us, you are then forced much further down the channel. The trip up the Port Albert channel is just as long.

However, the exercise was beneficial, giving us a feel for the water, the opportunity to work on our strokes, relax and pace ourselves over a long haul. This exercise stood us in good stead the next day, because self confidence is what it's all about. We arrived back at the ranch in time for a bite to eat and then the AGM.

Sunday bright and early (more or less), off to Tidal River. On the way, Frank stopped in a hurry, just in time to avoid running over a 6ft high chook! I wonder what would have become of his 4WD Suzuki if it had hit the emu!

Eleven kayaks set off on what was the first trip for some members on the open sea where the water goes up and down in a big way. I push my luck as far as I consider safe, but worry about the danger thrust upon me by nature. You can never rely on the weather, however it behaved as it should, giving us a chance to poke around close to the headland where the waves hit the cliff and then bounce straight out to sea again. You can see waves going in opposite directions. This takes a while to get used to! The surge of water going this way and that can be felt through the seat of your pants.

We went ashore at a beautiful cove called Picnic Bay. We chewed our din din and watched Keith practise with the sail on his kayak. Our beachcombing came up with the usual things, plus somebody's front fence. The big find, however, was the remains of a whale. The jaw bones indicated just how big these great animals really are.

The return trip was enjoyable, if uneventful. The whole trip could best be described as exhilarating. More importantly, it was reassuring, thanks to Frank and Malcolm for the way they guided, guarded and encouraged us. I think I could be coaxed out to Norman Island... firstly, I would have to gain more confidence in my rolling. So, some sunny Sunday morning, while the Godly are preparing themselves for Heaven, let us prepare ourselves NOT to go to Heaven by helping each other to roll anywhere, any time at sea.

Those who are interested give me a ring on 560 5718. If somebody can get hold of a competent teacher all the better. We are also starting to get the idea of a ringaround, so in future we may no longer have to paddle alone.

John Basemore.

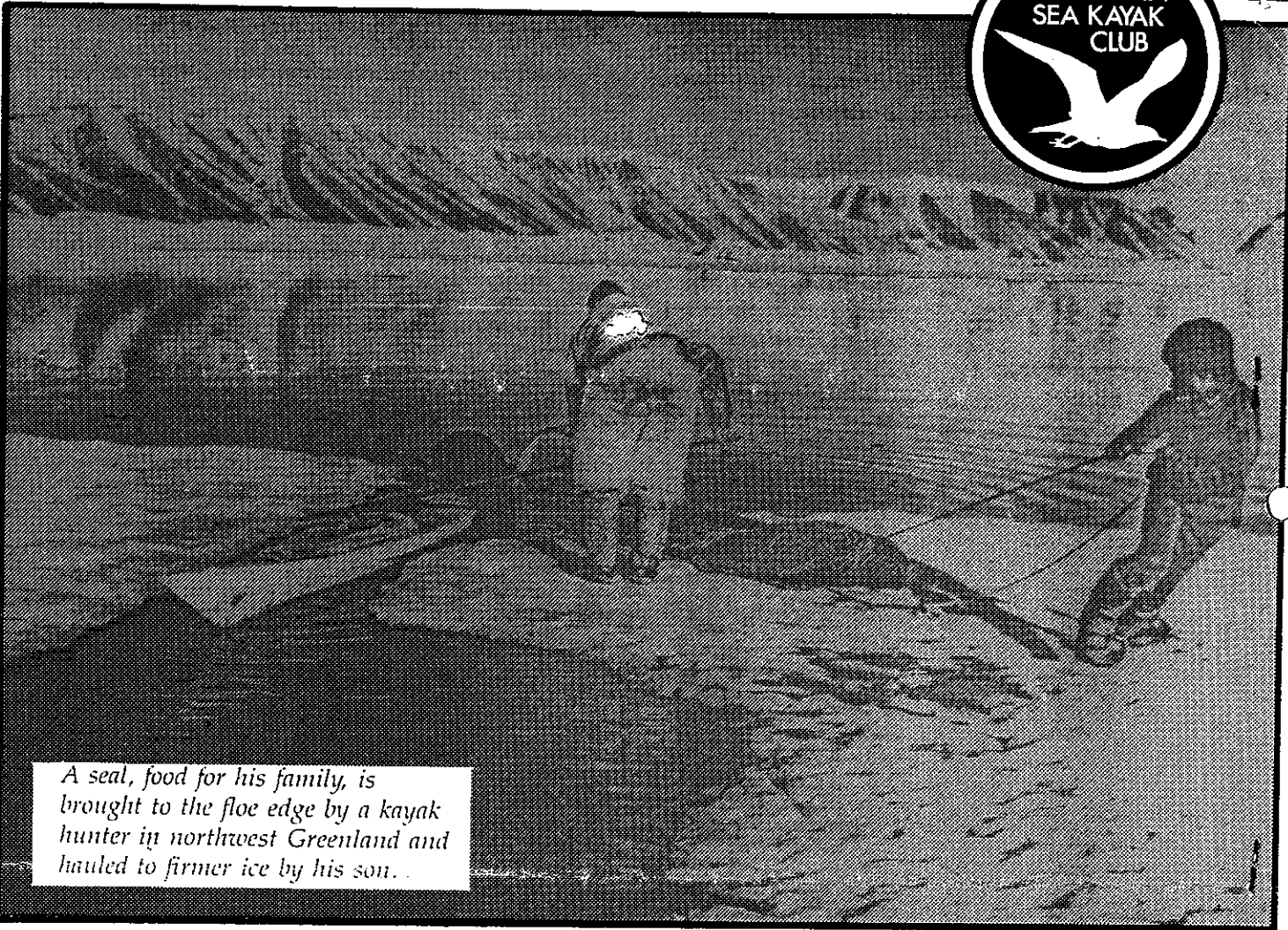
"Game for a Laugh" by Mark Treggelas (continued)

After a mornings easy paddle along almost stagnant water, we surprised a Margot. A small member of the cat family was about twice the size of a normal house cat, tan color, with a black striped tail. At last we have come to the junction of the Ipitinga river, the half way point of our trip. It's taken us four times as long as we expected to get here, but noones perfect. Our maps of the area now start, but they are only satellite photos and not very reliable. We pulled the canoe up more rapids while it rained on us (naturally). We camped in a tent early spot and John managed to catch another unknown fish that fought like a tiger. Four times it leapt out of the water, thrashing its head from side to side before he landed it. Our feast for the night was assured and we were finally sent to bed by a thunderstorm. After lying in our hammocks listening to the rain for a couple of hours, the heavens really opened up and the worst storm I've ever experienced descended on us. The rain was so heavy it was indescribable. We became worried for the canoe so I struggled down to the river only to find that the canoe had filled up with water and sunk. Back in the hammock the mosquitos drove us crazy, John swatted about thirty of the little bastards. I didn't sleep much, just lay in our hammocks, totally covered with our blankets, sweating out. For Gods sake Jari, give us some slack.

I did an inventory of our stores today. At our present rate of consumption, we would be out of flour and oats by the end of the week and out of spaghetti, sugar, and salt by the end of the month. In his five other Amazon trips John has never experienced a river like the Jari. I'm starting to have serious doubts about us being able to complete the trip. If only we could get a decent break with the weather, the hunting and the fishing.

A large band of woolly monkeys wandered through camp one morning but kept well in the trees and out of shotgun ranges. Started paddling and I started to feel really sick. My arms felt like lead and I had no energy at all. We made camp early in the first nice spot for ages and John caught a huge Pirhana for dinner. I hoped I wasn't getting Malaria but I didn't like my chances. As we were eating dinner our nightline went, and whatever it was it was thrashing around almost pulling the tree our line was tied to out by the roots. I rushed down to the river and John grabbed the line only to have his hands burned as the fish pulled out all the line we had. Fortunately it tired quickly, and we pulled an enormous mor platid cat fish called a Surabeen onto the shore. It was almost four feet long, and lay on the shore spluttering and groaning and showing off its bright orange tail as I tried to cave its head in with a machette. This proved impossible as the armour on its head was too thick so we left it high and dry, reset the line and went back to bed. We weren't in our hammocks twenty minutes when the line went again. John grabbed our only torch and said, "I'll call you if I need you." and went down to the river. I thought he said, "Can you come I might need you?", and still half asleep climbed out of my hammock in total darkness and headed for the river. Unfortunately I misjudged my direction, tripped over the fire and trod straight into the cooking pot full of boiling stew. I screamed in pain and ripped my sock off only to have the skin peel away from my foot. I struggled down to the river to soak it and lost control of my bowels. I was in agony and John grabbed the first aid kit, while I tried to cool the burn in the river. The skin from my right foot had peeled away leaving the flesh underneath looking raw and painful. I was the first aider for the trip and I prepared an injection of Fortral (similar to morphine) and injected myself. Immediately the pain subsided and I was able to clean the wound and dress it. I started on a course of antibiotics to stop any infection and hobbled back to camp. Climbing back into my hammock, it chose that moment to collapse. I disentangled myself from the mess and got out to repair it. Unfortunately it also chose that particular moment to rain. Climbing back into my hammock was difficult as I had started to shak. I was losing my balance and feeling very light headed. I wrapped myself up in my blanket and fell asleep almost immediately.

(to be concluded next issue)



A seal, food for his family, is brought to the floe edge by a kayak hunter in northwest Greenland and hauled to firmer ice by his son.

VICTORIAN SEA KAYAK CLUB

Membership Application

NAME: AGE:

ADDRESS:

..... POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE: (W) (H)

CANOEING QUALIFICATIONS (ACF or BCF):

YEARS EXPERIENCE: MAIN AREAS

.....

MAJOR EXPEDITIONS:

Send Membership subscriptions to:
Secretary-Treasurer VSKC "Marree", 4 Oakwood Lane, Tecoma 3160
New Members \$15 p.a. Renewals \$10 p.a.
Family Membership \$30 p.a.. \$20 renewals