

April 1990

# VICTORIAN SEA KAYAK CLUB INC.



APRIL NEWSLETTER 1990

Dear Member!

We're calling this lot the "April Fools' Day Issue" in the devout hope that there will not be a repeat of the delays that bedevilled the January newsletter- mostly because there's heaps of news about Frank Bakker's Easter itinerary. Let's hope this reaches you all in plenty of time to participate, eh?

Well, as you can probably see already, I'm using the Club's handsome new typewriter ( our first official Corporate Asset! ) a solid old commercial Olivetti, which cost us the princely sum of \$100. This was accomplished, firstly, without emptying the Club's coffers and, secondly, through the good offices of John Hyndman, who did all the "legwork" involved.

These days, thanks to John Hyndman and Graeme E.A.Wilson, we have access to superior printing and photographic reproduction. Accordingly, we have re-vamped the membership application, with photo by Larry Gray. This also means that now we can do justice to pictorial material, especially photographs and hope that members will send in some of their best shots (which will be treated like the Crown Jewells-no worries!) to enliven the proceedings. "...a picture is worth a thousand words..." right?

Great news from Lazza (Larry Gray)...back from Papua-New Guinea briefly, after a successful reconnaissance expedition (see postcard etc following), but due to fly out again at the end of April. We all wish Lazza and the crew the very best of success and look forward to some exciting footage when they return.

As per John Basemore's motion at the AGM regarding a "flyer" we include the new format Membership form, with basically John's text on the reverse side. Most impressive.

OK folks, then how about a Photo Competition or some such, with a prize (we'll think of something appropriate, don't worry) or PRIZES for the best entries?? Doubtless members have their all time favourite shots and it would be great to share them with others. Certainly they would make the Newsletter far more interesting for all concerned, but even more so for your editor! We are always interested in articles of interest and relevance to Sea Kayaking, but ORIGINAL MATERIAL from our own ranks is always totally fascinating.

The position of Public Officer is now occupied by the redoubtable John Hyndman, but we still need a Vice-President Technical Officer.... anyone interested please contact Mal Cowell.

Have a Happy Easter & Good Paddling!

Sally Barton

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GREETINGS FROM LARRY GRAY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Hi Sal & All!

Pretty different over here; amazing people... Our banana boat (kayak) had to be exorcised by Snake man to allow safe sea voyage from Umboi Island to Ritter Is. as Ghost of Ritter cuts up fierce storms to all who voyage near. Just as we left Tabu Island the sea was lashed by lightning at least fifteen times. You should have seen the look of horror on our sea porter's face!

Anyway, all going extremely well; having an absolute ball. We made contact with native kids on small island who had never seen white man. Have everything on video. Amazing stuff. Dived chrystal clear cool waters to 120 ft. inside cave off Williamauz Peninsular today.

Lukem yu soon. Nem blongem me Lazza.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT from CHAIRMAN MAL

Members, participants, travellers and adventurers,

Finally managed to stop paddling and travelling long enough to put fingers to the keyboard. This inaugural letter is, I hope, going to raise a few questions that you need to answer.

At the A.G.M. last November members expressed a number of views on the direction the club should take in regards to the size of the club. Have we ever had a policy on promoting the club other than to respond to enquiries? Do we want one? Valid arguments were raised on both sides with some in favour of retaining low key low profile promotion where we are sought out by those wishing to start or develop their paddling. Do we "lose" many interstate or overseas paddlers because they can't find Sally? Is this a loss of just members or do the wide range of experiences they can bring not worry us?

The other side of discussion is the expansion of the club with active promotion. We do have to show the general public that we are sea worthy, though the various State and Federal bodies such as C.F.L., National Parks, Marine and Harbours and Police probably need careful convincing as they can directly affect our activity. How many members can we involve in the club? We have plenty of coastline so we should never feel crowded and given experience can move to more demanding areas, but who is going to introduce the new participants to the sport? At present a number of the more experienced paddlers who have adopted this role are either out of touch (Larry in PNG?), overseas (Earle), interstate (Frank), or working on other projects. Here I will ask members to put up dates where they are willing to coordinate trips, suggest venues and organise gear for new members, in a similar way to Graham A. offering the east coast trip.

I will now recount some of my recent activity which was in part trying to answer some of the self-inflicted questions. Over the last two years the Victorian Board of Canoe Education has been trying to establish an Instructors program for sea kayakists. On their behalf I ran a number of workshops, skills improvement, CATI and finally an Instructors assessment course in March this year. The outcome of all this is an expanded awareness of the clubs activities and abilities, and I hope a realisation that Earle and John Brewsters previous efforts in the early 80's to do the same things were not appreciated and rewarded as they should have been.

So what did the club gain out of the program? Frank is now only an Ace away from gaining an Instructor award. (Therefore landing himself with a lot of club demands ((Sorry Frank you asked for it))). Colin Addison attended, impressed all with his enthusiasm for the sport and his obvious teaching abilities and after expanding his coastline experience will prove to be a fine trip leader and Instructor. (Sorry Colin, demands are about to be placed upon U2).

Four other participants are also being actively pursued to help on club activities.

In January I returned to the UK to arrange some Mountain and Ski Guiding in Switzerland and France in 91 on behalf of the National Mountaineering Centre, Plas Y Brenin at which time I shall involve myself in their sea Kayaking coaching programs in order to see if we are missing out in any way in new developments.

Enough from me, How about a few questions, and answers from you? Lets move into the 90's with an expanded program and if I dont see you at Elwood beach on the 25th March I am trying to promote the club and "safe" sea Kayaking.

good paddling.

Mal Cowell

LETTERS from MEMBERS...

7/3/90  
154 Waterdale Rd  
Ivanhoe  
3079

Dear Sal,

John Basemore and I thought that, as we are now paddling together on Port Phillip Bay fairly regularly there may be other club members who would like to join us. We generally try to visit a different locality each trip and usually finish up with an hour or two of rolling practice and general "mucking about" in the shallows.

Could you please bung something to this effect in the next newsletter. I can be cotacted on (03) 491084 AH or 4793349 BH.

Cheers for now,

John

John.

REPORT FROM FRANK BAKKER...

Dear Sal,

Enclosed is an itinerary for my Easter Sea Kayak camp. Please include on your membership list two more members; cheque for their dues enclosed. Keep the list open as I have contacted some more prospective members up here.

Mike Higginson (VBCE) will also have addresses for the five other new instructors just inducted. I feel they should be encouraged to join the Club if they haven't already....

Here are some comments for news:

VICTORIAN BOARD of CANOE EDUCATION  
SEA KAYAK INSTRUCTORS' QUALIFICATION WEEKEND

The weekend of 3-4th of March has been a milestone in the life of the Victorian Sea Kayak Club. We have set out to qualify six new sea kayaking instructors. This is the first time (to my knowledge) that Victoria has been successful in qualifyin new Sea Kayak instructors. No longer will we have to rely on white water instructors who have only a brief experience on the sea to teach us. We can now turn to others to supplement the much stretched time of senior instructors, like Malcolm Cowall, Mike Higginson and Earle Bloomfield.

The course just undertaken was co-ordinated by the VBCE through their development officer, Mike Higginson, who, with Mal Cowell and John Wilde, provided excellent coaching and direction. The assessment of instructors, especially for Sea Kayaking, is no easy task, but they undertook it with gusto and in a clearly professional manner. The program was a gruelling one, with late nights, long discussions, many hours paddling and performing drills on the water, giving talks, sitting exams and demonstrating on the water teaching skills.

Packing all this into one weekend is not normal practice for instructors' assessment and future courses will be split into twp or three weekends. This will make life a bit easier and also provide a more comprehensive preparation. Further courses will be run later this year and it is hoped that some other people will be available to become instructors.

If we are to progress as a Club, and Sea Kayaking generally we need to be able to teach people. As seen by the backgrounds of the March candidates, there is surprising depth of experience in this form of canoeing. I'm sure there are several others around who would have skills to teach and equally there are numerous folk screaming out for instruction and guidance. Let's encourage the sport of Sea Kayaking, so that in years to come we'll have a multitude of stories, tall and true, of Kayak journeys done safely and confidently by people we have met.

EAST COAST EASTER

with Frank Bakker

VENUE: Bittangabee Bay  
National Park camping ground  
( follow Green Cape Rd...turnoff I2kn South of Eden )  
This bay is central to Green Cape, Nadgee, Twofold Bay;  
All within easy paddling or driving distance.

DATE: 12-4-90 to 16-4-90  
Meet at Bittangabee Thursday night or Good Friday  
Stay as long as you like. I currently have 3 sites  
booked (limit 7 people per site).

ITINERARY:  
Day trips to Saltwater Creek or Green Cape from base,  
Or from other areas like Twofold Bay, Wonboyn Lake to  
Merrica River.

REQUIREMENTS:  
Bring camping equipment including tent;  
A sea kayak if you have one;  
A friend or family (I'm sure you have some);  
Fishing and snorkelling/diving gear.

CONTACT:  
Other Sea Kayak Club members to travel up with;  
ME(!)...on (064) 532707 (work)  
(064) 532046 (fax)  
(064) 523826 (home)

RING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ONCE YOU KNOW HOW MANY ARE COMING  
WITH YOU, AS I MAY HAVE TO MAKE EXTRA BOOKINGS!

Frank Bakker,  
P.O. Box 103,  
Cooma, N.S.W. 2630

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE to March 29th 1990

Desley Yates, 40 Walla St. Cooma 2630	(064) 52 3312
John Stomps, 17 Florence St. Prahran	(03) 529 4425
	(03) 520 9426 wk.
Mark Reeves, 3 Winonife Pde. North Balwyn	3104 857 6788
Warren Boulton, P.O.Box 867, Sale 3850	(051) 46 4421 wk.

Sally Barton  
Sec/Treasurer  
VSKC

154 Waterdale Rd  
Ivanhoe 3079  
12/2/90

Dear Sal,

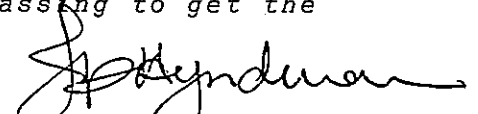
Just a note to formalize the suggestion that I put  
to you on the phone on Friday, 9/2/90 regarding offering  
advertising to various retailers, in our club newsletter.

Apart from raising a little revenue which could be  
channeled into such things as a new typewriter or other  
office requirements, it may result in adding further  
interest to our ( already interesting ) "tabloid". Also,  
such retailers ---Canoes Plus, Kathmandu, Outsports etc, to  
name but a few,--- may feel disposed to offering a discount  
to our members as a small incentive to buy their wares. eg  
John Basemore may BUY a kayak instead of building his own!

My suggestion would be to offer blocks of say 8 cm X 6.5  
cm (ie 8 per A4 page) for say \$25.00 per 3 issues. They  
could supply their own artwork or I could "knock" something  
up if they supply a letterhead or logo.

Anyway, "bounce" this suggestion off the rest of the club  
members to "test the water" and if given a mandate I would  
be prepared to do some "hard sell" canvassing to get the  
thing off the ground.

Regards for now,

  
John Hyndman



Wade Fairley

C\O PO BOX 228  
Tamworth NSW 2340  
Phone (067) 658351.

Dear Sir\ Madam. How do you do?

I write asking to place a classified advertisement in your forthcoming News Letter. This add is as follows:

WANTED. The use of a mould for the construction of two large volume single Sea Kayaks; or to purchase, two ready-made large volume single boats.

FOR SALE. Klepper: model Aries. German made, double collapsable Sea Kayak.

Contact Wade Fairley. C\o PO BOX 228 Tamworth NSW 2340.

Kind Regards



Wade Fairley

Does the Club have any moulds? I am interested in building a kayak, or buying a secondhand Icefloe, if any on the market.

Thanking you,  
Alex Acatos 729 0858