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# THE SEA CANOEIST NEWSLETTER

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The Journal of the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (NZ) Inc - KASK



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16 NOVEMBER 2008**

**Photograph credits:**

Cover photo: Negotiating a labyrinth of icebergs and sea ice off the south-east coast of Greenland. August 2008  
Photo: Conrad Edwards

Page 2 colour photos:

Top: The archway at Green Islets, a hard to enter (through reefs) sheltered landing on the south coast of Fiordland.

Bottom: A seal who was a little bit determined not to let me back to my kayak until he'd finished checking it out for any scrapes of food

Photos: Max Grant

**EDITORIAL**

**Photo Credit Correction**

from: John Hesseling  
Thanks for the latest copy of *The Sea Canoeist*. Again there was plenty of great stuff to read (Newsletter No. 135). Just for the record although I sent you the photos of the D'Urville Island trip I didn't actually take all of them. The two inside the front cover (p.2) were taken by Mike Ham.

**KASK FORUM**

The Anakiwa Outward Bound School is a cracker venue for a sea kayak gathering. Accommodation is on site, excellent meals and playlunches on offer, rock throwing distance to the water's edge, and the social intercourse at the Mistletoe Bay overnight campout is not to be missed. Pages 11-14 (forum registration form) can be carefully removed from this newsletter and mailed to Evan Pugh with your czech, or if you would prefer to leave the pristine pages of the newsletter intact, a PFD registration form can be downloaded from the KASK website.

We are fortunate to have Aussie paddlers Sandy Robson and Dave Winkworth attending as keynote speakers - both will pass on their practical knowledge with instruction sessions. Max Grant will show a powerpoint presentation of a trip from Doubtful Sound to Bluff (see p.6 for his trip report), as will Paul and Conrad of their recent east Greenland trip. As usual, on the water instruction will be an integral part of the forum.

Guidelines for the prestigious photographic competition are listed on page 20. A word from the 2007 esteemed judging panel (Justine Curgenvan, Babs Lindman and Paul Hayward), please ensure you enter your photograph in the appropriate category.

**Overseas Expedition News**

In northern Australia, NSW paddler Dave Winkworth recently completed a 1,200 mile paddle from Karumba, at the base of the Gulf of Carpentaria, to Darwin - first time this trip has been paddled since 1982. Over the phone, Dave related tales of shark attacks to their kayaks, his mate left with shark teeth in his kayak stern that he was

reluctant to remove in case his kayak sank. His co-paddler was chased by a very big crocodile. Unfortunately Dave had a fall on slippery rocks exiting his cockpit and tore ligaments in his left thumb. Being left-handed, and in a cast, is his excuse for no trip report yet. However his cast will be off in time for the 2009 Anakiwa Forum, where I will be in the front row to hear the tall tales and true of his latest expedition.

In late June, Conrad Edwards and I flew to Kulusuk in East Greenland - nine flights in total for me - where our kayaks had spent the winter under a schoolteacher's house. We took a few days to sort a food dump with local hunters, and set off on 4 July from Isortoq to follow the seventh journey of the Gino Watkin's led British Arctic Air Route Expedition of 1930-31. Gino, August Courtauld, and Percy Lemon were very fortunate to survive their open boat journey, 'a voyage of near calamities, strained friendships and terrible weather'. As indeed were an Australian team of four paddlers in 1986, who like Watkins started their trip in early winter and were so fortunate, after their support yacht was knocked over, to be rescued by a Danish supply vessel on its final trip of the season.

Conrad and I pulled the pin on this trip, which we had planned for the northern summer of 1999, after Danish paddler Lone Madsen was drowned while attempting this paddle. Paddlers in a double kayak had successfully completed this exposed SE Greenland coastal trip firstly in 1982 and again in 1998. Two local Greenland men were the first to repeat this trip in single kayaks - since historical trips in skin kayaks - in 2006.

Two months of paddle training for me, and an early season start paid handsome dividends. Chased by gale north-easterlies, we surfed into Prins Christians Sund on Day 27, the fjord which led us westwards to anticlimactic calm sea paddling to the West Greenland village of Narsaq. The newsletter cover photograph - not a bad photo taken by the young fella - says it all to me, as to why we spent an arm an a leg on air fares to paddle

this godforsaken, barren coastline. The sheer visual splendour of a mixture of huge icebergs, bow crunching brash ice and non-threatening flat pans of sea ice add what I term a fourth dimension to sea kayaking.

**Paddler Profile**

Tauranga paddler Karen Knowles interviewed Robbie Banks to gain an insight into her introduction to kayaking and motivation for the recent challenging paddles she has undertaken (p.15).

**TITS 4 DVD (This is the Sea)**

Justine Curgenvén's fourth inspirational sea kayaking DVD is due for release before Xmas. A double disc set this time, with three exciting expedition stories, a three month circumnavigation of the South Island, Canada's beautiful Queen Charlotte Islands, and a crossing of Bass Strait. Justine notes in a media release, 'The expedition stories are really strong in this DVD including a 50 minute documentary about my most challenging journey so far, a 67 day, 2,400km trip around the South Island with intimidating surf landings, a helicopter evacuation and amazing wildlife.'

A preview clip can be viewed at: [www.cackletv.com/this-is-the-sea-4.html](http://www.cackletv.com/this-is-the-sea-4.html)

**New National Topo Map Series**

From September 2009, emergency services and many other organizations will be switching their mapping systems to align with a new LINZ 1:50,000 topographic map series (Topo 50). At the same time as the release of the Topo50 map series, LINZ will also release a 1:250,000 map series (Topo250).

Physical features on the new map series will not change however the coordinates of those features will. LINZ has changed the datum and projection from the current map series (260 and 262) to those more commonly used internationally and in modern navigation systems such as GPS.

See coordinate conversion tools at: [www.linz.govt.nz/coordinateconversion](http://www.linz.govt.nz/coordinateconversion) as well as project updates on: [www.linz.govt.nz/topo50](http://www.linz.govt.nz/topo50)

**SAFETY**

**Auckland Regional Council**

Julie Reynolds has continued to lobby the ARC harbourmasters re the unworkability of the kayak visibility safety bylaws introduced recently.

Julie has sent a KASK letter to the harbourmaster asking if there was a means whereby sea kayaks and sit-on-top kayaks could be exempted from the bylaw clause 2.17.

As the harbourmasters have stated the bylaw will not be enforced, surely it is better for this onerous regulation to be revoked.

While attending the National Pleasure Boat Forums, I have emphasized the importance of education and liaison with respect to kayak safety, and not regulation. It is obvious the message did not get through the two ARC harbourmasters. It appears EW will be endeavouring to follow the same regulation path but will carry out a better consultation process with concerned parties than ARC.

**Environment Waikato**

You think a kayak safety brochure *A New Kayak...What Now?* recently printed by EW would have been referred to KASK for comment, other kayak clubs in the region, but no. What is upsetting some retail shops is blatant brand advertising on the cover and they will not help with distribution.

Lack of consultation is extremely disappointing in this day and age. In a listing of clubs, training and resources I am peeved KASK has only its admin email address listed, instead of the website, the only email address in a list of over 20 websites. Overall the content is fine, but a few obvious errors could have been corrected by liaison before printing.

**KASK WEBSITE**

Nelson-based website designer, Leon Dalziel has completed work on a new site which, after sign off from the KASK committee, will be operational by the time this newsletter is in the mail. It will change to [KASK.org.nz](http://KASK.org.nz) which is more appropriate for a non profit organization but [KASK.co.nz](http://KASK.co.nz) will still work.



**President's Report  
September 2008**

**by Julie Reynolds**

Just in the past few weeks I think we'd all agree that the weather has improved remarkably and for those that have been in hibernation for winter it's clearly time to dust off the kayak and paddle and stretch those muscles. I'm certainly enjoying the opportunity to be regularly on the water.

It's great to have Paul and Conrad home from their latest foray and I'm looking forward to the photos and trip report.

There has been much excitement and increased energy output in my home of recent times with Scott's and my purchase of Canoe and Kayak Manukau. Those of you who are Yakity Yak Club members or subscribers to the NZ Kayak Magazine will no doubt have seen the article but for those of you who are not, we took over this long standing retail outlet at the beginning of July and have been fully focused on projects relating to this. I've been learning an incredible amount about retail and the behind the scenes action of the kayak industry. I've been dusting off my paddle skills and applying my business skills. All and all, very positive.

Of course this news has and will, raise a question or two regarding my position in KASK and whether there are any potential conflicts of interest between recreational drivers and retail drivers. I would hope that rather than conflict the two will go hand in hand to give a more, well rounded knowledge and view of our sport and industry. If you do have concerns or see this as, in any way, inappropriate please feel free to speak up as KASK's best interests need to be considered and going forward I and the current committee would like to be comfortable with the wishes of our members.

Recently I attended the Non-powered Vessel Forum of which KASK is a member. With a limited amount of time allocated for this meeting, we spent our time focused on the Maritime NZ draft strategy for paddle craft.

The outcomes from the discussion and feedback were that the strategy was headed in the right direction. This strategy is mostly to do with commercial operators but has some spill over into recreational paddling. A code of practice and minimum requirements are being developed for accommodation operators, who provide paddle craft for use by guests.

This code would cover the obvious such as suitable instruction on use, condition of paddle craft, safety equipment usage and condition etc. Commercial operations are a big focus in the draft.

Two items for focus are the Qualification of commercial operators and safety systems for commercial kayaking. The focus being on revisiting the qualifications already in place and ensuring they are up to date and meet the demands of the industry plus agreeing on a national standard for operators to achieve and then promoting it. Maritime NZ has recognized Outdoorsmark and Qualmark as quality systems for managing safety. Now the challenge is to motivate all commercial operators to take one or both of these up.

The fourth issue was about how to educate the kayaking visitors to this country and the novices on the potential risk in the areas they wish to visit. This is a difficult task with a number of hurdles, however the ultimate outcome would be to reach these people before they hit the water in order to educate them on safety, skills, rules and local knowledge.

Finally, multisport kayaking was discussed and the inconsistency in ability required by varying events and how to standardize this. The wish is to re-focus on the Grade 2 kayaking certificate as a general multisport participation certificate.

It was a good meeting with a positive direction. It was agreed that meetings should be held more regularly, allowing more time for discussion and input.

The overall goal is to remove the risk of legislation within our sport and prove that kayakers and operators can take responsibility for their safety and others safety in order alleviate risk of serious incidents which could result in legislation to manage.

And finally - a personal observation regarding safety education

Hot on the heels of this meeting and with safety initiatives swirling in my brain I competed in the annual (Waikato region) Cambridge to Hamilton race. I was initially interested in a lack of safety issues covered in the race briefing. In fact there would have been none, until the Environment Waikato representative spoke up to tell us all how fast the river was running, and to stay on the right of the river, because we were not the only traffic on the river that day. It was also pointed out that there would be a number of support boats along the way.

I then stood at the top of the boat ramp, awaiting my turn to enter the water and witnessed the chaos as ninety plastic sea kayaks scrambled into the water, along with the sit on tops and a few composites who were keen to be on their way.

While witnessing this we were treated with a few absurd sights that in hindsight were an indication of some paddlers' lack of experience and knowledge. As I made my way through the field once on the river, I chatted to many and found that in a number of cases this was only their first or second time in a kayak. Some had just borrowed a kayak because it seemed like fun.

I kept reminding myself that this event started as a family day out on the river, and so I should relax. My first T rescue was performed reasonably early in the race, but I was lucky, the woman had done a skills course with Canoe & Kayak and knew what a T rescue was.

As I came through the narrows I saw my first and only support boat and wondered how busy they would be given the varying levels of experience and the swiftness of the river. The narrows is exactly that, with bottleneck waters and eddies.

My second rescue came just as I passed over the finish line. A man who was clearly exhausted by the race, just fell sideways from his kayak. I called out to him and his reply was that he wasn't really OK. I asked him if he knew how to T rescue - he did not. I then asked if he could swim - he could not. A sit on top paddler, anchored in the river, grabbed the man's boat and paddle while I grabbed the man.

Once I had him holding onto the rear of my kayak, I attempted to paddle back to the riverside, however the current was too strong so I angled my boat towards the bank downstream. The support boat came along at this stage so I thought, 'saved' - not so. I called for a towline but they simply waved and continued out to the other kayak. I called a second time, but they continued towards the abandoned kayak.

Realizing that I was without assistance, I paddled into the willows on the side of the river where rescuers helped the man from the water and then helped me. The support boat reappeared at this stage and the crew told me they had rescued the kayak first, rather than the man, because I looked like I was coping. Interesting.

Post the event I had time to think about this and summarized that although the event is pretty, and on a nice day it was a good day out, for some it would have been a terrible kayaking experience, not an event for novices. It convinced me that the work being done towards safety standards for operators and education for all kayakers is imperative. Just knowing your limitations and having the race organizers spell out the minimum skill requirements would be the responsible thing. I love seeing everyone out having fun, but we all know that more fun is had if you are prepared for what you are doing.

Julie Reynolds  
KASK President

## NEW ZEALAND TRIP REPORTS

### Doubtful Sound to Bluff By Max Grant

For Ian Algie, Bob Wishart and myself, kayaking from Doubtful Sound to Te Waewae Bay was unfinished business from two years earlier, when we aborted this same journey due to bad weather and had kayaked only from the Holyford River/Martins Bay to Doubtful Sound.

We were joined by two other paddlers keen to do this trip, John de Garnham from Christchurch and my daughter, Melanie. Excitement was high as we packed our gear and food into our kayaks and carried them onto Reg Calder's boat for a ride across Lake Manapouri. The first stage of our trip was transport across the lake and by road over Wilmot Pass to a backpackers at Deep Cove, where we would begin our long paddle south to Te Waewae Bay.

At the West Arm power station, we loaded kayaks onto Reg's trailer for the trip across Wilmot Pass to Deep Cove. This road was built to bring in the equipment to construct the power station at Lake Manapouri.

At the back packers that night, we were able to finalize our plans for our trip down the coast to Te Waewae Bay, a distance of about 280km which we planned to complete in 10 to 12 days.

After a good night's sleep, we loaded our kayaks to the max and set off from Deep Cove in perfect conditions. Doubtful Sound was stunning as we paddled past the spectacular fiords of Hall Arm and then Crooked Arm. Slithers of silver cascaded down the sheer cliffs carved out by glaciers thousands of years ago. All too soon we reached our campsite for the night, a hut on Secretary Island named the Gut Hut. With a few hours left before nightfall, we set about testing our fishing skills and it wasn't long

before we had a good catch of blue cod for dinner.

The next day we kayaked out into the ocean where there was a southerly swell of about 3 metres. It was quite a different paddle and before we reached our destination at Dagg Sound, John fell ill to motion sickness. My memories of a calm landing on the beach of Fuchia Cove were quickly dashed as we were met by a large, breaking surf created by the southerly swell. Melanie and Ian opted to surf into a stream entrance, and I followed them.

Paddling hard behind a wave, I quickly realized I'd misjudged the surf break, as a large following wave picked up the stern of my kayak and flipped me into the surf. I somehow rode breakers until reaching the calmer waters of the stream. Apparently it didn't look good from where Bob and John were, as they both quickly changed direction and headed to the other end of the beach where they were able to land in a far more dignified manner.

As we dragged our kayaks up to the bush line we were met by a very large herd of Fiordland sandflies. Suddenly we seemed to all be waving frantically at each other as a variety of sandfly lotions were applied to all parts of our bodies in an attempt to avoid their nasty bites of welcome. Bob lit a large fire, which seemed more of a smoke screen than anything else, but

it was partially successful in keeping the sandflies at bay. Those things can actually bite you through polypro clothing!

We soon set up our tents and things seemed a lot better as we were able to cook up a feed before using our satphone to call Bill Anderson, both to report in and receive the latest weather forecast. But the news was all bad. A severe storm was going to pass over during the next two days and sea conditions were to be very bad. John was worried about falling ill in the bad conditions again, so made a decision to kayak to the end of Dagg Sound where he could do a portage back into Doubtful Sound and organize a lift back to Manapouri.

Next morning a strong northwesterly wind was whipping up lots of white caps, so we decided to all kayak to the end of Dagg Sound and help carry John's kayak through to Crooked Arm. The portage was 1.3km long, but was made very difficult by a large slip that had come down across a large part of the track and it turned out to be a tough job carrying a kayak over that section. However, by midday we were saying our good byes to John who was lucky enough to meet up with some hunters on a boat that was able to take him and his kayak back to Deep Cove.

Back at Fuchia Cove the storm got worse and we tied everything down

*The team ready to board Reg Calder's boat at Manapouri. From left: John de Garnham, Melz Grant, Ian Algie, Max Grant & Bob Wishart*



expecting the worst. The Met Forecast for the next 24 hours from Bill was: 'STORM WARNING IN FORCE, Northerly 45 knots, rising to 60 knots everywhere in the morning. Very rough sea, northwest swell five metres.'

That night was quite scary as we listened to the powerful gusts of wind coming down the valley and then hitting us with such force that we had to hang onto our tents to stop them caving in. At 5am there was a loud rumbling noise and we realized that the small stream beside our camp had turned into a raging torrent and was threatening to flood over our campsite. At this stage we had everything ready for an emergency exit, not sure where to, as the high tide was now causing the stream to bank up, so we were barely above water.

Needless to say, high tide came and went and, as the day wore on, there was some improvement in the weather. The following morning we were awoken to Bob's shouts to come out on the beach. There, in the darkness, a rare yellow crested penguin had wandered up to our campfire for a look see. Surely this was a good luck sign for us?

After breakfast we decided to pack up and venture out of the sound. The northerlies were easing and changing around to the south. We could be able to use the lull and make it down to Breaksea Island. There was a one metre swell but no wind, and after paddling for just over four hours, we landed at Breaksea Island for a well earned rest.

We were met by hundreds of seals, big ones, small ones, grumpy ones and some that came right up to us for a play. Although these animals look ungainly on shore, in the water they moved with graceful speed, swimming beneath our boats curiously checking us out. The southerly wind was now freshening, which would make for some difficult kayaking against the wind through the Acheron Passage, so we decided to carry on to Woodhen Cove, paddling in the lee of Resolution Island. From Woodhen Cove it is a short portage to Goose Cove in Dusky Sound, our next campsite for the night.



*Team photo in Doubtful Sound; from left: John, Bob, Max and Ian.  
Photo: Melanie Grant*

Our first day in Dusky was always going to be spent having a look around some of the old historic sites we'd read so much about. First stop was Pigeon Island where Richard Henry set up the first bird sanctuary in New Zealand, then on to where Captain Cook anchored up at Astronomers Point to replenish supplies, and lastly to Anchor Island and our camp site for the night at Luncheon Cove, where New Zealand's first house and ship were built by sealers.

The stay at Luncheon Cove was most memorable for the beauty of such a small cove snugly set surrounded by native bush, meeting up and chatting with others who were anchored up with us, and the pleasant camp site we had, which was where the first house was built in New Zealand in 1792. I won't go into any other details of what else happened here as I feel this was adequately covered in the previous KASK newsletter by the editor, and which resulted in my very unfortunate presentation of the annual 'Bugger Award' at the last KASK forum.

Next morning we were up early and away to a good start for a big paddle down the coast to Chalky Inlet. The weather was reasonably good but as we kayaked out of Dusky, we paddled into a large southerly swell, which seemed to increase in size as we made our way down the coast. We were also pushing our way into a strong southerly breeze, which also increased in strength as we progressed. By 1pm we reached West Cape and gathered

together to discuss whether we should continue or turn back. The wind was now very strong and some of the waves we estimated to be over five metres. A landing here was out of the question and our progress was just about nil to going backwards. Very reluctantly, within sight of Cape Providence, we turned and headed back to Dusky. It was only when we started our paddle back with the sea behind us, that we realized how bad conditions had deteriorated and how far out of our comfort zone we were.

We were thankful to be back in Dusky, but also completely drained of energy and shattered at not being able to make it down to Chalky Inlet. We eventually kayaked into Cascade Cove where we set up camp and rang through to Bill for an up to date weather forecast. But Bill refused to give us a good report: "You're looking at another two days before conditions change when an approaching northerly will arrive." It was now eight days since we had left Manapouri and we were hardly halfway. With the prospect of having to spend a further two days waiting for weather to change, we all had to think very seriously of abandoning our trip.

Melanie and I put an enormous amount of time and effort into this trip and wanted to keep going. Our supplies were getting down but there were a couple of places in Preservation Inlet where we could purchase extra food if we needed it. Bob and Ian were now looking at having to commit

to a further seven plus days and just couldn't afford the extra time away. They decided to kayak to Supper Cove at the end of Dusky, where they could organize a helicopter ride for them and their kayaks back to Te Anau.

Most of the next day we spent resting up, although Bob and I paddled into the bay and caught some nice sized blue cod, which we filleted and cooked up over the fire.

At one stage, a tour boat *Cindy Hardy* called by with a bundle of cooked chicken, sausages, snacks and a few cans of beer. That evening we all enjoyed our last meal together and the following morning, Ian and Bob were on the water before 6 am for their long paddle to Supper Cove. They had arranged to be met by the helicopter at 3pm for their lift out to Te Anau.

Walking slowly back to our camp I suddenly heard the most terrible screams coming from the direction of Melanie's tent. "Dad, Dad! Come quickly, its a kiwi!" Standing defiantly in front of Melanie's tent was a kiwi, making the most terrible noise I have ever heard a bird make. As I approached the kiwi turned and ran into the bush. I looked at Mel in amazement. "I never knew kiwis made a sound like that?"

But she assured me that in certain situations, the female bird does scream as if its' being throttled.

Somewhat bewildered by our encounter with the kiwi, we packed our gear and kayaked over to the boat *Albatross* to retrieve the battery of our satphone, which they had charged up for us overnight. The crew had just received the latest weather report and commented that the large southerly swell had dropped to two metres and that we should consider trying to get down the coast as far as the Newton River (by West Cape). "At two metres the swell across the bar will not be breaking and there is a good place to camp in the small sheltered estuary at the river mouth."

It was 7.15 am and there was a strong out going tide heading south that would assist us. "Why not?" were our

thoughts, so we pointed our kayaks to the open sea and went for it.

At 11am the wind picked up, but by then we were rounding West Cape with a view of Cape Providence once again ahead of us. Large waves were crashing into the rugged coastline and we had just started to wonder whether we should continue or once again turn back, when we glimpsed what appeared to be a flat section of water leading into an almost hidden valley.

Kayaking closer to the shore, we could now see an area of flat water tucked in behind a gap in the breaking waves. Closer and closer we kayaked towards the gap, craning our necks to see if the waves were breaking or it was okay. In the gap and it did look good, the guys from the *Albatross* were right, there was a clear passage into the Newton River estuary.

The sea really roughed up during the afternoon, but our evening Met Forecast from Bill confirmed that the anticyclone was not far away and the southerly wind should change to a northerly by morning.

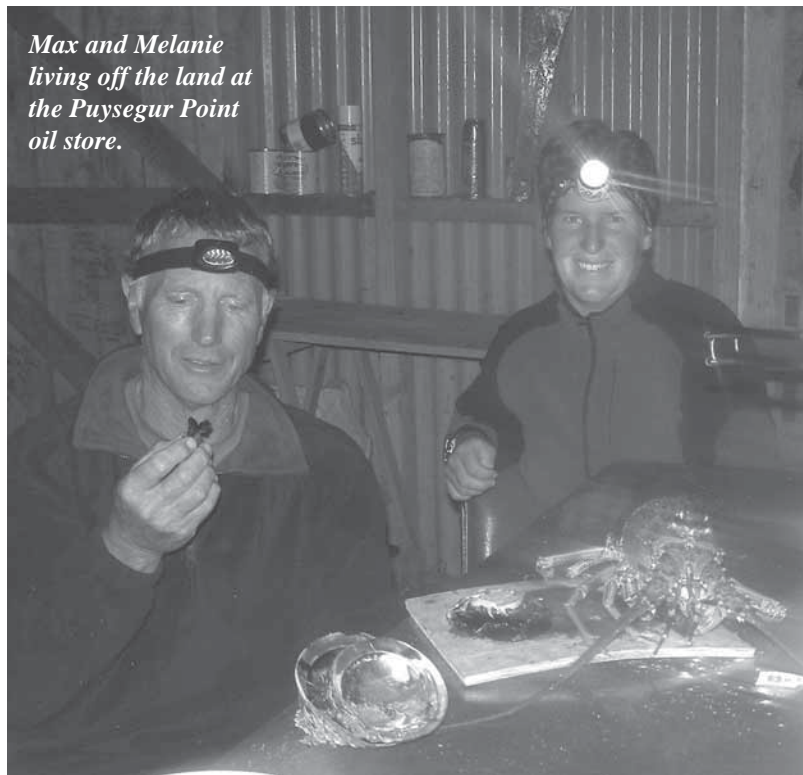
It was great to awake the following morning and view the clouds moving to the south across the ocean. A

quick breakfast and we were once again heading for Cape Providence, only this time the breeze was at our backs and from the north. We kept well out to sea to avoid the confused seas that broke over the many reefs that surrounded the cape at the northern entrance to Chalky Inlet. The white cliffs of Chalky Island were a welcome sight and it wasn't long before we landed on its sheltered beach to stretch our legs and celebrate our arrival in Chalky Inlet.

Assisted by the strong breeze it wasn't long before we rounded Gulches Head and made our way into Preservation Inlet. On our way past Coal Island, we were met by people from Kisbee Lodge, who had been keeping an eye out for us. After checking we were okay, some paua and a large crayfish they had caught earlier were handed over for our evening meal. This was typical of the hospitality we received from the local people we'd met throughout our trip.

Late in the afternoon we arrived at the old oil storage shed at Puysegur Point. The building was where oil was off loaded and stored before being transported to the lighthouse. It is now used as a DoC hut and there's a new lighthouse which is powered by solar power. We were surprised how

*Max and Melanie living off the land at the Puysegur Point oil store.*





far the walk to the lighthouse was and just how tired our legs became after being cooped up inside our kayaks for the last 10 days.

That night we enjoyed a good feed of locally caught seafood and a good night's sleep in a warm hut. Things just seemed to get better as we received information that night that the anticyclone had arrived and was slow moving, so we had about four days of perfect weather to look forward to.

A beautiful clear sky greeted us as we set out around Puysegur Point to begin our long paddle to Green Islets. It was not completely flat, as there was a southerly swell of one metre rolling into this rugged coastline, making landing anywhere very difficult. In fact, we kept several kilometres out to sea when we rounded Long Reef, a section of the coast we had been warned not to go near.

Green Islets was a mass of broken rocky outcrops where several sea caves made for spectacular views. Amongst these outcrops was a beautifully sheltered beach, which made for a perfect landing spot. Nestled in the shelter of some trees up the beach we found what appeared to be a hunter's camp, which had a tarpaulin erected so it provided shelter from the weather. It was early afternoon, so we decided to keep on going until Knife & Steel Harbour.

Once again there seemed as if there was no place to land until we were directly out from the valley and could see a passage of reasonably flat water going all the way to a gentle surf break at the beach. After securing our kayaks, we found another hunter's camp hidden in the trees and within a short time, had made ourselves at home and had a good fire going in the makeshift fire place.

Another perfect day saw us making good time on our next leg to Te Waewae Bay. The wildlife here was amazing and we often paddled with small pods of Hector dolphins that seemed to enjoy swimming right up close, and sometimes riding the bow wave at the front of our kayaks. And when the dolphins weren't around, there

would be lots of little Blue Penguins or various sea birds that broke the monotony of our long paddle. About mid afternoon we finally kayaked into Port Craig, an abandoned timber settlement with a beautiful beach where we swam and were able to have a good clean up.

Next day the good weather continued and we were able to paddle across Te Waewae Bay on a flat sea and continue on to our last camp at Kawakaputa Bay. Our final day saw us complete a long paddle to Bluff, where our good friend and local sea kayaking guru, Stanley Mulvany, took us home for a good feed of Irish stew, fresh bread & milk and a hot shower – wonderful!

Daily reports of our trip around Fiordland were posted on the web and were combined with a fund raising appeal for the Child Cancer Foundation. So far \$1,600.00 has been raised and we hope to increase this amount when we continue our trip up the east coast around the Catlins to Dunedin and Christchurch, starting this December. To view our progress or find out more about the journey, please take a look at our web page:  
<http://www.q-kayaks.co.nz/pages/news.asp>

Max Grant

#### **From the Q-Kayaks website:**

Melanie and I would like to invite all of our supporters to help us raise funds for Child Cancer, as it is an organization we have been involved with for some time and fully support.

Many years ago, my son/Melanie's brother, Steven, was diagnosed as having a brain tumor. He was only 14 years old. After travelling to Wellington hospital and having a horrendous operation to try and remove it, we were told the tumor was malignant and all of it could not be taken out. Steven had to under-go radiotherapy and was given a time frame of up to a year to live.

Steven fought hard to get well and it wasn't too long before he was back at school with his mates and in his kayak, paddling with us all again. That summer our family had the

most wonderful Christmas holiday, travelling around the South Island for 7 weeks. We all agreed that these were some of the happiest times of our lives.

After a courageous time of love and sorrow, Steven passed away at his home with his Family and friends gathered around him. We received lots of support during those final days from people throughout the community, many of whom we did not know.

Please help us support all those families and children who are in need of assistance during their fight against cancer by making a generous donation to the Child Cancer Foundation. (Donations can be made via the website.)

### **A River Sea Kayak Trip Report by Maggie Oakley**

2007 started with my solo kayak-tramp to enjoy the **Clarence River**.

First for those who are unfamiliar with this stunning part of New Zealand I include a little bit about the river and environs.

The Clarence has its source in Lake Tennyson, which is in the northern reaches of the Southern Alps, to finally end, 33 kms north of the township of Kaikoura on the east coast. The river passes through superb alpine scenery and narrow mountain gorges, growing daily in volume till reaching the sea. The canyon or gorge walls have amazing contorted appearances as the river continues to cut the riverbed ever deeper.

The land surrounding the river is known as a 'biodiversity hotspot', containing diverse lizard and insect fauna. Also found are the Marlborough rock daisy and nesting sites for Hutton's Shearwater.

Of delight to a river runner is that currently there are no man made structures impeding the flow or blocking the way for the entire length of the river.

This is not a technically difficult river, graded a 2 when typically running

between 20 to 60 cumecs. When in flood with a flow at up to 300 - 500 cumecs, the water in the gorges gets pushy and warrants a grade 2+ perhaps a 3. Most trips are run from the old Acheron River Confluence near the Molesworth Station, about an hour's drive from Hamner Springs. The get out is usually at river right under the main road bridge on the East Coast north of Kaikoura. At a usual summer flow the run takes five days of about 4 to 6 hours kayaking per day this gives four nights camping by the river.

Many variations on this are possible. If you want to finish your trip actually in the sea, then put your shuttle vehicle on river left by a lagoon area just a short distance further on from the railway bridge. And if you have some extra days and short river kayaks it is possible to kayak from Lake Tennyson, resulting in a lake to sea adventure.

#### **Gear Taken**

My husband stipulated I take some safety items. Therefore I hired an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). The model I chose was waterproof, and small enough to fit in the pocket of my life jacket. I also used a paddle leash, which I habitually use when I kayak alone.

I used a Penguin Sea Kayak, rudder retracted and secured, and this proved an excellent choice - swallowing 10 days of food and two changes of clothes in the front hatch. In the rear, a tent, bedroll, sleeping bag, cooker with fuel, billie, backpack and boots disappeared with room to spare. Behind my seat and secured in the cockpit I put a first aid/emergency box, snacks, sun hat paper and pen and toilet needs and drink bottle. Finally item a tarp fitted snug and handy beyond the footrest.

#### **Shuttle**

My arrangements were with the Clarence River Rafting Company, base 2kms north of the river on the east coast. Here I met up with my driver, Robin Judge. After breakfast I drove my car and he showed me the short-cut back road to the put-in. Then he sat quietly while I methodically packed my kayak in the same manner I had practised at home. About midday I

was ready to float off down river and Robin equally ready to drive my car back to the coast for me.

#### **Weather**

Like everyone else who is familiar with this river with its extensive valleys, my concern always centres on the wind, as I watch the sky for any signs. But I was fortunate and only suffered the very strong gusts on a couple of afternoons and never so strong to chase me off the river. Likewise there were not many days of rain, only my first evening and night, then again on the last evening and night. It was good and heavy and freshened the river and surrounding countryside.

#### **Being Alone**

The trip proved to be exactly what I was hoping for. On my own I was free to pull in and stop as and when I wanted to. I certainly took a lot more notice than usual of my surroundings. I visited the old Quail homestead on one day, the Muzzle stream another.

Deep in the gorges, it was jolly hot so I ended up spending several lazy hours swimming and sunning. I also found out how different the Marlborough rock daisy's are as you progress over the course of a four or five days.

Taking responsibility for my self, resulted in a surprising feeling of calm and peacefulness. A head injury sustained in the summer of 2002 has meant many changes to my life. Well-planned activities, quiet situations, one to one conversations and simple tasks are all safe and appropriate. This trip was perfect for the way my brain works now.

#### **Other River Folk**

On day four or was it five? Anyway I came across six open Canadian canoes pulled up along the bank. They belonged to a large group of Americans who were attending a National Outdoors Leadership School trip. (NOLS). They informed me they were partway through a 26 day course on the Clarence 'doing stuff'. As a few more bearded faces peered out at me from the Kanuka, I wondered if the 'stuff' was Marijuana, but I am assured it was not.

Then on my last evening I caught up with a small raft group from Holland. These were experienced kayakers fresh from running trips in the USA, namely the Middle Fork and Grand Canyon rivers. In NZ they had been kayaking on the West Coast and Murchison areas, now they were winding down before flying out to Turkey. It had started to rain with poor visibility and so we all stopped at Matai Flat. After rigging up some tarps we shared dinner and river stories. A perfect end to the day.

#### **So - There it is**

The Clarence remains the only unspoilt multi-day wilderness river in New Zealand. A beautiful clean river, hidden away in the great valleys of the Kaikoura Mountains. Go visit before the water it is needed for the national grid or irrigation.

#### **New DoC huts in the Clarence are**

- Warden Hut replacement for Bluff Dump Hut at the same site O31 461 808
- Seymour Hut by the river at Quail Flat near the confluence of the Seymour and Clarence O31 429 871
- Palmer Hut at the confluence of the Palmer and Clarence River O31 314 796
- Snowgrass Hut at the confluence of the Snowgrass and the Clarence P30 711 059

PS. OCKC produced a 20 minute Clarence River conservation DVD. A few copies left. \$15 includes postage.

I have some conservation focus DVD's of the river. These show sea kayakers making the trip. Send \$15 to me in Dunedin and I put money back into the OCKC conservation funds.

Contact Maggie Oakley  
Dunedin  
(03) 4737 752  
email: roakley@xtra.co.nz



## 2009 NATIONAL KASK FORUM REGISTRATION FORM

Cobham Outward Bound School, Anakiwa, Marlborough

Friday, 20 - Monday, 23 February  
Numbers limited to 120 people

Based in an ideal location at Anikiwa with beautiful bush, and directly on the foreshore of Queen Charlotte Sound. Accommodation in spacious bunkrooms, all on site.

**A SOCIAL, FUN WEEKEND WITH PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PADDLE, SHARE IDEAS AND LEARN, ON AND OFF THE WATER.**

### Speakers include:

Featured keynote speaker is Australian paddler, **Sandy Robson**. Sandy undertook to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Paul Caffyn's circumnavigation of Australia with her own attempt. After an incident with a huge crocodile in northern Queensland, Sandy shipped her kayak back to Perth and continued paddling Australia's western shores until 28 January 2008. Following her entertaining session at 2008 Coastbusters, we are honoured to have her return as keynote speaker for the 2009 KASK Forum.

Fellow Australian paddler **David Winkworth**, fresh from a 1,200 mile winter paddle from Karumba, at the base of the Gulf of Carpentaria, to Darwin will recount tales of crocodile and shark attacks, big seas and stunning Northern Territory scenery.

**Paul Caffyn** and **Conrad Edwards** will chill temperatures with a powerpoint slide show of their recent trip through the icebergs of south-east Greenland. Sea-sickness medication will be necessary for **Max Grant's** slide show of a bracing, Doubtful Sound to Bluff Fiordland paddle in tempestuous conditions, which he completed with daughter Melanie.

Other presentations by guest speakers and NZ experts whose topics include, navigation, tidal and sea conditions, safety practices to reduce risk, tropical expedition paddling.

- Great opportunities to take part in practical and theoretical sea kayak training covering paddling skills and rescue techniques
- See and share ideas on sea kayak design, equipment and gadgets
- Local area information and exploratory paddles
- The KASK AGM and award presentations
- A paddle to Mistletoe Bay and an overnight camp-out on the Sunday night
- Photo Competition, bring your favorite photos along to the Forum



Anakiwa Outward Bound Bunkhouses



Mistletoe Bay - site of the overnight campout

## 2009 NATIONAL KASK FORUM - REGISTRATION FORM

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency contact while at Forum

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### ACCOMMODATION

Spacious bunkrooms on site.

**NO on-site CAMPING** available.

### MEALS

Your registration fee includes Friday nibbles, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch. Bring your own food for the Sunday night campout dinner & for breakfast Monday morning.

Vegetarian food available for those who require this.

BYO wine / beer or drink of choice.

**Smokefree:** Anikiwa is a smoke free site.

### TRANSPORT

**Ferry pickups available by arrangement at additional cost - to be advised.**

Please indicate :

- number in party .....
- expected Picton arrival time .....
- number of kayaks to transport .....

If you have kayak wheels you can walk your boat from the ferry terminal to the beach and paddle from Picton to Anakiwa. This will take approximately 2 hours.

### KAYAK HIRE

Kayak Hire by arrangement.

If you need assistance with contact details for kayak hire in Picton, note here [\_\_\_\_\_]

See also page 195 of the KASK Handbook 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

**FORUM ENQUIRIES** can be forwarded to Helen Woodward at:

[h.woodward@xtra.co.nz](mailto:h.woodward@xtra.co.nz)

### MISTLETOE BAY CAMPOUT:

Bring a cooker, tucker for dinner and breakfast, tent, sleeping bag etc.

Fresh water on tap, toilets on site at the DoC campsite.

### Paddlers with disabilities?

Contact KASK's adaptive paddling champion

Beverley Burnett at:

email: [bburn55@hotmail.com](mailto:bburn55@hotmail.com)

or phone: (04) 562 7881

to discuss how I may help you at the forum.

**Skill Level**

*Please circle your skill level*

- Novice Just started sea kayaking and / or no formal skills training.
- Intermediate Some support strokes, can do wet exit and assisted rescue.
- Advanced Intermediate Can complete an assisted and a self rescue in moderate conditions. Have completed day trips in a variety of conditions.
- Advanced Can roll a sea kayak in rough conditions. Have completed several challenging sea kayak trips.

**Leadership Experience** Please circle your response

- Do you currently lead sea kayak trips in your local area? Yes / No
- If yes, are you happy to lead a pod of up to 6 paddlers at the forum? Yes / No

**Topics/Events** Please circle your response

- I am available to lead a workshop/instruction session: Yes / No  
If so, what topic(s)? \_\_\_\_\_
- I am willing / know of someone to be a speaker on Saturday night: Yes / No
- I am willing to share some great slides from a recent trip: Yes / No  
(*description*) \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: All participants will be expected to abide by the guidelines set out by the FORUM organisers.*

**FORUM COST**

- KASK member \$170 per person
- Non-KASK member \$180 per person  
(Includes bunkroom Friday and Saturday night plus Sunday night camp-out fee. Saturday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, Sunday lunch and morning/afternoon teas.)

For those not camping at Mistletoe bay, Sunday night accommodation is available at Anakiwa for an additional cost (\$15 pp). This will be on a self-catering basis.

I enclose my registration fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (required for registration)

Make cheques out to: *Sea Kayak Forum 2009*

Please tick if you require vegetarian meals:

**Please return form with payment to:  
Evan Pugh,  
RD2  
Putaruru 3482**

**What are you interested in participating in or getting from the forum?**

Please tick the things that might interest you over this weekend. This doesn't guarantee that all of these topics will be covered and that there won't be others included. It will depend on interest and availability of presenters, etc. If registering for more than one person with different ability levels, use different coloured biro's for each person.

<b>General Activities</b>	<b>I am interested in participating</b>
Sea kayak top-town team event	
Local paddles	
Overnight paddle and campout	

<b>Practical Skill</b>	<b>Beginner</b>	<b>Some skills and knowledge</b>	<b>Wanting to refine skills</b>	<b>Wanting to develop teaching tips around these skills</b>	<b>Happy to teach others at the forum</b>
Boat set up for paddling -Footrest systems -padding to get a good sea kayak fit					
Forward paddling					
Manoeuvring strokes					
Support strokes					
Rescue skills: - self rescue - buddy rescue					
Towing clinic					
Rolling					

**Land based Sessions**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Interested in learning more</b>	<b>Interested in sharing knowledge</b>	<b>Interested in presenting</b>
Emergency communication and safety equipment			
Wooden boat session			
Boat and equipment session			
First Aid emergency management			
Risk and safety management for a group			
Navigation			
Bugger incident sharing			
Local paddling and area information			
Weather and Tides			

We are considering organising some self-funded, focused, training workshops, probably on the Friday morning and Monday afternoon. It will depend on available instructors and participants etc. Limited numbers. Note if interested: \_\_\_\_\_

There is an ideal opportunity to do a post-forum paddle from Tuesday to the following Sunday. If you are interested in knowing of other paddlers who are interested, please sign and give permission for your contact details to be circulated: \_\_\_\_\_

## PADDLER PROFILE

### ROBBIE BANKS by Karen Knowles

The moment Robbie Banks walked into our kayak shop at Mount Maunganui, I knew we had just met an awesome new club member and friend. Her love of kayaking and life is truly genuine and what's even more impressive, is her willingness to share her skills and knowledge. From teaching new paddlers basic techniques, to undertaking challenging solo expeditions, Robbie is a real ambassador for the sport. To find out what gets her paddles spinning, I pinned her down for a quick chat.

#### **So what was it for you as a kid – climbing trees or playing house with Barbie?**

Definitely climbing trees!. I was into sports and the outdoors was a way of life. I preferred to be in the outdoors and especially the water more than anything. It was my fun, escapism and challenge from a very young age. I had my own Clinker dinghy at the age of 7yrs old called Pee Wee, because it leaked like a sieve! Row six strokes, bail six strokes, was my mantra.

Being the second to youngest of eight children, no we aren't catholic, Dad just wanted his own little army. My saviour was the fact that we lived in Beach Road, Tauranga, and I walked across the road to the harbour and nicknamed it, 'My bathtub' (playground as a child). Most other kids had bikes and Barbie dolls - well I had a boat.

I had two jobs to perform each week. Job one, catch herrings (little tidily fish) for the cats. I achieved this by rowing around in a large circle just off shore and dropping jam jars with stale water soaked bread inside, I would secure them with a bit of string and driftwood off the beach, to act as a marker and float. By the time I had dropped off the last jar and rowed back to the first one, little herrings would be swimming inside the jars;



*Robbie Banks*

unable to swim backwards they were trapped & became food fodder for my cat! Chummie. My mate.

Job two, go haul in the fishing net, usually dad would help me with this, since I was only seven, and the net was big, and back then in the early 70s they used long sash bars to weigh the nets down and they were heavy to haul aboard, hence the start of the development of my shoulders! Which have stayed with me ever since.

I was proud of my ability to row a dinghy from a young age and would often be mesmerized by watching the swirling water behind a moving dinghy, a bit like a water symphony for me. Didn't particularly like skirts or Barbie dolls.

#### **So Barbie was out in the cold, but what about Ken?**

My first lesson on the male species was also learnt at about seven years old. There was a guy from school who used to hang out at the beach too, I thought he was kind of cute, with blonde wavy hair and olive skin, but a little on the skinny side! I watched him from a distance, always too shy to say hello, until one day I thought my opportunity have arrived. It was windy, and he was having trouble making headway against the wind and tide, so I thought now is my chance to impress him! And I rowed out full of enthusiasm, threw him a line and towed him to shore!

Well, the response was not ideal. He quietly left without even a word of thanks! And I thought you are such an ungrateful bugger! I didn't know at the time, but realise now - a dented male ego is not such a wonderful thing. Ouch! If you haven't figured it out by now, I was a bit of a quiet, shy tomboy, and the sea was my best friend. I also loved to swim and was pretty good at whacking a softball around!

I didn't have much time for organized sports, as my dad was a bit of a sergeant major, duties and chores came first, fishing, lawn mowing (I had six lawns a week to mow in my neighbourhood each week). And picking plums to sell at the gate. I was also known for wagging school on occasions to go fishing. I guess I was not your typical girl next door!

#### **When did the paddle bug first bite?**

I started kayaking at the age of 17 yrs (25 yrs ago). I was working for Telecom and noticed a car with a slalom kayak on the roof. After a few enquires I found out the owner was a fellow telecom worker, Denise. Denise was a fiercely competitive lady and invited me along to the Wairoa River for a training session.

I didn't have a kayak at the time, so her boyfriend lent me an old fibreglass homemade slalom kayak. It had been smacked around and was held together with duct tape. I had just returned from four years in Aussie travelling with my parents and living in dusty old outback towns, so I was just happy to have the opportunity to be back on the water.

#### **What were you expecting to get out of kayaking?**

My original goal to start with, was to get back on the water and to find a sport that would help me to focus on my fitness. After being introduced to those Aussie meat pies I needed an outlet to get fit again, which of course needed involve the water in some way.

Through Denise, I found kayak racing and white water rafting. Her partner was a river guide and we started hanging out together, rafting most of the commercially operated rivers in the North Island. During the week we



*Robbie rock-gardening in the Bay of Islands*

would train on flat water. It wasn't long before I was being enticed into racing events, mostly organized by the Auckland Canoe Club. Peter and Su Sommerholder were the main event organisers, and are still running the Cambridge to Hamilton event to this day.

My main motivation for competing, wasn't to win, it was just to have a focus, and sense of purpose. Although we did rather well in the prize pool, often Denise would win and I would be second. In fact I competed in the Cambridge to Hamilton again in 2005 (2nd woman home) & 2006 (1st woman home in the open sea kayak composite category). Denise wasn't there ha ha.

**Did you enjoy the competitiveness of racing?**

Yes I did enjoy racing very much, and still do the odd race now, like the Cambridge to Hamilton. Even though I try to deny I have a competitive streak, I'm going back this year to defend my title, 1st place 2006 Women's open composite sea kayak section. I do suffer terribly from pre-race nerves but once I'm out there I just give it all I've got.

I started out competing through the Auckland Canoe Club, because there wasn't a flat water racing club in Tauranga, only white water. The ACC had races every month mainly on the Waikato River & in the Bays around Auckland. They built up in distance each month and finished off with the

Hamilton to Mercer 68km race which I completed in 6hrs and 10 minutes.

What kept me going hard was the handicapped start and knowing Denise was behind me, my goal was for her not to pass me. But she did just before the finish line! Then we crawled out of our kayaks, sunk down in the mud with legs like jelly and hugged and laughed our heads off.

It became a familiar pattern that Denise would be first home in the women's and me a close second, so my next goal was for once in my life to beat Denise! That never happened, because I was never serious enough or willing to give up meat pies! By the way, I don't like meat pies much now. I prefer chicken and camembert.

**Which other races did you compete in?**

We went on to compete at the nationals on Lake Pupuke in 1986, Denise got picked for the Women's Worlds K4 team, and I went away with the 1986 Dragon boat Team to Asia, we had many entertaining experiences on this trip including sinking our boat in Penang. Thanks to Murray and Anne May we won the cultural show which was televised in Asia.

1986 was also the year I purchased my first K1. Until then we had both relied on Denise's boyfriend to make our kayaks, and often felt rather conspicuous at Auckland events. We would roll up in Denise's old beat up two door Ford Capri, complete with mud and

hay from the farm. Our kayaks always displayed a homemade lumpy look to them ! Pox holes! I often felt like a country mouse when participating in Auckland events.

My next challenge was to return to the Australian Outback and compete in the Red Cross Katherine Canoe Marathon, 120 km race down the Katherine Gorge N.T. What an ass buster that was! We borrowed touring kayaks that weighed 30kgs each, like slugs after training in multisport and K 1's. The race took me 11 hours and 38 long minutes over two days. On the second day we were made to turn around and paddle back upstream because a saltwater crocodile had been sighted!

This meant a number of portages over sandbanks carrying 30kgs of kayak on our shoulders! It is amazing to think back now at the terrain we were kayaking in and how little safety equipment we carried. For hours at a time we would be paddling alone in the middle of nowhere and we weren't even required to wear buoyancy aids.

After this trip I decided I had had enough of kayaking for a while, and pursued another passion, Scuba diving.

I still got roped into the odd multisport event. Often Denise or her sister would pass on my name as a suitable paddler or swimmer to team up with for events like the North Island coast to coast and Half Iron man events.

*Robbie (dedicated trip leader) - by the kayak bow - assisting Karen to land*







*Robbie, dwarfed by her long paddle, at the Bay of Islands*

The first year I competed in the North Island Coast to Coast with Carol Hills, we won the women's teams, again I didn't really look the part. Most serious competitors by this stage had started using Tri suits, but I just had an old pair of Speedos. My main concern on the day was the potential embarrassment of having to run up the beach and through the transition area. An exhibitionist I will never be. I was surprised to hear so many people cheering me on and I thought they must be feeling sorry for me, but turns out I was the first women out of the water! Much to the disgust of the many cool looking surf chicks competing!

Actually quite often my equipment considerations came down to what I picked up second-hand with kayaks. I would just take what I could get and work with it. I still have one of my original paddles, and the width of the blades is huge, compared to today's models. Yet another reason for the ample shoulders.

### **What do you enjoy about sea kayaking?**

It's relaxing, peaceful, and beautiful. The friendships made along the way, and the sense of satisfaction at the end of the day. Enjoying a well earned meal, preferably around a campfire with good wine and company. I also enjoy the opportunity to remote camp, to experience a sense of adventure and achieve personal challenges.

Mostly I love getting away from the hustle bustle of city life, getting back to basics. Being in the moment.

### **What are your highlights from kayaking so far?**

Definitely my two solo trips. The first was in May 2007 for 10 days around Kenepuru, Pelorous Sounds and Abel Tasman. The second, a nine day solo down the Coromandel Peninsula, January 2008.

I have also gained so much from participating in Kayak Symposiums and KASK forums, meeting new people, hearing inspiring stories and achievements of other kayakers, sharing collective knowledge. The support and comradeship.

I am especially inspired by the achievements of solo female kayakers, Babs Lindman and Justine Curgenv. and of course Paul Caffyn.

### **So how have you fitted all this in and raised two great kids?**

Although I have been a single parent for eight years, I am fortunate enough to be able to have a shared arrangement with my ex husband, we alternate weekends and half the holidays.

So I guess I have two lives, one where my parenting takes priority and the other when I have some freedom to enjoy my own goals and adventures. I also have an awesome mum who helps out too. "Thanks mum."

### **Do you think being an active mum is important for your girls?**

Yes I do. I tell them, "it is important to have goals and passion for something in life". That's what gives us a sense of living and experiencing. Mine just happens to be kayaking, their passion may be completely different. Although my younger daughter Jessie (12yrs old), is a keen kayaker and has her own white water and sea kayak.

A typical fun day for us is playing in the surf at the mount, followed by a walk and a hot swim. My dad had an adventurous streak and it got passed onto me, now I think I am passing it on to my daughters.

Although I won't encourage them to wag school! I always emphasize a balanced approach between sport and their academic pursuits.

### **How has kayaking changed you, your skills and way of approaching life?**

Once I started competing, I felt more positive about myself and achievements, the training developed my character, determination and resilience. Which I found helped me with other aspects of my life too.

For me kayaking is sometimes like a form of meditation and becoming centred in my mind and body, away from the day to day grind that can often wear me down. This brings me a sense of peace and helps me to appreciate

*Babs Lindman and Robbie after the 2008 Ohope KASK Forum*



the simplest things in life that are often so easy to take for granted, like a hug from my kids when I get home and knowing they have missed me.

### **What are your kayaking plans for the future?**

I would like to continue learning and improve my kayaking skills, there is always something to learn. I always keep striving to be a good instructor and kayak guide. I love introducing others to the sport and encourage them to have fun on the water while also being safe. Plus I want to build on my writing and photography skills and capture those special memories and experiences at sea.

I want to continue building on friendships with fellow kayakers from New Zealand and around the world.

As far as my personal kayaking, I intend to plan a bigger solo trip. I would like to start research the possibilities of extending my solo paddling further. I just need to learn to ask for help about that one. It is fantastic what Justine, Babs and Freya have achieved with their kayaking, but feel something is missing - like a Kiwi chick equivalent.

My main goal is to look back each year and feel proud and satisfied by all the experiences and places I have gone, and the people met along the way - long may it continue

### **Notes:**

Robbie Banks recently completed her planned paddle from Tutukaka north to Cape Reinga.

Her blog site is:  
<http://seakayakeradventurernz.blogspot.com/>

Robbie also has a link to a charity fundraiser:  
<http://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/solokayak4makeawish/>

In the next newsletter, Robbie has a moving account for her first big solo expedition, a trip around the Coromandel Peninsula.

## **SAFETY**

### **Lake Tarawera Coastguard Call-out by Evan Pugh**

Lake Tarawera, Sunday 24 August, the forecast was not good - NE winds 20 knots gusting 30, then turning northerly after midday. At home when I woke up, it was raining so I turned off the alarm and went back to sleep - well tried to.

The rain eased so I thought I'm all loaded up, I may as well go; made my lunch and drove to Rotorua, arriving at the Landing at Tarawera at 8.15am - no one else in sight, not even the trip leader, so I was all on my own. It wasn't rough enough to take the kayak off to surf some waves, so oh well, I will wait a while then go home. Within the next 15 minutes however, 10 other paddlers turned up. I was really amazed but pleased we could paddle.

Our plan was to paddle to the far end of the lake, a distance of 12 kms, then walk to the falls and paddle back in the afternoon. Four of the paddlers, I had not met before - they were from a different club and area. We all headed out of the bay and stayed near shore, heading north till it was time to cross to Humphries Bay on the northern side of the lake - a crossing of 3 kilometres.

I was asked to lead across the bay, as I knew the point to head for. A wee way off shore, we encountered head winds with perhaps the odd gust off maximum 20 knots, but a steady 10 to 15 knots, calming occasionally. The odd squall brought stinging rain, if you didn't have sunglasses on. I cannot remember white caps out there at all.

Four times I stopped and turned sideways, to look back to make sure all were still coming as I knew the trip leader, and other experienced paddlers, were back there, spread out across the lake with the others. Halfway over I nearly turned back, as I knew it was obviously hard work for some, but thought it safer to keep

everyone paddling into the wind than ask inexperienced paddlers to turn around and get blown back. Also I decided it was only 3kms, and the waves were no bigger than half a metre, so on I continued to the shelter of the northern cliffs and waited. Three were right behind me and the last came in after a while - they took a lot longer to get across but they had the security of the trip leader with them, and I heard no complaints from stressed paddlers.

Back near the start of the crossing I was to learn our most skilled paddler had turned back with another paddler who was finding the conditions hard work, so we were left with nine. A little confab and we decided to cut the trip short and stop at Humphries Bay then head back rather than carry on to the eastern end of the lake. As we paddled into Humphries Bay, a runabout came up to us saying a 111 call had been made about a group of paddlers in trouble on the lake. After some discussion, that it probably was us, they headed off still looking, just in case. They were volunteers who live at Tarawera, and the skipper didn't seem too happy with us being out there, and said it's a fairly big sea out there.

Off he went, we landed and the Coastguard's big boat arrived after being towed from Rotorua to launch here, and they had a chat also, but hadn't been in contact with the other boat so didn't know the other guys had found us already. These guys were fine, they were happy that we were well equipped and had experienced paddlers in the group, off they went with a wave.

When we headed back, the stronger paddlers stayed at the back and we followed the shore for a bit longer, before crossing directly over, with a following wave of about half a metre with an occasionally slightly larger one, I managed to surf some waves. But they were not steep enough, or close enough together. Most of the time it was nowhere near unstable conditions for most. No one said they nearly came out except when near shore in the shallows, and not paying attention - a couple got hit with a breaking wave.

Back into Home Bay - a few of us caught some waves but again nothing great before we all landed, packed up and sat in the Cafe out of the rain for a chat. A couple of the paddlers said that they had not been in conditions like that before, but were happy they had, so they know their own ability - so I am happy that they had the chance to experience this.

If anyone had fallen out, it would not have been hard to rescue them but in saying that, if three people had fallen out at once, and all let go of their kayaks, it would have been a challenge with boats blowing away.

Another fairly strong, but new, paddler said he found it hard on the way back going slow, so as to stay with the group. I said yes, that could make you unstable, as you would rather be paddling harder.

#### The next day

One woman got snow blindness, puffy red eyes and couldn't see too good that evening. She went to the doctor next day and was told that this can happen with cold rain just as it does with snow. At first she thought it was something in the water at the lake.

I phoned the Rotorua Lakes Coastguard the following Tuesday and had a talk to the chap writing up the incident report. He said they were happy with us being an experienced group of paddlers, and suggested to paddle along the shore further next time, in those types of conditions rather than out into the exposed water crossing of 3kms.

The 111 phone call came after two chaps sitting in their lounge watching us, thought we were in trouble when two paddlers turned back and the rest spread out into different groups as some squalls hit us. They first thought there was seven of us then nine and made the emergency call, then drove down to the landing where we had started from.

Coastguard said that the police are quite happy to come out in these situations; three police officers were at the coastguard office on Sunday and were fine with the outcome.

Rotorua Lakes Coastguard is not manned most of the time and VHF reception is not available except from boat to boat so to place a trip report the best way is to fax through your intentions in the morning or the day before, you will find them on the Coastguard website under contacts.

The Coastguard Officer I spoke to agreed that even if we had put in a trip intention by fax or gotten through to someone by phone, when the 111 call came through, Police probably still would have sent out a boat - but perhaps if they knew we were a reasonably competent group, they may have asked more questions such as, "Has anyone actually fallen out yet?"

*The Coastguard vessel at Lake Tarawera, following the callout*



One good thing is we were obviously visible for quite a distance out on the lake and next time with a group such as this we should stay in a tighter formation so we look more in control. Some of us go out on the lake intentionally on days when easterlies create good sized waves and this enables us to surf and keep our confidence in these type of conditions so when we do end up in them we have more skills to fall back on.

The conditions were ones that groups often find themselves in on many different trips, a tad intimidating perhaps for the not so stronger paddler, but exhilarating for them once accomplished.

My thanks to the Coastguard Volunteers, who assist with marine rescues throughout the country.

## CALENDAR

### WELLINGTON SEA KAYAK NETWORK MINI FORUM

Venue: Sea Cadet Centre, Cog Park, 489 Evans Bay Parade, Wellington

**Friday 31 October to Sunday 2 November 2008**

Numbers limited to 30 people

An informal paddling weekend in a brilliant new facility (Sea Cadet Centre).

Workshops, paddle in pods, share ideas. Suitable for a range of abilities.

Queries can be forwarded to Diane Morgan: [morgan.fisher@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morgan.fisher@xtra.co.nz) or phone (04) 3892070. This form also on: [www.wskn.wellington.net.nz](http://www.wskn.wellington.net.nz)

## PHOTO COMPETITION KASK Forum Anakiwa 2009

Bring along your best photo prints for a forum photo competition. Entries must have a sea kayaking connection of some sort.

### Entry Guidelines

Photos may be entered for any or all of the following categories

- Open (means the subject dominates the photo)
- Action (sea kayaking)
- Seascape (kayaks or people do not dominate the picture)
- Coastal/marine flora or fauna

First, 2nd and 3rd places awarded per category, and a forum paddlers' choice for the best overall photo. Prizes will be awarded. Limit of four photos per photographer per category.

### Format/Techniques:

Colour or b&w prints to a maximum size of A3.

Note on each photo's back: category, caption or locale, name, mail address, email address. No slides please, only digital or colour/b&w negative prints. Images can only be edited with, cropping and resizing.

### Submission:

Entries can be submitted on arrival at the forum, up to 9am Saturday 21 February 2009. While every care is taken, KASK will not accept liability for damage to entries.

### Usage of Photos:

Winning photos may be published in the KASK Newsletter. Photo competition entrants agree to allow their entries to appear in the KASK newsletter, and agree to enter in discussion with KASK re their use in either KASK safety promotional material or the handbook.

### Display of Photos:

The photos will be displayed throughout the weekend and the winners announced at the dinner on Saturday night.

### Judging of the photos:

The judges for this competition are, John Kirk-Anderson, David Winkworth and Ruth Henderson (who won far too many prizes at the 2008 Ohope KASK Forum).

*The 2007 Photo competition: left, Lynn Burson by her prize winning entry.*

*Right: One of the overseas judging panel, Babs Lindman, in front of a section of the displayed competition photographs.*



## FOR SALE

Glass and Kevlar Nordkapp  
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Dunedin  
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roakley@xtra.co.nz



## BOOKS

A note re kayak historian John Brand's books being back in print:

'Income from sales of *The Little Kayak Book I* have been sufficient to enable us to have some good quality copies of *The Little Kayak Books parts II, III* and '*IV*' (Historical Notes) reproduced from the originals. The first three books contain detailed surveys of traditional kayaks and associated equipment found in museums in UK and Denmark. In total, 21 kayak surveys were recorded by John Brand.

We now have *The Little Kayak Book IV*, which included the complete notes of a lecture given in London in 1986 entitled, 'The Historical Development of Kayaks'.

All four parts of *The Little Kayak Book* series are now for sale through the website, which includes book details and terms of sales:

[www.littlekayakbook.co.uk](http://www.littlekayakbook.co.uk)

## HUMOUR

### Subject: Dog versus Cat

Dog Diary: 8:00 a.m. - Dog food!

My favourite thing!

9:30 a.m. - A car ride!

My favourite thing!

9:40 a.m. - A walk in the park!

My favourite thing!

10:30 a.m. - Got rubbed and petted!

My favourite thing!

12:00 p.m. - Lunch!

My favourite thing!

1:00 p.m. - Played in the yard!

My favourite thing!

3:00 p.m. - Wagged my tail!

My favourite thing!

5:00 p.m. - Milk bones!

My favourite thing!

7:00 p.m. - Got to play ball!

My favourite thing!

8:00 p.m. - Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favourite thing!

11:00 p.m. - Sleeping on the bed!

My favourite thing!

Cat Diary: Day 983 of my captivity. My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while the other inmates and I are fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for the rations perfectly clear, I nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength. The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape.

In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the carpet. Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear into their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates what I am capable of. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a 'good little hunter,' I am. Bastards.

There was some sort of assembly of their accomplices tonight. I was placed in solitary confinement for the duration of the event. However, I could hear the noises and smell the food. I overheard that my confinement was due to the power of 'allergies.' I must learn what this means, and how to use it to my advantage. Today I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my tormentors by weaving around his feet

as he was walking. I must try this again tomorrow - but at the top of the stairs. I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges. He is regularly released - and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously retarded. The bird has got to be an informant. I observe him communicate with the guards regularly. I am certain that he reports my every move. My captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is safe - for now.

### Lingerie

A husband walks into Victoria's Secret to purchase a sheer negligee for his wife. He is shown several possibilities that range from \$250 to \$500 in price. The more sheer, the higher the price. Naturally, he opts for the most sheer item, pays the \$500, and takes it home. He presents it to his wife and asks her to go upstairs, put it on, and model it for him. Upstairs the wife thinks (she's no dummy), 'I have an idea. It's so sheer that it might as well be nothing. I won't put it on, but I'll do the modelling naked, return it tomorrow, and keep the \$500 refund for myself.' She appears naked on the balcony and strikes a pose. The husband says, "Good Grief! You'd think for \$500, they'd at least iron it!" He never heard the shot. His funeral is on Thursday at Noon - closed coffin.

### Catastrophe

A little boy comes down to breakfast. Since they live on a farm, his mother asks if he had done his chores. "Not yet," said the little boy. His mother tells him he can't have any breakfast until he does his chores. Well, he's a little peeved, so he goes to feed the chickens, and he kicks a chicken. He goes to feed the cows, and he kicks a cow. He goes to feed the pigs, and he kicks a pig.

He goes back in for breakfast and his mother gives him a bowl of dry cereal. "How come I don't get any eggs and bacon? Why don't I have any milk in my cereal?" he asks. "Well," his mother says, "I saw you kick a chicken, so you don't get any eggs for a week. I saw you kick the pig, so you don't get any bacon, for a week either. I also saw you kick the cow, so, for a week you aren't getting any milk."

Just then, his father comes down for breakfast and kicks the cat as he's walking into the kitchen. The little boy looks up at his mother with a smile, and says, "Are you going to tell him, or should I?"

### Overdue Kayaker

An outdoorsy couple lived near Anchorage. One morning, the wife said she was going kayaking in Cook Inlet. The husband told her to be careful. When she didn't return that night, he called the authorities who searched the bay. They next day, two state troopers appeared at his door. "We have some bad news for you, some good news, and some really great news." "What's the bad news?" asked the husband, steeling himself. "Your wife drowned in the bay." "What's the good news?" he asked. "When we pulled her up, there were a dozen king crabs and eight Dungeness crabs clinging to her." "What's the great news?" "We're pulling her up again tomorrow!"

### Mental Health Day

Ralph and Edna were both patients in a mental hospital. One day while they were walking past the hospital swimming pool. Ralph suddenly jumped into the deep end. He sank to the bottom of the pool and stayed there. Edna promptly jumped in to save him. She swam to the bottom and pulled him out.

When the Head Nurse Director became aware of Edna's heroic act she immediately ordered her to be discharged from the hospital, as she now considered her to be mentally stable. When she went to tell Edna the news she said, "Edna, I have good news and bad news. The good news is you're being discharged, since you were able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of the person you love."

"I have concluded that your act displays sound mindfulness. The bad news is, Ralph hung himself in the bathroom with his bathrobe belt right after you saved him. I am so sorry, but he's dead."

Edna replied, "He didn't hang himself, I put him there to dry. How soon can I go home?"

## KASK

**KASK, the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (N.Z.) Inc., a network of New Zealand sea kayakers, has the objectives of:**

1. promoting and encouraging the sport of sea kayaking
2. promoting safety standards
3. developing techniques & equipment
4. dealing with issues of coastal access and protection
5. organizing an annual sea kayak forum
6. publishing a bimonthly newsletter.

**The Sea Canoeist Newsletter is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (N.Z.) Inc.**

Articles, trips reports, book reviews, equipment reviews, new techniques, letter to the editor, and moments when the word 'Bugger!' was said singularly or often {referred to by some as incidents} are sought to enliven the pages of the newsletter.

Send in a plain brown envelope, or via cybermail to:

**Editor: Paul Caffyn,  
RD 1, Runanga. 7873  
West Coast .N.Z.  
Ph/Fax: (03) 7311806  
Email: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz**

### **KASK Annual Subscription**

\$35 single membership  
(\$105 for 3 years; \$175 for 5 years)  
\$40 family membership.  
\$35 overseas

A subscription form can be downloaded from the KASK website.

Cheques should be made out to:  
K.A.S.K. (NZ) Inc. & mailed to:

**KASK Administrator  
PO Box 23, Runanga. 7841  
West Coast**

### **Correspondence/Queries to:**

Linda Ingram  
KASK Administrator  
PO Box 23, Runanga. 7841  
West Coast

**Send address changes for receiving the newsletter via email to Linda at:**

**KASK.admin@xtra.co.nz**

### **4th. Ed. KASK HANDBOOK Updated to March 2008**

For trade orders of this mother of all sea kayaking handbooks, contact Paul Caffyn, RD 1, Runanga, 7873, West Coast. Ph/fax: (03)7311806  
e-mail: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz  
Shop RRP: \$34.90  
Price to KASK members only, including p&p, \$22.50  
Make cheques out to KASK (NZ) Inc. and mail to KASK Administrator:  
PO Box 23 Runanga, 7841 West Coast  
New members: gratis

The fourth edition of the KASK Handbook, is a mammoth compilation on all aspects of sea kayaking in New Zealand, by many of the most experienced paddlers in the Universe. Following a brief introduction, the handbook is divided into six sections:

- Kayak, Paddle & Equipment
- Techniques & Equipment
- The Elements
- Trips and Expeditions
- Places to Go - Resources

### **SEA KAYAKING NETWORK ADDRESSES**

#### **NORTH ISLAND**

##### **NORTHLAND Canoe Club**

PO Box 755, Whangarei  
Catherine Keleher  
Ph: (09) 436 0341  
email: cathkel@xtra.co.nz  
**AUCKLAND Canoe Club**  
PO Box 9271,  
Newmarket, Auckland.  
email:secretary@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz

##### **HAURAKI Kayak Group**

Pelham Housego  
PO Box 46-146, Herne Bay, Auckland  
**WAIKATO KASK Contact**  
Evan Pugh, RD2, Putaruru. 3482  
sheepskinsstuff@xtra.co.nz  
Ph: (07) 883 6898

##### **RUAHINE Whitewater Club**

71 Salisbury St., Ashhurst.  
Ph: 06 326 8667 Fax: 06 326 8472  
www.q-kayaks.co.nz/pages/club.asp  
**BAY OF PLENTY - KASK Contact**

Iona Bailey, Tauranga  
Ph: (07) 576 1492

email: bailhut@clear.net.nz

##### **ROTORUA- KASK Contact**

John Flemming, PO Box 1872, Rotorua  
Ph/fax: (07) 347 9950  
email: shakey@slingshot.co.nz

##### **Rotorua Kayak Club**

7 Mahana Place, Rotorua  
Ph: (027) 292 3138  
email: Woolhouse.Clark@xtra.co.nz  
**GISBORNE Sea Kayakers Club**  
John Humphris, 3 Matthews Rd, Gisborne  
Ph: (06) 868 4657  
email: thetrolls@xtra.co.nz  
Website: www.geocities.com/gisborne\_sea\_kayakers/

##### **WELLINGTON Sea Kayak Network**

Mike Wilkin  
23 A Ilam Grove  
Kelson, Lower Hutt  
Phone: (04) 565 0880  
email: mwilkin5@xtra.co.nz  
Website: www.wskn.wellington.net.nz

#### **SOUTH ISLAND**

##### **MARLBOROUGH**

Martyn Smith  
Ph: (03) 577 6256  
blueskua@hotmail.com

##### **NELSON - KASK Contact**

Nora Flight  
Ph: (03) 544 7877  
email: nflight@xtra.co.nz

##### **CANTERBURY Sea Kayak Network**

Andy & Deirdre Sheppard  
53 Kent Lodge Ave  
Avonhead, Christchurch. 8004  
Ph: (03) 342 7929  
email: d\_sheppard@clear.net.nz  
www.CanterburySeaKayak.orcon.net.nz

##### **OTAGO**

Mark Robertson  
mark.robertson@xnet.co.nz  
Ph: (03) 472 7313 (021) 450075

##### **SOUTHLAND Sea Kayak Network**

Stan Mulvany  
03 215 7263  
email: eiger@xtra.co.nz  
Website: www.sskn.uniformnz.com

##### **SKOANZ**

Sea Kayak Operators Assn. NZ  
PO Box 6269, Dunedin North  
email: skoanz@xtra.co.nz  
Website: www.skoanz.org.n

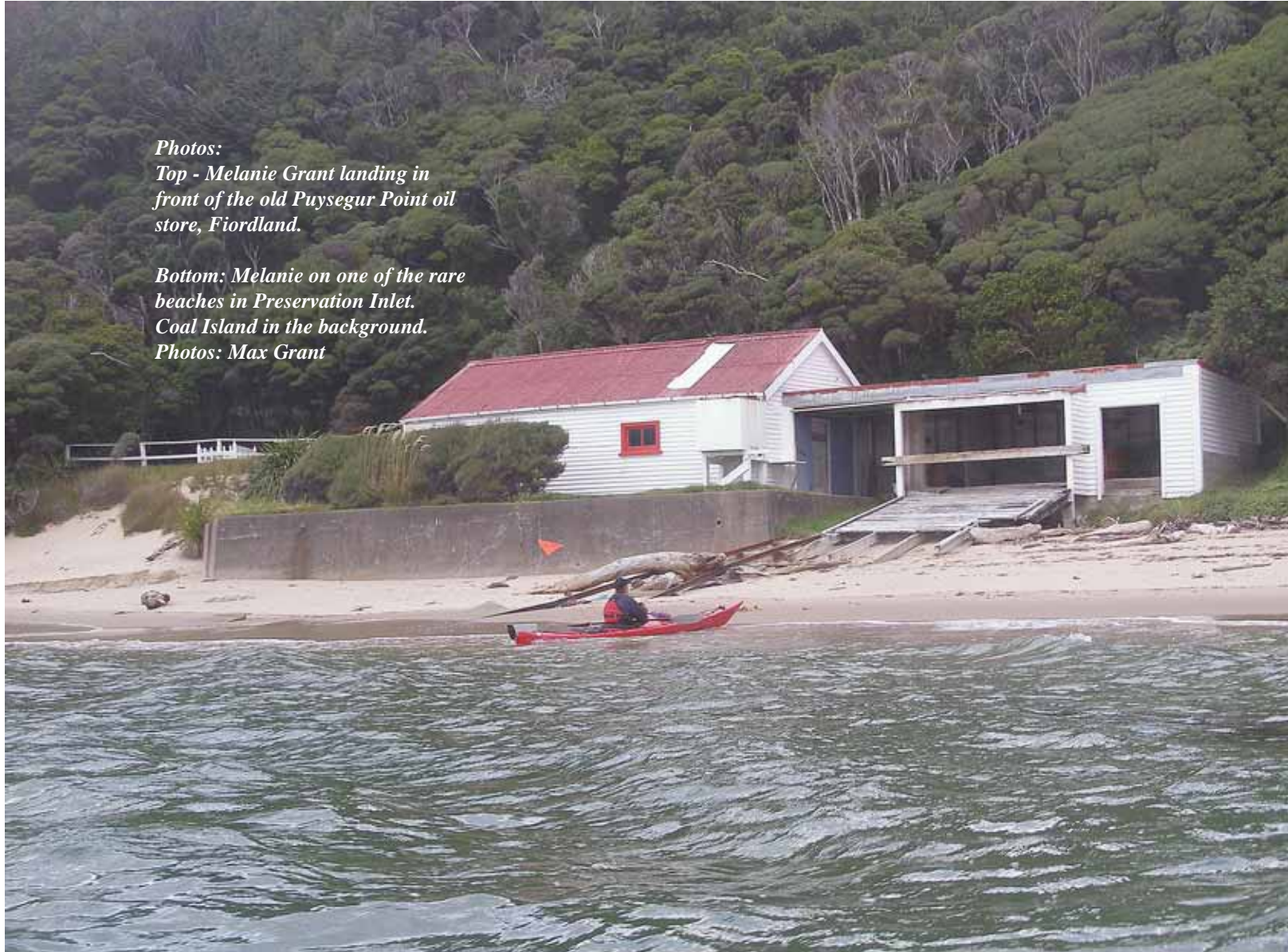
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*Photos:*

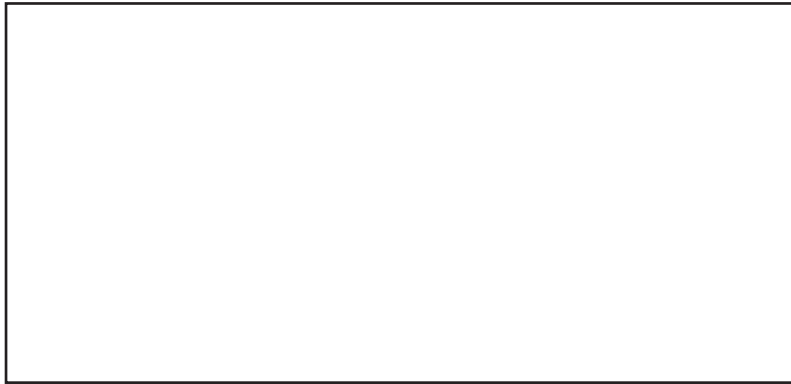
*Top - Melanie Grant landing in front of the old Puysegur Point oil store, Fiordland.*

*Bottom: Melanie on one of the rare beaches in Preservation Inlet. Coal Island in the background.*

*Photos: Max Grant*



MAILED TO



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KASK , PO Box 23, Runanga, West Coast. 7841



Paul Caffyn searching for leads in the sea ice off SE Greenland. Photo: Conrad Edwards

### KASK MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Current membership fees are:

- \$35 for ordinary membership
- \$40 for family or joint membership
- \$35 for overseas membership
- new members receive a free copy of the handbook
- members should endeavour to renew by 1 August
- the KASK financial year runs 1 August to 31 July the following year
- a subscription due notice and up to two reminders are sent out with the newsletters between June and October
- if a membership renewal is not received by 30 September, membership lapses
- new members who join between 1 June and 31 July automatically get their membership credited to the following year, receiving a 14 month membership
- the KASK committee puts its emphasis confirming renewals from existing members from July to October; and promoting new KASK memberships from November to February.

