

# THE SEA CANOEIST NEWSLETTER



**No. 133 February - March 2008**

**ISSN 1177-4177**

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







## INDEX

**EDITORIAL** p. 3

### FORUMS - SYMPOSIUMS

Canterbury Sea Kayak Network annual Okains Bay Forum

by Fiona Fraser p. 4

### Coastbusters 2008 Auckland

Sandy Robson at CB 2008

A View from the Pod

by Debbie Dunsford p. 8

What a Blast

by Natasha Romoff p. 9

The DoC Session

by Ruth Henderson p.10

Impressions of NZ

by Jim Kakuk with Deb Volturmo p.15

### NEW ZEALAND REPORTS

Impressions of Kayaking in NZ

by Albert-jan Zijlstra p. 6

A Day in the Life of Babs Lindman

by Babs Lindman p.19

Bab's Departure from Milford Sound

by Belinda Mulvany p.20

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

VHF Call Signs

by David Fisher p. 7

### TECHNICAL

Pee Freely - Be FUD Confident

by Deb Volturmo p.19

### HUMOUR

p.21

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEXT N/L  
16 MAY 2008**

### PHOTOGRAPHS

*Cover Photograph: Babs Lindman training in West Coast surf off Cobden Beach. Photo: James Venimore  
Insert: Babs. Photo: P. Caffyn*

*Opposite top: Babs Lindman at sunset, near the Taramakau River mouth, south of Greymouth, after a very long day's paddle up the West Coast from Greens Beach.  
Photo: P. Caffyn*

*Opposite bottom: A fiery flare demonstration at the Canterbury Network's annual Okains Bay Forum.  
Photo: John Kirk-Anderson*

## EDITORIAL

Talk about busy Trev! What with Coastbusters in Auckland, and an urgent request to head back south to a damsel in distress who had lost her paddle (Babs this time), locating Babs at Okarito, and then driving down to Mussel Point near Haast with a very heavy bag of tucker and film equipment for Justine Curgenvin and Barry Shaw, I have been SO busy.

Then Babs arrived over the Grey Bar, and fortunately Tsunami Rangers Jim Kakuk and Deb Volturmo, speakers at Coastbusters, arrived to help with logistics and photographic arrivals and departures at Greymouth, Woodpecker Bay and Westport. On his way north from paddling the southern lakes, Rotorua paddler John Flemming reckoned the highlight of his trip was meeting Babs and following her progress up to Westport, not to mention appearing in a photo with Deb in *The Press* welcoming Babs into Woodpecker Bay.

At the Grey River bar, we waited five hours for breakers to settle before Babs made a clean run out to sea. The swell was huge, breaking over a mile offshore from Punakaiki's blowholes, but minutes before sunset, Babs rounded into the lee of Seal Island at Woodpecker Bay, for a good landing on a sandy beach in low surf. With Babs, Jim, Deb, John and myself around a glowing driftwood fire, we re-heated cooked meals for what was a magic evening.

Coastbusters was a great success. Paul Hayward and the Red Team ran a very successful weekend, with a good mixture of on land lectures and on-the-water pod games and the Sunday scenarios. The International Kayak Week that followed was also a great success despite rotten weather.

My thanks to Debbie Dunsford, Ruth Henderson, Natasha Romoff, Jim Kakuk and Deb Volturmo to their newsletter reports and Deb also for some cracker photos. Thanks to Belinda Mulvany for her story and photos of Babs.

### KASK FORUM 2008 OHOPE

A forum registration form is again included with this newsletter. Sandy Robson was a great keynote speaker at Coastbusters but the KASK Forum will have both English film maker Justine Curgenvin and co-South Island paddler Barry Shaw, along with Swedish paddler Babs Lindman.

Please register promptly, and Evan Pugh advises that venue campsites are fully booked – bunkroom accommodation is still available on site, or if you wish to camp off site at the Ohope Beach campground, 4kms away, see [www.ohopebeach.co.nz](http://www.ohopebeach.co.nz)

### Photo Competition

Details in newsletter No. 132. Please bring along or mail to Evan Pugh your entries for the KASK photo competition.

### Bugger! File Award

For the most embarrassing kayaking moment in the past 12 months, this magnificent trophy could be yours! Nominations to Evan Pugh, the KASK Forum organizer.



## Canterbury Sea Kayakers Network Forum

**Okains Bay  
2-3 February 2008  
by Fiona Fraser**

Arriving in the dark on the Friday night, it was hard to gauge how many kayakers had turned up for the network weekend at Okains Bay.

Saturday morning revealed cars dotted through the trees loaded with kayaks, and a procession of cars arriving with yet more kayaks attached, so the turn-out looked pretty good. That was confirmed with the final tally on the sign in sheet of 68 participants. Forecast rain never eventuated which was helpful and the weather held for the whole weekend. There were several complaints about a lack of surf - although let it be said that not everyone was unhappy with the nice flat water.

Sandy Ferguson was MC for the weekend, and had everyone gathered at 09.30 on Saturday for a briefing. He declared the 13<sup>th</sup> Okains Bay meet underway and set the scene for the forum by asking everyone what they wanted to do for the weekend. No one seemed keen to hit the water until the flare demonstration was over so it was decided that the morning would be taken up with a talk about gadgets, then safety. A break for a(nother) coffee followed by a general talk on equipment, hopefully by which time Jim Lilley from Maritime NZ would have arrived and we would be underway with the flares demonstration before lunch.

Sandy's talk on gadgets rivalled a Suzanne Paul sales pitch. At the end of it you were left wondering if you should up your milk intake so that you would have more empty bottles to make handy things out of. The dry bags made of plastic leggings were going well until someone asked what he did with the plastic shorts which were left over, suggestions and mental images quickly deteriorated!

The final gadget simply left everyone speechless - it was a finely crafted, unique tool to be used for digging holes, hitting in tent pegs, cutting wood etc. When someone finally recovered enough to ask where you got such a thing, Sandy pointed out that nobody else could have one, otherwise it would no longer be unique.

Sandy finished by espousing the virtues of a wooden paddle, saying (among other things) that you could not only paddle with it but you could burn it in an emergency situation, which led nicely into John Kirk-Anderson's talk on safety. Unfortunately, John tripped over Sandy's wooden paddle when he got up to talk, and it was irreverently tossed into the bushes.

John spoke about visibility, both in your kayak and on shore, pointing out the simplicity of some safety equipment but the big difference it can make when everything has turned to custard. Having a light on your PFD was one example. He went through the pockets of his PFD to show people what he regularly carries whether he is out for a short inner harbour trip or an extended tour. There was a large plastic mattress cover to be used as an emergency shelter, with the advantage that it was free and clear. I was watching all the gear piling up and thinking that I wouldn't like to have to try to get it all back into the PFD.

There was some discussion about the quantity of safety gear recommended and the limitations that people have either due to size of their PFD or size of their person to carry it all.

A suggested supplementary pocket was a bum bag, although for a person of small stature this was only marginally viable. We were also fortunate enough to have Albert-Jan Zijlstra, a visiting Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructor from Leeuwarden, Holland. He also went through his PFD and discussed what he was carrying and why. He had what looked like an orange pack liner which he held out to fill with air and tied up to demonstrate what a good beacon it makes. He also demonstrated how useful a short tow line can be. He had a very nice looking PFD, with a clip on water bladder.

After the barrage of questions, there was a break for more talk and coffee, then a reconvene to discuss general equipment and its virtues.

Jim from Maritime NZ turned up a little late, explaining that he is used to coming in by boat not car which despite his efforts is much slower. He and his assistant, Katie handed out some information packs which were very popular, although I think that had something to do with the orange jellybeans rather than the pamphlets, stickers and DVD.

Jim did a bit of a talk about flares and the pros and cons of each type. He got on to discussing 'section 91' which nobody had heard of. It transpires that there is a rule coming out in the middle of the year which requires vessels to carry two types of communication when on the water. He got a barrage of concerned questions, but we couldn't go into it too much due to the closing window of time we had permission for to let off the flares. It will certainly require a bit more research though.

A quick look at the conditions, and considering the campground caretaker's concern about us burning the campground down - which is justified as it is a scruffy pine plantation - Jim decided that the parachute flares were out, too dangerous. There was obvious disappointment from the pyromaniacs amongst the group.

You may laugh, but I did have to wrestle a couple of donated flares off our club commodore, and John Kirk-Anderson had to be prised off an enormous smoke can that Jim bought over with him.

Douglas Flux was 'volunteered' to take the enormous smoke can (after we removed it from John) and a hand held flare out to sea in his kayak, so that we could see the two from shore. While he was paddling out, flares were handed out to those that wanted to have a go letting them off. These were expired flares which people had donated, and Jim had brought a collection out with him as well. We probably had about 40 flares to let off. (See flare photo inside front cover)

The first to be let off, just above the water mark on the beach, were the orange hand held smoke, then the smoke pots and then the red hand held flares. As you can imagine, there were large volumes of acrid smoke issuing forth, and as luck would have it the gentle breeze was sending it straight into the trees in the campground. Just as the last flare was dying, out one of the people staying at the camp came out to complain. Brave man - I probably would have gone to the camp caretaker rather than tackling 68 kayakers who were having a jolly good time.

Meanwhile Douglas had let off his huge smoke can, out at the head of the bay, and it was letting off copious amounts of smoke. He let that go for a couple of minutes and then let off the handheld smoke flare. The hand held flare did a valiant job, but didn't have the volume or staying power of the can.

Although it is a pity that we couldn't let off the missile type flares, the demonstration was great. Of particular interest was how reliable the expired flares turned out to be. We didn't get to test the 1976 handheld smoke flare - Jim wasn't game to let us play with that one - but out of the 40+ flares, only four didn't work, of which two could possibly have been coaxed into life with a bit of Kiwi ingenuity, or Sandy's special tool.

After lunch people split into groups. One group went with Murray for a paddle in search of bigger surf to play in. The larger group was split between four instructors, John Kirk-Anderson, Albert-jan Zijlstra (or Smith as he was nick-named for the weekend), another visiting instructor we had with us from the UK, Gordon Tupper, and a local instructor from Paddler Zone, Don Ford. These groups were able to practice and learn about everything from paddle strokes to surfing, which led naturally into wet exits and self-rescues.

Saturday night, Albert-jan Zijlstra gave us a very interesting talk about the paddling he does back home. He did seem very focused on tides, and he was intent on drawing us pictures

on the whiteboard with a marker that wouldn't co-operate. Even with the faded lines, it was obvious that tides were to be respected around the West Frisian Islands to the north of Holland. They weren't going to just inconvenience you by going out and making you carry your kayak, after a coffee at Governors Bay - they were going to stop you in your tracks. He said that there were about 600 or so kayakers in Holland; very small in number compared to the overall population, but the sport was growing in popularity.

Sunday was a repeat of Saturday's lessons. The people that went for a paddle didn't get very far because the conditions out from the head of the bay had deteriorated and didn't make for inviting paddling. The surf was a little better, and after explanations and diagrams on the beach, from Albert-jan Zijlstra and Don, people were into it.

Albert was very concerned that people were going into the surf without helmets, and it was obviously strange to him that it wasn't compulsory. Once the carnage was underway, you couldn't help thinking that maybe he had a point. I watched a lady speeding along on the top of a wave, looking very impressive. She broached, and managed a great brace to keep the whole thing together, displaying a huge smile, obviously enjoying herself immensely. The wave had the last laugh though. She relaxed just a little

too early and got biffed. Some of us took advantage of the lagoon and did some rolling practice in it under John Kirk-Anderson's tuition.

By Sunday mid-afternoon, most were packed up and headed for home. It was a great weekend, and when I went around asking people what was the one thing they had learnt, most were trotting out way more than one thing, and the most common reply was simply a boost in confidence. It was all really positive stuff, and we got a thumbs-up from Ralph who came up especially for the weekend from Dunedin.

I take my hat off to the instructors that helped out. They spent most of the weekend up to their waists or deeper in water, helping us all out, hardly getting in any paddling at all, but their efforts really made the weekend such a great and worthwhile event.

Sandy also deserves credit. I am sure that sorting us out was a bit like herding cats, but he managed it beautifully. See you all next year!

Fiona Fraser

*Albert 'Smith' surfing at a secret beach north of Auckland. What happened next? Albert capsized, letting the long board surfer ride over his keel.*  
Photo: Deb Volturno





# IMPRESSIONS OF KAYAKING IN NZ

by Albert-Jan Zijlstra

I'm lucky this time at customs at Wellington airport. The guy who is checking my gear is a river kayaker and when he hears my story about travelling around New Zealand for two and a half months, and to do some kayak coaching, things seems to go a little bit easier. During my flight, I wondered how things are going in New Zealand - I already had lots of information from the web and friends, but the real thing is always different from the stories. The best thing of travelling is the discovery of differences between the things you think they are supposed to be, but suddenly finding out other ways.

## Conditions and landscape

The main difference I discovered with travelling around and meeting many New Zealand kayakers, are the conditions. At one of the first days in NZ I went to a marine shop to buy the tidal diagrams and tide tables. That's one of the first things we use in the Holland when we're planning a trip. Looking in the books and at the diagrams I discovered that there are only a few spots where tide is an issue. Talking to some kayakers and telling of my discovery, people start laughing, nothing to worry about.

The second most important difference is the landscape. Kayaking around the rocks and cliffs makes navigation not as hard as looking for buoys in a very flat landscape like the Netherlands. Although, the quick weather changes and the gusts at Wellington harbour surprised me. The weather changes aren't that quick in the place where I kayak, which makes planning easier.

The difference between the conditions and the landscape means most people in Holland first start kayaking in safe waters like the canals or the lakes. When they get some experience, they make the step to sea kayaking, with everything organised in a safe environment of coaching, lectures and certificates. Just borrowing a boat from the neighbours and get kayak-

ing at the Waddensea is getting into trouble. Last year the life boat service had to save two people from a buoy who got on the water without sufficient knowledge.

## Safety

That brings me to the next point of safety. I was surprised that so many people in New Zealand are paddling on solo. The Dutch policy from the kayak organizations like the Dutch Kayak Association (NKB) and the Paddle Chat Foundation (Stichting Peddelpraat) is 'kayaking at sea, a minimum of three'. Start at least with three people or more on a trip (and finish with the same amount of course). Because many people in Holland start with a course, they get their safety instructions during a course to get a safety certificate, or getting the experience to kayak safe at sea from instructors. But I wondered, when you just start paddling in a bay with you're brand new and shining kayak, how do you know something about that?

The answer was given to me when I entered a shop in Nelson to get some gear. I saw a specific flyer, made by the KASK about safety for kayakers who buy a new boat, a good way to get people informed about the risks of kayaking in a short way. Something I take with me back to Holland because we get more and more kayaks and sit-on-tops at the coast.

Oh, and when you're at the shop already, please buy a crash helmet. It's giving the instructors on the beach not so much stress when you're doing your surf training at Okains Bay. Please buy a decent helmet and not doing as I did by using an army helmet with three stars stuck on the front side to look cool as 'the general', when on my first surf training when I was twelve. The first breaker took the helmet and I never saw it again.

## Getting a kayak

After arriving in New Zealand, I bought like flares, smoke signals, tidal information books and even hired a 406 EPIRB. I went travelling around looking for some nice spots to rent a kayak on my own. I know that I wrote about our Dutch policy but I heard stories of brave people trying to get

around the rocks and cliffs of New Zealand solo.

Well, even telling all my experience and showing the gear it's not possible to hire a kayak in New Zealand from a company. I tried to rent in different places around the country but the policy is strict. Of course as an instructor I understand that, but as an experienced kayaker it's hard to cope with if you planned a trip in your mind and you can't get the most important part of it. The levelling of the skills is one of the hardest things for a company I guess, and not only with kayaking. Is the person telling the truth or does he want a kayak on his own and bringing the company into trouble? In despite of the few experienced people, some tourists overestimate them selves, getting the companies into trouble.

During my trip around the South Island a few (tramping) accidents were reported on the radio. Why are people tramping around on 'All Star' sneakers instead of a good hiking boot? As you understand I was disappointed that I couldn't hire a company kayak on my own, because of the good feeling for responsibility from the companies to prevent people having an accident. However, in the private scene many things are possible. The best advice I can give to highly skilled paddlers is to bring your own boat or buy one in New Zealand. Of course before you get all the (local) knowledge of the area you want to kayak, but is it worth to go on your own? A bottle of wine after a long trip tastes better with two, doesn't it?

## Rudder or Skeg

The last thing I discovered is maybe the biggest difference in kayaking and that's using a rudder or not. Writing this at Paul Caffyn's home, I'm starting a long discussion with him about paddling with or without a rudder, or variable skeg. In the Netherlands we all use a variable skeg, like in Great Britain. Our opinion is that a rudder is very vulnerable when landing in breakers, and you can get badly injured when hanging on the toggle at the stern of your boat when you had a wet exit and are heading for the beach in a range of breakers.

The discussion is getting very interesting when Paul shows me how to climb onto the hull of an upside down kayak to rescue himself in breakers. Also telling me that you still can change your course by using your rudder when the wind is too hard to paddle. Something that isn't possible using a skeg. The different opinions are based on circumstances I think - kayaking in an area with only sandbanks with many breakers and no rocks or cliffs makes things different or am I too stubborn to agree with Paul about the rudder issue? Hmm, interesting opinion, which I also take home. I'm glad that at the end of the chat we agree about paddling a dry kayak to prevent hypothermia by also using a PVC spray deck instead of neoprene.

Writing this story with a great view at the West Coast of New Zealand, I want to make a statement. Kayaking sometimes looks so simple, until you get into the circumstances you didn't expect. That's when you need your skills and gear, and do you have these? Otherwise, I suggest you gain your skills from people who have the knowledge, because they give you more self-confidence and may save your life!

Albert-jan Zijlstra. Photo: Deb Volturmo



## Letter to the Editor - VHF Call Signs

I was concerned by some comments in David Winkworth's Opinion piece last newsletter.

However, I do like the two examples quoted where VHF radios saved their owners. Dave's comments re call signs for radios, are an opinion I disagree with. I am not sure if he is really referring to call signs or some boat name or general kayak identifier concept.

I suggest NZ boaties with a marine radio who do not have a registered call sign contact Coastguard Boating Education to obtain a proper NZ call sign for their radio, see: <http://www.cbcs.org.nz/marine-vhf-radio-call-signs/> or ph: 0800 40 80 90. A NZ call sign costs \$30.

It is inappropriate and would be confusing to make up ones own call sign based on his formula. If he wants to call his craft or kayak DWK or Delta Whiskey Kilo that is his choice. No problem. But this is not a NZ Marine radio call sign. A NZ VHF call sign will typically start with 'ZM' and consist of 3 letters followed by four numbers eg. ZMR1234.

I recommend every owner or user of a marine VHF radio, obtain a Marine VHF Operator Qualification which is obtainable from Coastguard Boating Education. Maritime NZ print the

booklet *Radio Handbook for Coastal Vessels* which is updated regularly. The copy I have is dated 2007, and it contains useful information that I recommend that every owner or user of a marine VHF radio read, and become familiar with the sections that relate to VHF.

In practice not every transmission over the VHF radio spectrum is identified with a call sign. Sometimes communicating within a group of sea kayakers I use the identifier 'Kayak David', and others use the equivalent version with their own name substituted. If there was another kayaker in the group with a radio and they were also called David I'd likely switch to 'Kayak Fisher'. Note this is not my call sign.

If I was calling Maritime Radio to lodge a TRI I'd use my call sign. (If you don't know what a 'TR' is, and you have a marine VHF radio, I suggest you do the Marine VHF operator course or at least read the *Radio Handbook for Coastal Vessels*.

Maritime NZ wrote the following to me in August 2006: 'Every transmission made on the marine VHF radio band is required to have a unique identifier. This could possibly be a vessel name, but there being no register of boat names and with over 300,000 boats, a name is unlikely to

be unique. The only practical way is to have a call sign. Immediately any call sign is used over a radio to NZ Maritime Radio, the details come up on screen. Some 40,000 VHF user call signs are now on the database.

However, any person can use a VHF radio without a call sign in cases of emergency, and to use VHF to listen to weather forecasts and so on is absolutely legal. It is just routine traffic where a unique identifier is required. There is no follow up or action taken against anyone who does not comply unless the VHF is used irresponsibly, hoax calls and so on.

Radio Spectrum Management told me recently that an operator certificate such as RRTOC or Marine VHF Operator Qualification is still a requirement. Clearly, those who have had a basic level of training will be better operators.' Maritime NZ comment ends.

PS: I was paddling at Coastbusters recently and commented to a fellow pod member that I was impressed that they had their (proper) radio call sign neatly printed on the bow of their kayak. The paddler responded along the lines of, "That's so I can remember it (the call sign) if I'm out of my boat and calling for help." I was impressed.

David Fisher

## COASTBUSTERS 2008 - AUCKLAND

The weekend was great, with a good mix of speakers, lectures, workshops, kayaking challenges for the 24 pods on the lake and for the scenario Sunday at Sullivans Bay, rounded off with the traditional BBQ. Sandy Robson's powerpoint presentation on the Saturday evening, of her attempt to paddle around Australia, was a weekend highlight for me. Her slides were story-telling pictures, and Sandy spoke from the heart.

A 'safety on the sea' panel of Jim Dilley (Auckland Harbour master's office), Jim Lott MNZ, Neil Murray (Coastguard Boating Education), Ian Calhaem (Auckland Canoe Club) presented the results of testing of kayak safety devices, both during the day and at night. High visibility paddler clothing was exhibited, also chopper flags and various night light alternatives. It was pleasing to see how close liaison between paddlers and maritime agen-

cies is working positively to enhance kayak safety.

Following are a series of vignettes of the weekend and subsequent International Kayaking Week, by both Kiwi and overseas paddlers, which I feel eloquently capture the mood and excitement of the weekend.

### Sandy Robson at Coastbusters 2008 - A View from the Pod

by Debbie Dunsford

A 'pod' of sea kayakers is a widely used – and romantically fitting – concept for safe paddling. At Coastbusters 2008, it was clear the organisers have taken the pod system to a new level as an intrinsic part of the Coastbusters experience, both on and off the water. Pods of eight delegates, each with a leader – very much a facilitator rather than an expert – met for the first time after the welcome on Friday night. Those attending as couples or in groups were deliberately split up and each pod received a balance of expertise and inexperience. Everyone attending therefore met and immediately belonged to a group of seven other delegates and the pod was a foundation for fun, friendship, learning and challenge throughout the weekend.

Day Two of Coastbusters 2008 had the usual mix of keynote and seminar sessions. It also had a pod challenge that required planning people, equipment and skills for a looney-tunes session on Lake Pupuke. Back in 2006, each pod built and raced a small corrugated cardboard and tape kayak. In 2008, we had a variety of skills and activities to perform around a course – against another 23 pods. Two half hour planning sessions during the day involved intense teamwork and, in our case, some lateral thinking about where legality ended and cheating began. Late afternoon saw 24 skitish pods poised at the lakeside as the hooter sounded – perhaps just a fraction

early! Twenty hilarious minutes of mayhem followed as teams worked their way through the challenges, all to rowdy barracking from the shore. No winners were declared or prizes awarded but the challenge was ready proof that everyone involved was a winner. By now, pod members knew each other very well indeed and dinner was marked by easy conversation and tables being pushed together as groups kept expanding to include more new friends.

Day Three or Scenario Day is when the pods really shine. With a cohesive group established, our pod set off from Sullivans Bay to practise skills and challenge ourselves. A mix of skill levels is planned but the pod is absolutely not a leader/instructor/pupils situation. It is all about sharing skills and experience and ensuring everyone makes a contribution. Having said that, our pod at CB2008 felt we scored big-time in having keynote speaker, Sandy Robson, as a member. Sandy's 'Long Australian Paddle' in 2007 took her right up the eastern coast of Australia until her well-publicised discussions with an angry saltwater crocodile.

Let's face it. Anyone who sets out to paddle around something as big as Australia has got to be one determined individual. Sometimes, the intense self-reliance and focus that drives one to take on such a challenge means such

a person can find operating as part of a group an even greater challenge. Sandy proved the lie to this psychobabble over and over throughout the weekend. She seemed to revel in being part of the group, was always at the forefront of any activity but also highly aware of group dynamics and never dominating. She threw herself into the weekend in the same way she apparently attacks life, with enthusiasm, a huge level of skill and the widest of smiles.

Three of our pod members were unable to attend on Sunday. We started off feeling a bit sad that we were such a compact group but quickly realised that our small numbers meant that 'the few' were going to receive expert attention from a highly skilled instructor. Being a paddler of the 'quite a few hours in the seat but never moved past intermediate skills' variety, I regard pod leadership as something to be shared and we took it in turns to facilitate each scenario. Chris Dench led off with Scenario One, calmly throwing in an unscheduled rescue to keep us on our toes. Just five minutes on the water and someone wet already. We were obviously a keen bunch!

Scenario Two was to practise paddling *sans* rudders. I have to admit I usually only do this every two years at Coastbusters. It was here that Sandy's technical and outdoor instruction skills came to the fore. She explained and





*Sandy Robson at Sullivans Bay*

demonstrated a combination turn of rail, sweep stroke and low brace to take us around an impromptu course of mooring buoys off Opahi Bay, giving individual advice as we went. Bow rudder and sculling strokes followed. Sandy teaches outdoor activities at a Perth girls' college and has a style of instruction that is also perfect for adults. We were challenged but never harassed into trying to do better, although her quiet expectation was always evident and was an extremely effective motivator.

Our pod handled all nine scenarios in a similar way. One person took us through the instructions but it was then a group effort to plan and carry them out, sometimes improvising as

we went along. One scenario involved swapping boats and paddles. Rather than go back to the beach to swap back, a casual suggestion that we change boats on the water was taken up. We rafted up and manoeuvred one by one back to our own boats. The final score was one dunking, numerous legs and bums stuck in ungainly positions and plenty of laughs.

Sandy's philosophy of life appears to be 'let's do it' and 'let's have the skills to do it'. She is a great people person, ready to include and encourage people with her smile and sense of humour. She was always up for any challenge or fun that was happening and was a terrific team player. The four lucky members of Pod 7 all felt they had

improved their skills through her expertise. Towards the end of the day when she commented that she thought the girls at her school would really enjoy trying 'scenarios', I think we all felt secretly pleased that she was taking something home in return for everything she had given us.

With thanks to Pod 7 - Chris, Brian, Susie, John, Scott, Cat, Christine and Sandy - for a great weekend.

Debbie Dunsford

### **CoastBusters 2008 What a Blast! by Natasha Romoff**

Full on, high energy, so many ideas and information exchanged. As you can imagine there was a certain amount of 'steam' released after the Saturday night dinner. During the tidy-up, certain duos were seen to run at each other, one clutching a pink balloon to his/her chest, and slamming into each other with the excuse that they were helping to reduce the landfill!

I was detailed to drive Sandy (Round Oz) Robson, Stephen 'Funny Man' Counsell and John 'JKA' Kirk Anderson home to bed at our place. My little black car had one over-length 20 ft wooden kayak on top (Paul Hayward's *Mystery*) with the regulatory yellow flag and the one surviving pink balloon. If you know the Funny men, you can imagine that there was a certain amount of mirth and silliness going on in my vehicle as I negotiated the backstreets of the North Shore.

Ooops - we see a police roadblock barring our way! Seeing as all of us are tee-totalers or careful drinkers, we were nowhere near the limit. However a certain challenge was set the Policemen. My passengers quickly donned the silly-bugger Halloween masks used earlier at Coastbusters and challenged me to do the same. I decided I would be the sensible adult and declined, but three against one wasn't really fair.

So there we are at the roadblock, the little car with the big kayak rocking

on its wheels with mirth. I roll down my window and apologize to the cop as I don the mask; "Well they made me, officer, honest they did!"

Mr Plod says: "Sorry Lady, but the joke is on you," as he shoves the breathalyser in my face and commands me to take a deep breath and blow for all I am worth. I like to think I blew them away - perhaps made their evening more fun? But they didn't seem to appreciate us.

Do you find that cops seem to be getting younger and younger these days? Younger and more serious?

By the time Paul came down the same road, the cops had packed it in for the night. Sitting in their cars looking defeated. Obviously business hadn't been too good that Saturday night!

## Coastbusters '08 The DoC Session Spoilt for Choice – and allowed to have a say. by Ruth E. Henderson

With four 'streams' and five workshop sessions, Coastbusters 08 certainly packed the punches! As Chairman Paul Hayward promised, the choices would be hard... and as I found out, could even be slightly embarrassing...

When Paul Caffyn sidled up to me and asked if I was going to listen to his East Greenland Trip Report, I had to admit that I wasn't – I was going to the DoC session – joking that I could listen to him any ol' time! Or to be precise, I would catch his talk at the KASK Forum at Ohope over Anzac weekend. This report is Paul's way of getting me back!

NZ Department of Conservation representatives, Lynnell Greer and Ingrid Greenslade impressed me with their candour, enthusiasm and ardent wish to hear what we as kayakers and campers needed or wanted.

Ingrid gave an update from the Waikato; on the shores of Lake Arapuni, 8 km south of Jones Landing, near the

Hamilton Anglers Lodge, there is now a campsite consisting of a cooking shelter and both flush and long drop toilets; at Mahurangi Island offshore from Cathedral Cove, near Hahei there is a 'posh bivvy' with water collection, table, bench seats and a toilet.

She then spoke about DoC piloting a new generation 'Conservation Management Strategy' (CMS) in the Waikato, East Coast Hawke's Bay and Bay of Plenty. NZ is divided up into Management Zones, eg. Islands and these are divided into Places that have significant conservation value eg. Rabbit Is, Motutapere Is, etc. These places are then looked at re their suitability for recreation or in regard to their bio-diversity. DoC is bounded by standards; a toilet is the bare minimum, other needs such as for a 'posh bivvy' need to be communicated.

DoC is not just bowling in and doing what they think we want – they want us to have a say, to get involved, to participate. You can state what you want in an area in 10 – 15 years time. As Gerry Maire pointed out – as we, the older generation hit retirement, there is going to be a greater need for campsites a day's paddle apart, a need for 'Canoe or Kayak trails' on places like the Waikato River and stopovers in places such as Jackson's Bay.

So how do you get in touch, how do you have your say about places you value? – see: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz). Go to 'getting involved' to 'consultations' to 'current'.

Government department 'speak' was kept to a minimum, but after Ingrid said "We need to be the lynch pin to connect conservatories to other agencies." I did find it disconcerting, surprising and telling, that she was unaware of the ARC's work in progress on a Kayak Trail from Auckland to Miranda, in the Firth of Thames.

Lynnell gave an update from DoC Whangarei. In the Recreation Opportunity Review the focus is on existing facilities. Apparently old facilities get upgraded before new ones such as something at Deep Water Cove gets tackled, so be patient! Good news is the new campsite at Moturua Island

(BoI Bay of Islands). Within four months it is going to have a composting toilet, and basic water supply. It will cater for a max of 30 campers who will be restricted to 1 – 3 nights' usage. Other good news is that Moturua is predator-free (NO RATS) and under Project Island Song, the plan is to eradicate rats and stoats in the BoI. Bream Head is to get a predator fence and become like Tawharanui, 'a mainland island'.

DoC Northland is listening... they are reviewing their CMS. At this stage they have not written a thing, so NOW is the time to have your say, fill out a questionnaire. The website for a survey and updates is: [www.doc.govt.nz/northlandemsreview](http://www.doc.govt.nz/northlandemsreview)

The areas covered include Three Kings to Parengarenga; Whangaroa to Cavalli, Bay of Islands, Whangaruru, Bream Head, and Poor Knights on the east, then Kaimaumau to Ahipara to Waipoua to Kaipara Harbour's Pouto Point on the west.

Also on line, it is now possible to book huts. It may be bad news or good news - that it is possible to book out an entire hut. On this subject Dave Evans stated that we need flexibility – campsites give this - hut or lodge booking systems are very well, but due to foul weather (gale force winds) we may have to stay longer or may not arrive and have to cancel (and forfeit fees).

Go on – throw **your** two cents worth in - **have a say.**



*Ruth Henderson*



## 2008 NATIONAL KASK FORUM

### REGISTRATION FORM

APRIL 25/26/27

### Ohope Beach – Bay of Plenty

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_



Accommodation:  
BUNKROOM: Yes / No

#### Emergency Contact

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOMMODATION

Bunkrooms sleep eight or you may also camp on site.

#### MEALS

Your registration fee includes Friday night dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch. It may pay to bring some snacks in case you are on any long paddles or sessions away from camp; lunches will be eaten at the camp or pre packed if need be. Also weather dependent if we have a day paddle to Whale Island you will need drink for the day.

#### The Venue is Smoke free

Ohope is on the east coast right next door to Whakatane, with the ocean beach across the road from the Forum and Ohiwa Harbour just down the road for calm water sessions.

#### Refund Policy

No Registrations are refundable after April 4 2008, due to catering and set up costs for the forum.

## SKILL LEVEL

Please circle your skill level

- NOVICE Just started kayaking and/or very little skill level
- INTERMEDIATE Some support strokes, can do wet exit and assisted rescue in calm conditions
- ADVANCED-INTERMEDIATE Can complete an assisted and self rescue in moderate conditions and have completed day trips in a variety of conditions
- ADVANCED Can roll a kayak in rough conditions. Have completed several challenging sea kayak trips

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE Please circle your response

Do you currently lead trips in your area? Yes / No

If yes are you happy to lead a pod of up to six paddlers at the Forum Yes / No

## SESSIONS/EVENTS

Please circle your response

I am available to lead a workshop/instruction session Yes / No

If so what Topics

I am willing to share some great slides of a recent trip Yes / No

NOTE ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO ABIDE BY THE FORUM RULES

## FORUM COST

\$150 per person (KASK MEMBER)

\$160 per person (non KASK member)

(includes bunkroom accommodation and meals Friday dinner, all day Saturday, Breakfast and Lunch on Sunday as well as training sessions/speakers and organised trips)

Note once maximum numbers are reached, registrations will close

NUMBER OF PADDLERS ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FEE \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: SEA KAYAK FORUM 2008

Please return forms with payment to.

EVAN PUGH

RD2

PUTARURU 3482

**Enquires to Evan Pugh Ph: 07 883 6898**

**Email: sheepskinsnstuff@xtra.co.nz**

**Internet Banking Details - ensure your name is included**

**Bank: Westpac**

**Branch: Putaruru**

**Account No: 03 0418 0165427 00**

**Name: Sea Kayak Forum 2008**

This form is also available at [www.kask.co.nz](http://www.kask.co.nz) and go the Events page



## SESSIONS

What are you interested in participating in over the weekend, please tick topics or sessions that may be of interest to you. Not all sessions may be covered over the weekend and some may be added but we will endeavour to cover all popular areas. The Whale Island paddle 10kms from shore a stop on the beach and a choice of a lap of the Island (8kms) or rest and wait for those lapping the Island before returning to the mainland, this is a beautiful Island and seals usually frequent some areas. Obviously you need to be fit enough and confident enough for the distance and will be in pods of one leader and up to six paddlers.

The Whale Island trip will only go ahead if weather conditions are favourable, if not other sessions or trip will take place

ACTIVITY	I am interested in participating
Day paddle to Whale Island 10km offshore 20 or 28k total	
Day Paddle to Lake Matahina 18km total (30k drive to start)	
Half day paddle Ohiwa Harbour	
Friday 1pm paddle (2hours) First day registration from 12pm	
Photo competition	

PRACTICAL SKILLS	I am interested in participating	Happy to teach others at the Forum
Wet exits (learning to get out of your kayak after capsize)		
Towing		
Rescues		
Surf training for beginners		
Surf training for intermediate		
Forward paddling strokes		
Manoeuvring strokes		
Boat set up for paddling		

TOPICS	I am interested in participating	Happy to teach others at the Forum
Wooden boat session		
First aid for kayakers		
Navigation		
Tidal streams		
Weather and tides		
Boat maintenance		
Trip slide shows		
Other topics		

**Campsites at the Ohope venue are now fully booked now.**

**So it is either Bunkroom accommodation or  
if you wish to stay off site, please book in at the Ohope Beach campground, which is  
4kms away - see [www.ohopebeach.co.nz](http://www.ohopebeach.co.nz)**

*Fold*

*From:*

To  
EVAN PUGH  
RD2  
PUTARURU 3482

*Fold*



## COASTBUSTERS 2008 - AUCKLAND

### IMPRESSIONS OF NEW ZEALAND

by **Jim Kakuk**  
with **Deb Volturno**

Standing on a high bluff scanning the horizon into the sunset, light glinting off the distressed surface of the Tasman Sea, we are looking for a small boat that is no more than a speck in the vastness of the great waters that stretch out beyond the curvature of the earth. Even with high-powered, binoculars it is like finding a needle in the blue haystacks that are rolling in from the distant Antarctic. Suddenly, we see her, just a sliver of dark in the sparkle of water and light. Slowly and steadily with a consistent rhythm of the paddle driven by the timing of the waves like a heart beat. A needle drawing a thread through time, connecting the past with the future in a patchwork of experiences both personal and collective. Each paddle stroke a click of time that goes back to when humans first went to sea in search of food, new lands and adventure. She is one with the water.

Her journey is part of the experience that we have had in New Zealand since arriving here nearly a month ago. Deb Volturno and I were invited by Paul Hayward to the 2008 Coastbusters symposium in Auckland in early March. On the first day, our hosts Steve and Sue Levett took us out to



*From left, Jim Kakuk, Paul Hayward and Deb Volturno*

Rangitoto to get a volcano's view of the coast. Next we went to the Bay of Islands to paddle Cape Brett with Mark Hutson. With Mark and a small band of paddlers, we started at Bland Bay but soon had to lay over a few days due to a cyclone that came down from the north, as the sea always delivers up a surprise that is part of the adventure. Days later, rounding Cape Brett and drilling through the Hole in the Rock, we were working like a well seasoned hunting party returning from a week long outing. Rock-gardening and diving along the way, we were in our element. While visiting the Waitangi Treaty grounds we were introduced to the Maori, the original sea tribe in the area and the wakas that plied these

waters for hundreds of years before Westerners arrived.

The weekend of Coastbusters was a frenzy of presentations, shows and introductions, ending with boats and flashy colors on the water completing kayak 'pod' exercises. On Friday evening, the first day of the symposium, Deb and I gave a presentation about the paddling we do as part of a team known as the Tsunami Rangers. The Tsunami Rangers are from the west coast of the USA where we kayak ocean white water in the surf, rock-gardens and caves along the wild open coast. We welcomed the opportunity to share a slice of our world with the Kiwis. The highlights for Deb and I were the presentations by Sandy Robson about living your dreams and her paddle around Australia, and Paul Caffyn's journey along the East Greenland coast following the explorations of Gino Watkins. We also liked the personal approach of Coastbusters and the lack of commercialism - just kayaking for kayakers.

Following Coastbusters was the International Kayakers Week. The IKW, a new concept for symposium events, was a gathering of paddlers from different countries, backgrounds and experiences. We noted that there were individuals from eight different countries outside of New Zealand,

*Gerry Maire and Albert 'Smith' at the IKW. Photo: Deb Volturno*





*Happy paddlers at the International Kayak Week. Photo: Deb Volturmo*

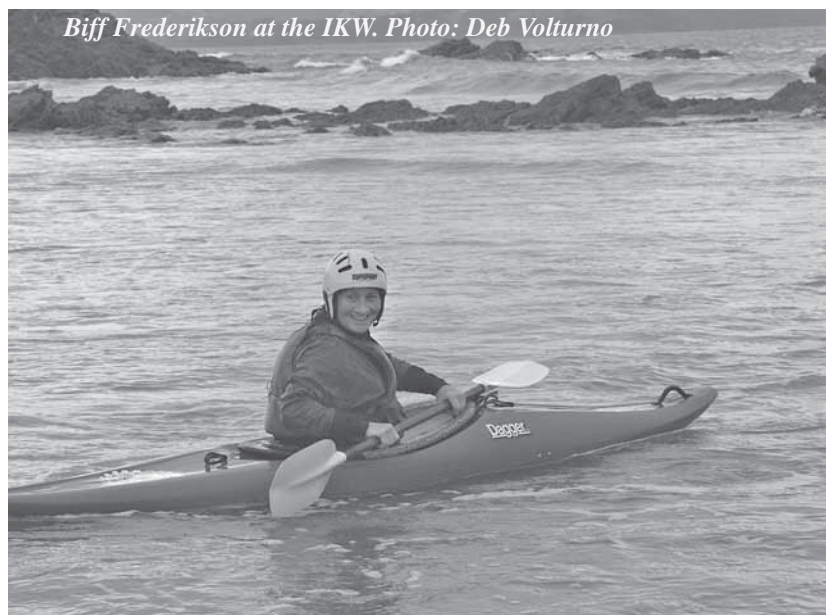
which included Australia, Japan, USA, Ireland, Denmark, Holland, Bulgaria and Serbia. Kayaking and camping was the focus, while spending four days of surfing, rescue training in rough water, and kayak trekking, with each day culminating with an evening gathering of catered food, entertaining presentations from the international visitors and debriefings from the days events. It is worth mentioning Biff Frederikson who, in addition to sharing her experiences and knowledge of the Danube River, also hosted several of the participants from Eastern Europe. It was a good opportunity to get to know everyone beyond just their paddling skills and was the epitome of the shared experience of paddling. Kayakers are a world community stitched together by a common thread, a patchwork quilt of different nationalities and ages that span the oceans. We made a lot of friends and hope to extend the hospitality on our shores in the future.

Now we are in the South Island and the woman drawing the thread through the sea is Babs Lindman from Sweden, who is on the last few days of completing her journey of circumnavigating the island. She is on one of the most difficult, exposed stretches of her trip and after a nine hour day will be landing just before dark at Woodpecker Bay, north of Greymouth. Her experience is a prism of the new golden age of small boat exploration. At the bay, she is met by Paul Caffyn and John Flem-

ming, from Rotorua. Deb and I join them welcoming her from a long day's paddle. Sitting around a warm beach fire we eat a beach-prepared meal and the spirits dance around conversation as darkness descends. We revel in the moment and the comradie of being part of something bigger than the each of us. It is the shared experience of the sea that connects us, and the indelible impression left from travel and meeting other kayakers around the world that keeps us involved in this wonderful sport.

A weather front is forecast to pass by the next day so Babs decides to take a day off. Spending a down day at Paul Caffyn's, it is nice to hear about her odyssey of the last two and a half

months. Then in the early morning darkness we drive a rested, yet anxious Babs back to Woodpecker Bay where her boat is stashed for the continued journey. A quick good-bye and wishes of luck and she is off into the dark sea at early light. She disappears quickly in the tarnished water and is out of sight, blending with the waves and again returning into the mystic as our eyes and our hearts follow her into the Tasman Sea. Standing on the bluff scanning for one more glimpse of her, there is nothing but the sea and a twinge of loneliness, while we are left wondering if we will ever meet again. The brief crossing of our paths will certainly be remembered and that is what the sea leaves us, that is what we take with us.



*Biff Frederikson at the IKW. Photo: Deb Volturmo*





*Charlie Barker with his  
PFD mounted chopper flag*



*Christchurch paddler Jilly Wilson, at Sullivans  
Bay, about to launch for the pod scenarios*

## PHOTOS OF COASTBUSTERS 2008



*Stephen Counsell*



*Steve Levett encouraging Sandy Robson into his Greenland style kayak*



*Mark Hutson and Sasha from the Bay of Islands*



## PHOTOS OF COASTBUSTERS 2008

*Instruction in rolling practice for Heather, from Deb Volturno (bow) and Biff Frederikson*



*On the water rolling practice for Heather with Deb as instructor*



*Deb Volturno chatting up an endangered bird on Tiri Tiri Matangi*



## FEEDBACK

### Caption Correction - n/1 132

Thanks for the newsletter. I'm presently on Ross Island writing my end of season report on our season of ice core drilling at the west Antarctic ice sheet, ice divide. Page 16 of the newsletter notes Freya doing something with a GPS. Looks to me more like the Iridium satphone I spend all day chatting with. Perhaps some one can verify.

**Kevin Killilea**

(Kevin is absolutely correct - the black thing with the long pointed thingy is indeed a Satphone and not a GPS).

### Newsletter

The Newsletter is an excellent publication and the coloured photos add to it. Keep it up as it is a good read and keeps me in touch with the rest of the country.

**Murray Rowden**

### KASK Handbook

I have just joined KASK and was delighted to receive the 4th Ed of the Handbook. I'm only contacting you now to say what a superb publication it is. Having been involved in a number of sports and volunteer organizations over the years I can fully appreciate ALL the effort that has gone into its content and publication. It could well be used as a model for many other organizations. As an example, the Guide to Managing a Sea Kayak Forum would be easily applicable elsewhere. So, congratulations all round!

**Philippa Grimes**

*Thanks for your positive feedback. It does make the love/hate relationship with the newsletter and handbook so worthwhile.*  
*P. Caffyn*



## TECHNICAL

### **Pee Freely! Be FUD Confident! by Deb Volturno**

Emptying your bladder regularly is essential of course, but doing so can be one of the biggest challenges for women who kayak. Imagine though, that you don't have to land your kayak and bare your bum to the nasty sand flies in order to relieve yourself. Imagine that you don't have to land your kayak at all!

Utilizing the FUD (Female Urinary Device, or SheWee as it is called in the Down Under) and becoming FUD confident will ensure that you really can stay well hydrated while paddling because peeing will become a non-issue. The FUD is simply an anatomically friendly funnel with an extension hose that allows you to empty your bladder discretely where

ever you are, and with minimal effort. The SheWee is similar to the FUD, but with no hose extender. The FUD is like an adapter to allow us women to pee as easily as the men. An epiphany for women kayakers!

Become FUD confident! Institute a training regimen and practice, first in the shower, then try the toilet, then with your clothes on! I have used my FUD all over the world. Some women have been known to have FUD and beverage parties to develop their FUD-worthy skills! There is something empowering about urinating while standing up, while walking down the beach, and even being able to write your name in the sand! When my kayaking friends and I take a pee break on the beach the men and women all stand at a big rock together and pee, while chatting of course! And yes, you can even practice so that you can FUD reliably in your kayak!

Discover FUD friendly clothing! Men's clothing has MUD (Male Uri-



*A rare glimpse of an FUD*

nary Device) access, so men's long underwear adapts well to using a FUD. At FUD talks at symposiums in the States we even have FUD friendly fashion shows. It's always a popular presentation!

### **So be FUDacious and never beFUDdled again!**

Deb Volturno has been an avid kayaker for over 25 years, and has been a member of the US Surf Kayak Team. She has been teaching kayaking for over 20 years, and conducts instructional trips from Baja to Alaska. In real life Deb teaches high school science and maths.

## **South Island Circumnavigations in Progress A Day in the life of Babs Lindman**

### **NEW ZEALAND – THE BEST PLACE FOR EXPLORING BEAUTIFUL SCENERY AND TO MEET FRIENDLY PEOPLE**

**by Babs Lindman**

#### **Pandora River, Thompson Sound, to Anita Bay, Milford Sound**

It is dark when I am waking up. According to the weather forecast I can expect a good day for kayaking. That makes me happy! According to the same forecast I can also expect spending the following days ashore waiting for the expected strong northerly winds to die down. That does not make me happy! I decide that the goal for today will be to reach George Sound. I have been told it is a beautiful place

to visit. And deep in the sound it is a nice hut to rest in if the weather is really miserable. The perfect place to get stuck at for a couple of days!

Encouraged by the forecast for today it does not take me long time to have breakfast and pack my equipment. It is still dark when I put the first paddle strokes through the water. Looking at the water I can see some kind of light in the water as the paddle blades touch the dark surface. The bioluminescence looks like stars in the water. Stars in the sky, and stars in the water – so silent and peaceful.

As I leave the sheltered sound, I can feel that it is not so silent and peaceful on the open sea. The combination of a big swell and darkness forces me to focus on keeping my balance. But the day is slowly getting lighter and I am also getting used with the big swell. Swell and overfalls are following me

along the coast. On the other hand there is not much of a wind. Only a nice tailwind. That kind of slight breeze I would love to have every day but seldom have experienced during my journey around the South Island. It feels like I am flying over the water, and in a good speed I pass Nancy Sound, Charles Sound and Caswell Sound.

And sooner than expected, I reach George Sound. Looking into the sound it is a beautiful sight. The sky is blue and the sun is shining over the mountains. One part of me wants to kayak in to George Sound. That was the goal for today. And it is definitely a sound I want to explore. What a wonderful place! But I have perfect paddling weather today. Maybe I should continue to Milford Sound? I am not a strong paddler with heaps of muscles but can be very stubborn when I get determined to reach a goal.



It will probably be dark at the time I reach Milford Sound but I expect that the moon will lighting up the water and the St Anne Point lighthouse will guide me for the last half an hour of paddling. Why not continue?

Bligh Sound and Sutherland Sound are the following sounds. But just after Poison Bay it starts to get dark. Behind me I can admire a beautiful sunset and shortly after the sunset I am paddling in the light of the moon. It is almost like the moon is lighting up a way on the water in the direction to Milford Sound.

Closer to the sound I can see the light from the lighthouse. I also can hear the sound of water breaking against the shores and the cliffs. But once around the lighthouse and in Milford Sound it is getting darker. I am heading for Anita Bay but where can I find the beach in the darkness? Suddenly I see a fishing boat – they must know. I knock on the boat's hull and after a couple of minutes I can see a fisherman looking out of the water.

"Hello," I say. "Down here. Down here on the water."

Well, the fisherman looks somehow surprised but is laughing when I tell him who I am, where I am coming from and where I am going. Like all

the fishermen I have met during my journey, he is friendly. He is pointing out the direction for Anita Bay, giving me a crayfish for my next meal, and also tells me that I am welcome back to have a hot shower on the boat.

Arriving at Anita Bay I am very tired and have problems to stand straight on my legs and pull up the kayak at the same time. Suddenly I hear a voice asking me if I need some help with the kayak! The helping hand is another female kayaker by the name Fiona Lee who is spending a night here after a long journey through the sounds. Later she is lighting a fire for me and we have a good chat before going to bed. What a fantastic ending of a wonderful day with nice company, a warm fire and a delicious crayfish!

Before falling asleep I think about my experiences from this day. I have had a wonderful day along one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world, with great weather and perfect paddle conditions. And at the end of the day I did meet some friendly Kiwis as so many times before. I am convinced I will always come back to New Zealand as much as I can. Not only to see more of George Sound but to enjoy a country with a beautiful landscape and friendly people.

Babs Lindman

## **Bab's Departure from Milford Sound by Belinda Mulvany 26-2-08**

All was well with Bab's farewell, but it was not a cruise. Sorry but I did try to get the awesome shots (requested for the newsletter) but conditions were marginal and my camera is not waterproof. First Babs would be in the right position but I then I would be in the wrong position for the shot. There was just too much wind, but we couldn't even see Mitre peak!

The weather slowly improved as we made our way out to Anita Bay. We even managed to get seal shots. Babs took pics of the seals and I took pics of her photographing the seals. Rough lumpy sea with large slow swells, once we cleared Dale Point. Then the landing in the semi dark (ISO cranked up)

Next morning was a grey dull day, moon obscured, but minimal wind. The launch was spectacular but too dark and too quick for me, or the camera to get even one shot. Stan gave Bab's kayak stern a nudge, from where she balanced on top of the gravel berm. She shot down the steep, high, stony beach like she was on ball bearings, hit

*Stanley Mulvany and Babs Lindman heading down Milford Sound to camp at Anita Bay, on a very grey Fiordland day. Photo: Belinda Mulvany*



*Babs in Milford Sound. Photo: Belinda Mulvany*



the water with a splash, and with a faint squeal, Babs just disappeared into the darkness and crud. Just like that. Bye Babs. Nice seeing you. Gone.

We thought about going back to bed but decided to get going while it wasn't raining and potted our way back home with minimal wind but periods of soft rain. Black imposing walls disappearing into the distance in various shades of grey. A total tonal dawn. But we did have a short glimpse of four dolphins cruising along, right beside the dark walls. Then a double rainbow set behind us for a very short time. I think Babs even beat us to Martins Bay, before we got back to the car. Stan tentatively mentioned about going with her a way up the coast but I quickly managed to dissuade him as she was on a mission and there was no way we were going to keep up. Plus she really needed to be on a mission.

Belinda Mulvany



*Anita Bay - Stanley Mulvany at the stern of Bab's kayak, for a pre-dawn launch. Photo: Belinda Mulvany*

## LATEST UPDATES

As of 17 March, Babs is marooned at the mouth of Big River, just north of Kahurangi Point, and a day's paddle away from rounding Farewell Spit. Her finish point is at Picton. If anyone is keen to be on the water to meet Babs, please get in touch via email.

Justine Curgenvan and Barry Shaw who started from Sumner, are camped on a small beach inside the breakwaters of the Buller River at Westport. A 4 - 5 m swell is keeping paddlers ashore.

## HUMOUR

### Reunions

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. My wife asks, "Do you know her?" "Yes," I sighed, "She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since."

"My God!" says my wife, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

So you see, there really are two ways to look at everything.

### Fire Truck

A nursery school teacher was delivering a station wagon full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties.

"They use him to keep crowds back," said one child.

"No," said another, "he's just for good luck."

A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

### Wage Demands

A man owned a small farm in Southland. The local office of the Internal Revenue Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his workers and sent an agent out to interview him. "I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them," demanded the agent.

"Well," replied the farmer, "there's my farm hand who's been with me for three years. I pay him \$750 a week plus free room and board. The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$550 per week plus free room and board.

Then there's the half-wit who works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$50 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of Whiskey every Saturday night. He also sleeps with my wife occasionally."

"That's the guy I want to talk to - the half-wit," says the agent.

"That would be me," replied the farmer.

## 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 July 2006**

For a copy (or trade orders) of this mother of all sea kayaking handbooks, contact Paul Caffyn, RD 1, Runanga, 7873, West Coast.  
e-mail: kayakpc@xtra.co.nz  
RRP: \$ 34.90 including p&p  
New members: gratis  
Make cheques out to KASK (NZ) Inc.

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  
Brian Lamerton  
Ph: (09) 437 2858  
email: brian.maree@clear.net.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  
sheepskinsnstuff@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**

Rob Tipa  
(03) 478 0360  
robtipa@clear.net.nz  
**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.nz

**KASK Website:  
www.kask.co.nz**





*Coastbusters 2008. Top: More kayaks and vehicles at Sullivan's Bay than you could shake a stick at.  
Below: The handsome/attractive paddler pod who claimed to have won the pod lake challenge*





MAILED TO



**If undelivered, please return to:  
KASK , PO Box 23, Runanga, West Coast. 7841**



*Coastbusters 2008 - Pod 25 at Sullivans Bay: From left, Helen, Catherine, Lesley, Sue, Alison, Christine, Ian and Steve. Without this wonderful pod of culinary experts, there would have been some very hungry paddlers arriving back at Sullivans Bay.*

### **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.

