

No. 86 April - May 2000

# THE SEA CANOEIST NEWSLETTER



Helicopter strop rescue practice of a kayaker, at the Easter 2000 KASK Forum, New Brighton, Christchurch.

**The Journal of the Kiwi Association  
of Sea Kayakers (N.Z.) Inc. - KASK**

## 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: P Caffyn,  
RD 1, Runanga,  
West Coast .N.Z.  
Ph/Fax: (03) 7311806  
E Mail address:  
kayakpc@xtra.co.nz**

**KASK Subscriptions are:**  
\$20.00 per annum & cheques should be made out to:  
K.A.S.K. (NZ) Inc. & sent to the KASK Secretary:  
Helen Woodward,  
82 Hutcheson St.  
Blenheim  
Ph: (03) 578 5429.  
email: h.woodward@xtra.co.nz

**Correspondence to the Secretary:  
Helen Woodward,  
82 Hutcheson St.  
Blenheim  
Ph: (03) 578 5429.  
email: h.woodward@xtra.co.nz**

## KASKBADGES

Canterbury paddler Rod Banks produced a badge of a paddler and sea kayak from solid sterling silver, with KASK NZ engraved. The badge can be permanently or temporarily affixed to hats T shirts, ties, evening gowns or dress suits but not dry suits. And the badge is appealing to the eye. Size is 23mm long by 11mm high.

Price is \$15 plus \$1 P+P, and available from the KASK Secretary, Helen Woodward.

## LRB2-KASK

### HANDBOOK2nd.Ed.

For a copy of this mother of all sea kayaking handbooks, contact KASK Secretary Helen Woodward:

82 Hutcheson St.  
Blenheim  
email: h.woodward@xtra.co.nz

#### **COST:**

New members: gratis  
Existing members: \$10 + \$1 p&p  
Non-members: \$18 + \$1 p&p

Make cheques out to KASK (NZ)Inc  
Trade enquiries also to Helen.

THE LRB2, or the Little Red Book 2nd. Edition, 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

Each section contains up to nine separate chapters. The Resources section, for example has chapters on:

- guide to managing a sea kayak symposium
- Paddling Literature
- Author profiles
- Guides and Rental Operators
- Network Addresses
- Sea Kayaks in NZ listing

## SEAKAYAKING

### NETWORK CONTACT ADDRESSES

**Auckland Sea Kayak Network**  
Vincent Maire  
7 Motuora Rd, Manly  
Whangaparaoa, 1463  
Ph: (09) 424 2293  
Fax: (09) 424 0385  
email: asknet@xtra.co.nz  
webpage: nzkayak.co.nz

**Canterbury Sea Kayak Network**  
16 Birdland Pl, Hallswell,  
Christchurch.  
Contacts: Andy & Deirdre Sheppard  
Ph: (03) 342 7929

**Sea Kayak Operators Assoc. of NZ**  
Bronwyn Duff, Admin. Officer  
PO Box 255, Picton  
Ph: (03) 573 6505  
Fax: (03) 573 8827

**Bay of Plenty Sea Kayak Network**  
Dusty Waddell, Ph: (07) 572 4419  
Jean Kirkham, Ph: (07) 552 5982

**Wellington Sea Kayak Network**  
Beverley Burnett  
PO Box 5276, Wellington  
email: beverley.burnett@bswip.co.nz  
Web site: <http://home.clear.net.nz/pages/wellseak>

**Auckland Canoe Club**  
PO Box 3523, Auckland.  
Newsletter Editor: Julia Thorn  
Ph: 09 575 3099

**Ruahine Whitewater Club**  
71 Salisbury St., Ashhurst.  
Ph: 06 326 8667 Fax: 06 326 8472

**ROTORUA CONTACT**  
Graeme Muir  
36 Buchanan Pl, Rotorua  
Ph / Fax: 07 3477106  
email: g.muir@clear.net.nz

**NEW PLYMOUTH CONTACT**  
Mark Gardner  
153 Seaview Rd,  
New Plymouth  
Ph/Fax: (06) 753 9881



**Helicopter Rescue Practice at the Christchurch 2000 KASK Forum. Cover photo and photos below courtesy of the Christchurch Press Illustrations Dept.**

Cathye Haddock, about to be strop rescued from the sea.



American paddler, Chris Duff, strop rescued from a raft of kayaks.

Participants at the KASK 2000 Forum with a 'grandstand' view of the helicopter rescue practice.



## KASKFORUM2000

Rather than a one person perspective of the forum, the following section includes an overview with vignettes by several paddlers describing their highlights of the weekend.

### **KASK 2000 FORUM OVERVIEW** by Shelley Daigle

The annual KASK Forum was held in New Brighton, Christchurch at Easter holiday weekend. Congratulations to the organizing committee for putting together such a full and varied program to suit a wide range of interests. The New Brighton venue was ideal as it offered both sheltered and exposed paddling options; surf versus calm in the estuary.

Friday night's opening special with Kerry Jane captivated everyone's attention with an in-depth look at sea birds. Her public speaking skills and wit delighted us all. The concept of a team building exercise as the first activity on Saturday morning was simply fantastic. Armed with sissors and tape, the end result was for the smallest member of each team to paddle these bizarre cardboard kayaks in an estuary race. I still chuckle at the moment when I passed veteran paddler Bevan Walker, sinking in two feet of water. I paddled the KFC team boat which finished second.

Workshops filled the next two days and, with a definite hands on approach, those who dared stretch their comfort zone had lots of opportunities to get wet during the practical sessions. Two lovely estuary sightseeing trips were organized by Kerry Jane and Andy. La grande finale was definitely Sunday's night's entertainment, commencing with Rob and Gordon's kayak building in the Solomon Islands, followed by Chris Duff's emotive account of his successful South Island solo. I admired his courage and was touched by his honesty. It was a privilege to hear him speak. It made me respect all over again our very

own Paul Caffyn and Bevan Walker. Yes I was inspired. That was my highlight of the weekend, and I'm looking forward to the next KASK Forum.

### **THE KNITTING SESSION** (Women only!)

By Lesley Murray

The womens session; a chance to knit? an opportunity to grumble about the men? or a chance in a busy, rewarding forum to collect together and share our experiences in a more formal manner than over the filled rolls at lunch-time? Personally I prefer the last option. My husband and I already sit at home before the forums and organise which sessions we will cover so as to gain the most from the forum experience, and lunches are often eaten on the run between the session that stretched out, and the one that needs a briefing time before it starts. There were the occasional rumblings about the necessity of a womens session at all, but I look at it this way; if I am building a boat, I talk to those who have built one already, if I want to kayak around the South Island, I search out those adventurers who will inspire and assist me, but I wanted to know how other women coped with less than desirable upper body strength and a kayak that needed loading onto a four-wheel drive vehicle roof - now I know. I wanted to find out how others met the challenge of peeing when stuck in a kayak for an extended period of time, what do other women do about menstruation issues, how do they organise themselves so they can kayak confidently with others, and gain the most out of the experience for themselves as well - now I know. I learnt about clothing that has been particularly designed for women, and new tricks regarding personal hygiene, two topics I hadn't even thought to ask about. Some of the information I already knew, and was slightly surprised to find that I had tips to share.

In the busy crammed weekend that is the forum I learned much, new cooking tips, a lot about birds, a huge respect for those who have stretched their personal boundaries and kayaked further and harder than I will probably ever achieve, I learned new

weather and incident management skills, and, I learned 'stuff' that will enhance my paddling from a womens perspective. There was no fishing session or 'how to pack our kayak' session as there has been at previous forums, but I expect they will be held again as the need arises, and that is really the issue with this womens session, the organisers met a need within the kayaking community. Please include it in the next forum, we have much much more to share. Finally a huge thanks to those who organised this session, and the forum as a whole, I can't wait for next year.

### **Y2KFORUM FROM a NEWBIE'S PERSPECTIVE** by Rob and Dianne Adam

Dianne and I have been paddling for two years now having started out in a double Sprite and after a year progressing too a Dusky Bay two (a real Kayak). Late last year we made contact with the Wellington Sea Kayak Network via their Web Site and were invited down to their 5 November Network paddle on Wellington Harbour. This experience wetted our appetite for more of the same and we decided to attend the KASK Forum in an attempt to learn as much as we could on Sea Kayaking.

Our trip to ChristChurch started with three days paddling Abel Tasman and then a couple of days in Nelson drying out The drive over the Lewis Pass to ChristChurch was accompanied by rain all the way but was very scenic non the less. Registration started at 3pm on Good Friday with the Forum proper kicking off at 7.30pm with wine and nibbles and a chance to meet fellow paddlers (not many double kayakers!!) It was pleasing to see plenty of people in their forties and beyond. We were a bit worried before the event that the place would be full of young adventurer types but this worry was quickly put behind us. The seventy or so people at the event represented a wide range of ages and levels of experience in terms of Kayaking and this couple from Taranaki were made to feel most welcome,

double kayak and all.

I won't dwell on the content of the Forum apart from saying that the team building exercise on Sat.morn to us got the ball rolling with everybody in teams, randomly picked, making cardboard 'kayaks' and then down to the estuary for a race. It was relaxed, informal and a great way to break the ice especially for the more shy persons amongst us. The programme over the weekend was very well thought out. It was varied and gave people choices as to what they might attend. The presenters were all very knowledgeable on their subjects and most were

kayakers which I am sure helped with the presentations. There was ample opportunity to socialise and although we new but one person on arrival, we left having exchanged addresses with lots . From the Forum we have gained a heap of useful information and learnt many valuable lessons, made new friends and are already planning our trip to Mapua in 2001

We congratulate KASK and their committees for putting the Forums together and utilising the depth and experience in N.Z. Sea Kayaking circles. Our only negative comments would be - 'pity about the weather, and the weekend wasn't long enough.'

## **HELICOPTER RESCUE EXERCISE**

**by Peter Simpson  
& Cathye Haddock**

The final day on Monday started with something new for the forum. The Westpac Trust Rescue Helicopter people were approached to put on a rescue display. The end result was something that both 'them and us' benefited from. They were keen to use the opportunity as a training session for their staff and both kayakers and rescuers wanted to test techniques for rescue from a kayak.

The first part of the session was a show and tell by the rescue staff, of the equipment they carry on board plus a look at the helicopter itself (for

those of aeronautical bent a BK 11 of mixed Japanese and German parentage). Everyone then gathered on the wharf for a look at the action. First up Cathye and Mandy volunteered themselves as in the water victims to be rescued. First the rescuer jumped from the helicopter then both rescuer and victim were winched up to safety. four kayakers were nearby to test the effects from the rotor down wash and the feasibility of keeping under some sort of control in such a down draft. The rotor wash came down and spread out across the water. It looked a formidable force to deal with and although none of the four experienced kayakers tipped out, not so strong paddlers would have had more trouble.

The next part involved the rescue of a person from one of the kayaks. The technique agreed to was for the kayaks to raft up while the person to be rescued lay across the raft. The helicopter lowered the winch rope and the kayakers put the sling onto the person to be rescued for winching up. The kayakers themselves were directly under the wash and had fairly testing conditions to work in. Several points were observed. Rotor wash blew the kayak raft around, requiring the direction of raft drift to be monitored and the kayakers had to use considerable effort to hold onto the empty kayak. The pilot will obviously need to monitor these.

As the rescue from a kayak was a new experience for the helicopter crew, the trial should be written up and circulated as a learning experience.

## **CARDBOARD KAYAKS By Stephen Counsell**

The recent forum in Christchurch had many highlights, one of which was the feeling of friendliness and camaraderie that prevailed. This was helped along with the first ice breaking event ... a cardboard kayak building competition! All present were split into groups of about six, and a team leader, who was 'sposed to know something about boat building', was appointed to give direction. Each team was given

a new, large flat cardboard box, donated by the folks of Q Kayaks (aka Quality Kayaks), a roll of packaging tape and a very sharp thingy with which to cut themselves and their new team mates. An hour later, a rather wonderful selection of craft were carried to the water's edge. By this time the organizers had decided that whether the kayaks floated or not was irrelevant as the exercise had achieved its stated goal of breaking down the barriers between forum participants. You could hardly think for the sounds of laughter and excited chatter in the hall where the boats were being constructed. Boats were to be named after a bird following Kerry-Jane Wilson's terrific bird lecture the previous evening. Many of the boats sported large Canoe and Outdoor World stickers ... Not so much because they looked good, more because they covered holes as the teams ran out of tape!

Paddlers were lowered into their boats and had to race down one side of a jetty and back up the other. Some boats folded almost immediately while others were quite sound and looked as if they could have completed two laps. The jetty was lined with cheering team members and camera wielding spies from large American kayak companies looking to raid the immense collective talent of NZ's finest boat builders for their own R&D departments.

For the record: Lisa Counsell paddled 'Eider' (as in look at that Eider go down) to first place only 5mm ahead of my team mate Shelley Low, in the beautiful FKC (Komplete Friken Cockup).

## **FORUM AFTERMATH When Mohammed can't come to the Mountain... by Cathye Haddock**

There was a face missing at the Y2CKayak forum 2000, a certain KASK member from 12 Mile didn't come. But it's funny how things turn out. A mob of Wellington, Auckland and Ashhurst kayakers met for a cuppa at Pete Simpson & Cathye Haddock's well appointed campsite after the forum to decide 'what to do next'? with

the extra leave we had taken. Disappointed that the weather was not going to let us paddle around Banks Peninsula, we all agreed to meet in Akaroa the next day for a bit of a wet paddle. Pete Simpson then got a newspaper and found there were to be 40 knot southerlies and rain on the East Coast & Canterbury.

Mmmm, "let's go West everyone" said Pete, and so there was a sudden change of plans to meet at Lake Mahinapua, 6kms south of Hokitika instead. The next day dawned wet and miserable again, so we packed up to head to the West Coast. I rung Paul Caffyn to see if he wanted to meet a bunch of KASK folks for a paddle the next day.

"Come and stay here" said Paul, "there's plenty of tent space and some spare beds upstairs".

"Are you sure" said I, "there's a bunch of about 9 of us".

"No worries" came the Aussie accent out of the bat phone.

And so I tried ringing everyone on their cell phones, lucky we exchanged numbers the day before.

"Yep great!" said Margaret, Max and Melz. "We'll see you at Paul's".

We saw the Aucklanders, Margaret and Ray, before we broke camp and told them the change of plans. I couldn't raise anyone else on the phone and not a cellular secretary in sight! But who needs cellular secretary when you've got bush telegraph on the West Coast?!

We bumped into Dave Herrington at the Arthur's Pass cafe and told him. He bumped into Shelley Daigle and Pete McFarlane in Greymouth and told them. Margaret, Max and Melz Grant bumped into Sandy and Waverley in Moana and told them. So a crowd of 12 descended upon Paul Caffyn at Twelve Mile for the night.

The plenty of tent space turned out to be room for 3 dome tents max, and the beds upstairs were never actually sighted although Paul did point to a cupboard up near the ceiling. Paul's neighbours obliged with van & car parking space and a spare house so everything was sweet. Paul showed us a photo of a helicopter picking him

up for work from one of those dome tent sites, 4 metres from the house and perched on the edge of a cliff over the sea. You wouldn't want to be a sleep-walker camping out there!

Paul's house rocked that night, with much wine and food consumed and many a story told. We entertained Paul with stories of cardboard kayaks and knitting sessions; of boat building in the Solomons and a moving slide show by Chris Duff, which even president Phil had referred to as emotional; we recounted NIWA's magic tides on powerpoint, helicopter rescues, Chrissie's tool box and the news of KASK's first woman president. Finally, the words were said: "well, if Mohammed can't come to the mountain!!"

### Epilogue

A great paddle was had by all the next day. Fourteen paddlers met on the quiet shores of Lake Mahinapua and paddled through the ancient kahikatea swamp-forest lake edges, down Mahinapua stream to the Hokitika River before it empties into the thunderous West Coast ocean. All under azure blue skies, in pristine waters against a backdrop of stunning clear views of Mounts Cook and Tasman and the glorious Southern Alps.

## 2000 AGM - PRESIDENTSREPORT - 22 April 2000

### HIGHLIGHTS OF 99/00 YEAR

\* Steady growth in membership. Since 1998 has increased from 220 to current 340

\* KASK Handbook sales have increase 55% from 300 in 98/99 to 475 this year.

\* The Sea Canoeist Newsletter was upgraded in June/July to a more professional presentation with a cover and centre stapling. This has been received well and special thanks must go to Paul Caffyn for his continued support and excellent editorship. A

special thanks also to those who have contributed to the NL. We desperately need more member contributions. Also thanks to those who have seen that the NL gets out (Helen Woodward and David Herrington and our printers, Waikato Quick print).

\* The Bugger File. This has now become a well supported column in the newsletter. Focusing on sea kayaking incidents that we can all learn from. Paul Caffyn, Cathye Haddock and those who have shared their stories have to be thanked for helping this become a safe topic to share openly with other sea kayakers using the newsletter as a forum.

\* WSNZ. During this past year KASK has strengthened it's relationship with WSNZ. KASK has been and associate member of WSNZ since the start of 1999. A considerable amount of work has been done by Cathye Haddock and others from the Wellington sea kayak network to get a funding application completed to WSNZ to develop our role as a safety facilitator. Cathye will expand on this in her report as Safety Officer.

\* KASK Brochure. This was completed in early 1999 and has been successful with retailers and has, I think, played a part in increasing KASK's membership and handbook sales. Retailers need to be encouraged to stock these brochures.

\* KASK committee members roles. These were completed for President, Secretary, Treasurer, Instruction and Safety roles and published in the August/September 1999 Newsletter.

\* The KASK Constitution was circulated to all members in July 1999 with the June/July Newsletter. Further copies are available from the secretary.

\* KASK Website. Unfortunately no progress was made on the website in the last year. We need to do something this year and really only need a member who is keen to build and maintain a site for KASK.

### LOOKING FORWARD

KASK membership has grown sig-

nificantly in the past two years. I would like to see membership continue to grow. This is needed if we are to continue to be recognised as the sea kayaking association that represents sea kayakers in NZ. And, as a result we can influence training and safety standards.

We need to remember why members support KASK. We need to;

1. Keep a high standard of newsletter
2. Have an up to date Sea Kayaking Handbook.
3. Have handbooks and brochures available to retailers and schools
4. Develop course guidelines and materials so that we can support the sea kayak networks.
5. Develop a web site to help keep people informed about KASK and what support is available from KASK.
6. Keep the membership informed about what the Committee and the various officers are doing.
7. Get more Auckland people on the committee to represent the large number of Auckland KASK members. And we need to look at having a KASK forum in Auckland.

Personally I have found 1999 very rewarding with KASK developing a strong committee. We have some very capable members and everyone on the committee has contributed. I feel we have made some very positive progress in this last year. I would like to see this year's committee continue with some new people elected to the committee to help bring fresh ideas. The regular committee conference calls have worked extremely well.

I would like to make special thanks to the following people, Peter Sullivan, John Kirk-Anderson, Cathye Haddock, Helen Woodward, Max Grant, Paul Caffyn, David Herrington and to my wife Max and all of these peoples partners. And all those who have contributed the newsletter and the Wellington people who have been developing the leadership course. I think a lot of progress has been made and I wish you well with continuing this work.

Phil Handford

## SEAKAYAK QUALIFICATIONS (reprinted from the ASKNET Newsletter (April - May 2000)

On February 29th, a meeting was held at the Auckland Canoe Club to discuss (the lack of) qualifications for sea kayakers. Eighteen people attended and it was a lively debated with everyone agreeing something needs to be done.

John Kirk-Anderson, Instruction Officer with KASK, was in attendance and he reported that at this stage, establishing a national qualification is not a priority for KASK. However he reported on the sterling work being done by the Wellington Sea Kayak Network and the leaders course it has been running. A key person in the WSKN initiate is Cathye Haddock who ran a risk management workshop at Coastbusters. It was decided that no further action would be taken until we had had a chance to talk to Cathye and find out first hand what has been happening in the Capital.

According to Cathye, the WSKN had had some near misses and when these were analysed, it was found that "leadership" was the missing ingredient. This finding encouraged the group to establish a leaders' training course which they did with the help of some sponsorship from Tranzrail. The weekend course was very successful so Cathye and he colleagues put together a proposal to establish a more formal training programme to be run on a national basis.

I have a copy of the plan and will distribute it to the people at the meeting plus other interested parties. It involves a National Sea Kayak Leadership Training Series to be run New Zealand wide between November of this year and the end of 2003. Simultaneously, a Sea Kayak Proficiency Training Series will be run and a Sea Kayak safety Video will be produced. The budget for this is \$40,000 and the money will come from various sources.

The WSKN is to be congratulated for this initiative. It is long overdue and the only people who are going to do something about sea kayak training are sea kayakers themselves.

There is some more groundwork to be done on this important project however we will keep you informed on developments as they happen. The goal is to improve the quality of leadership and the number of leaders in the pool.  
Vincent Maire

## SEAKAYAK INSURANCE

**From: Beverley Burnett**

STATE INSURANCE REPONDS  
From: Andrew Woodward  
Subject: Pleasure Craft Insurance - Sea Kayaks

I refer to our telephone discussion the other day and apologise for the late response.

As discussed our Home Contents Policy provides cover of up to "\$575 for any surfboard, windsurfer, dinghy or canoe (including their parts and accessories)". We regard a sea kayak as a canoe and therefore subject to the other terms and conditions of the policy cover on sea kayaks is provided under our Home Contents Policy but only up to a limit of \$575 including GST.

For sea kayaks that are worth more than this amount a Pleasure Craft Policy is required. At present we do not have a separate rating for sea kayaks and they attract the same premium as powered boats and yachts. However, following your comments that sea kayaks present a better risk than powered craft we intend to introduce a special rating for sea kayaks.

To give you and your members some idea of our proposed premiums two quotations follow -  
Sum Insured (including GST)  
Premium (including GST and Fire Service Levy)



\$2,500      \$ 70.28  
\$4,000      \$112.46

An excess of \$150 all claims is to apply otherwise all other terms are to be in accordance with our standard policy wording a copy of which I can post to you if you require.

I will endeavour to advise our branch staff of this special rating as soon as I can (hopefully next week or the week after). In the meantime I suggest that a copy of this e-mail be made available to any of your members who are interested in taking up our offer so that they can show it to the staff of the State branch they deal with. The State staff member can then contact me if they have any queries or problems.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss this matter further please call me on (04) 4969-627.

Regards,  
Andrew Woodward  
Commercial Underwriter (Marine)  
Head Office  
State Insurance Limited

**For Sale**

Kayak, fibreglass, Olymph, suit river and/or harbour use, incl. paddle and skirt, good cond., \$400, ph 09 4355516 (Whangarei) or EM:  
jedwards@doc.govt.nz  
cheers  
jenny Edwards

**PAINTINGS**

“If you have a special photo you’d like painted in water colour, send it to me and I’ll do it , A4 size, professionally framed with mat and reflecting glass, price \$150. Kayaks and seascapes welcome.

No obligation to buy finished painting.  
Giselle Clements, RD 1, Pretty Bridge Valley, Wakefield 7181.















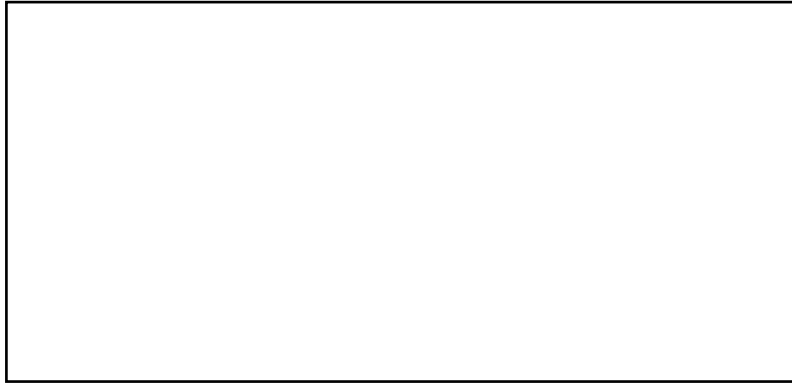








MAILED TO



If undelivered, please return to: Helen Woodward, 82 Hutcheson St. Blenheim.

