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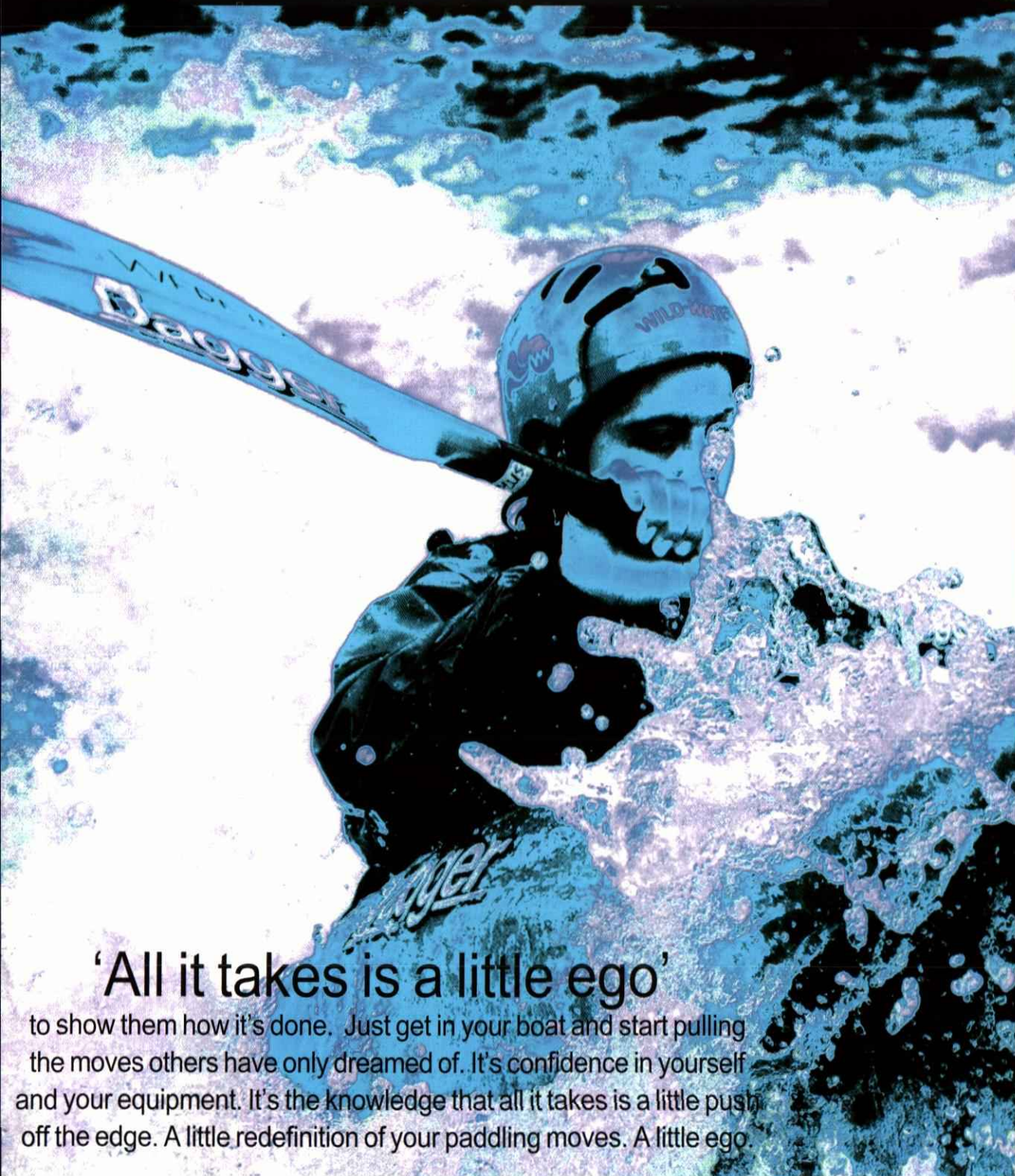
Spring 2001 \$7.00

1st birthday Issue

Natural Nagee
Freestyle World Championships
Victorian Schools Championships
Warsaw Slalom World Cup
Riverboarding the Zambezi
New Gear and gadgets

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EDITORIAL

Its great to see that our first birthday issue is crowded with so many varied aspects of canoeing and kayaking. In particular, sea kayaking and recreational kayaking and canoeing are getting ever more popular, especially now that plastic boats eliminate the need for costly repairs.

In the competition facet of canoeing, its also great to see such a huge involvement from schools and younger participants in slalom and down river. Unfortunately, there is not much support for the younger crew that want to continue on towards Australian team standard, and international competition. Rumour also has it, that Australian team standards will be increased to such an extent that only one or two will make the grade. I believe that this will have the effect of discouraging others to train towards this goal and drive the sport even further towards its death. It would be nice to see some initiative towards increased participation in the sport and more participant input.

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PARK ACCESS UNDER THREAT??

Below is a press release and email circulated recently. The proposed plan appears to affect us all and the suggestions made by the author should be followed by all to guarantee our park access.

We believe the email (reproduced below) sent by Kevin Westren is of vital importance to our sport and to your enjoyment of the outdoors in NSW. The proposed regulation is totally unreasonable, it will make the use of any equipment for "white water boating" strictly illegal if used, or even possessed, in NSW National Parks.

We urge you to contact your local MP, lobby your local councils (who probably benefit from visitors) and contact the Minister for the Environment, Bob Debus and the Premier, Bob Carr directly to request that the regulation be discarded. A personally worded email, setting out your concerns and objectives is a start, however, it would be even better to write a personal letter as politicians understand that sending emails is easy, but hand written letters take more effort and therefore indicate more concern on the part of the author.

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PRESS RELEASE 10 September 2001 *The End of Adventure?*

If the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service succeeds in having proposed new regulations passed into legislation by the State government, a wide range of so-called adventure activities will be denied any last vestige of legal standing. Under the existing Regulation, enacted in 1995, a person is deemed to have committed an offence by engaging in "any activity or recreational pursuit which involves risking the safety of the person or the safety of other persons." The activities and recreational pursuits covered by the Regulation include; abseiling, base jumping, bungee jumping, rock climbing, caving, parachuting, white water boating and hang gliding.

However, there was an 'escape clause' by which a person was deemed not to have committed an offence for "anything done or committed with the consent of a park authority and in accordance with any conditions to which the consent is subject."

But given the funding and staff constraints experienced by the Service in recent years, it came as no surprise to rockclimbers to find there was no mechanism in place to deal with their requests for consent to climb at places such as Evans Crown (west of Lithgow, north of Oberon).

Relatively close by, in the significantly larger Blue Mountains National Park, abseilers, canyoners and climbers simply engaged in their recreation with nary a thought about obtaining official consent. And rightly so, because the Draft Plan of Management (and now the final Plan) considered it to be "neither desirable nor appropriate for specific consent

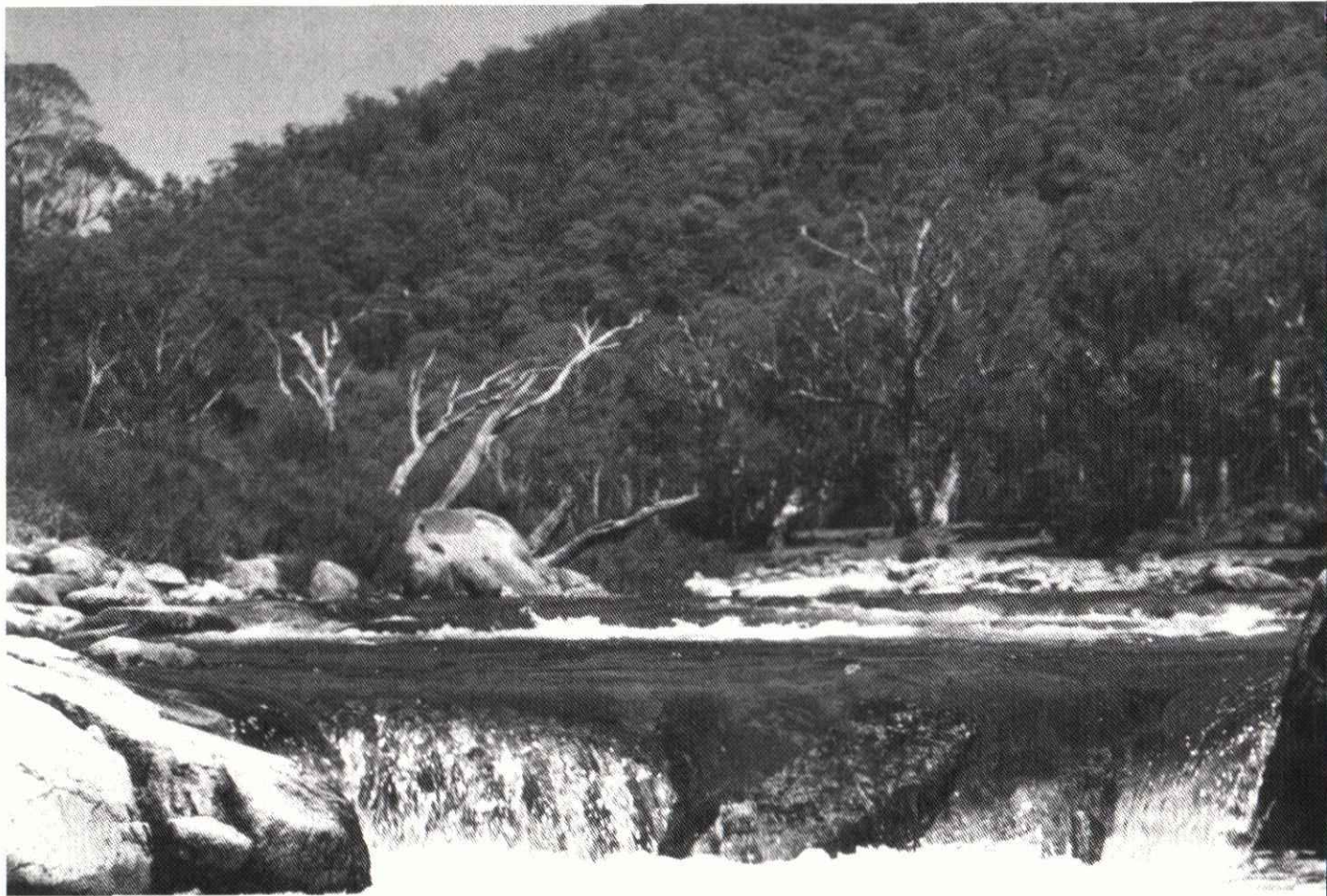
to be required for every instance of persons undertaking these activities in the park."

Hence it appeared the Service did not want to know about "consent" issues in the context of small parks and reserves, and in at least one larger park it was officially giving some blanket approval. Mixed signals indeed, and so the adherents of the target activities effectively turned a blind eye and continued as they had in the past.

Then, on 5th September 2001, the balloon went up! The caving, climbing and bushwalking email circuits began to buzz with stories suggesting new and more draconian regulations had been prepared and quietly enforced at the beginning of the month. After a little while, it was learnt that although new regulations were indeed in the pipeline that were yet to be promulgated, but it was abundantly clear they were of an extreme nature.

An early copy of the new Regulations was obtained and Clause 21(3) in particular stood out for condemnation; "A person must not in a park carry, possess or use any equipment that is required for abseiling, base jumping, bungee jumping, rock climbing, caving, parachuting, white water boating, paragliding, parasailing or hang gliding." Maximum Penalty: 30 Penalty Units (this currently equates to \$3,300). So, now it seemed the Service wished to move beyond merely requiring people to obtain consent, (rarely requested, even less often granted) and was now proceeding towards total and absolute prohibition. And it appeared to be attempting this in a most surreptitious way, without consultation with any user groups whatsoever.

In the years since 1995, bushwalking, caving and rockclimbing peak user bodies lobbied hard to have the Service enter discussions on the consent issue. For its part, the Service had promised to consult with these groups prior to implementing changes or amendments to the (Land Management) Regulation. And thus,



lulled perhaps into a false sense of security by the lack of activity in this area and the Service's apparent intention not to revise the Regulation this year, the various user groups were bound to receive a rude awakening by this 'flanking movement' organised by the NPWS officers.

If the new Regulations pass through the Parliament unchanged, and are enacted as legislation, National Parks and Wildlife Service officers will be, technically, empowered to impose penalties on people merely for possessing a single piece of equipment deemed to be required for a large range of offending activities. But in all parks, or only in some? If, as it does, the Blue Mountains National Park Plan of Management

approves abseiling, canyoning and rockclimbing (albeit at certain identified locations) is then the carrying, possession, or use of the relevant equipment an offence? Is a person using abseiling equipment at the Service's purpose-built abseiling facility at Mount Portal Lookout (lower Blue Mountains) committing an offence? In the proposed new Regulations, Clause 21(3) is draconian and flawed, and it is likely that other clauses will be subjected to challenge when the full Regulations are sighted. Many of the 1995 Regulations are flawed, unable to be enforced or policed, and more honoured in the breach than in the observance. There is no reason to presume that the proposed new legislation, prepared

without consultation with user groups, will be any more acceptable or effective. All outdoor users should oppose the introduction of the new Regulations. As soon as it becomes available, carefully examine the "National Parks and Wildlife (Land Management) Regulation 2001" and send a submission commenting on the Regulation. Enquire about obtaining a copy of the new Regulation via the office of the Minister for the Environment

Email to:
bob.debus@parliament.nsw.gov.au
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World Freestyle Championships, 2001

Compiled by Dita Pahl from information presented by James McBeath, Ken Whiting, Kevin Varette and Jason Bowerman on Kayak International and the Dagger website

DAY 1

SORT, SPAIN — The morning broke sunny alluding to another day

of sweltering Catalonian summer heat on the first day of the Worlds. A large crowd assembled down at the competition hole for opening ceremonies as crews put the finishing touches on stairways and scaffolding

especially fabricated for the event. The expansive wooden judging platform and a small set of bleachers on river left, as well as another large

deck and stadium seating for about 400 spectators on river right (only feet from the hole!), lent an air of eminence and excitement to the site. A few CocaCola beverage booths and a live

DJ completed the festive atmosphere. Opening ceremonies commenced at 10am with most of the competitors attending and excitement hanging in the air. Nadine Kerrin of the Irish team delivered a moving speech commemorating the lives and achievements of paddlers who have passed on from this world, but whose lives still touch us. After a short delay to synchronize the state of the art computerized scoring system and big screen scoreboard, competition opened with the Open Canoe class.

The OC-1'ers threw themselves into the meat of the hole, with disregard for their bodies. In the end, New Zealander, Paul Eames, found himself on top with 2 controlled rides in the hole. Gary Finlay of Australia came out with an impressive display in a new discipline for the kayaker, to earn 2nd spot and the right to compete in the finals. Aaron Hemmerle of Australia made a brave showing for 16th.

Next came the Junior Women, who put on a one of the best shows possible. Showing no fear for the intimidating rodeo hole, the girls dove in with everything they had. The spectators were treated to a mixture of impressively controlled runs, and magnificent poundings! When preliminaries ended, a Swede named Maria Lindgren came out on top thanks to the only splitwheel of the Junior Women's competition.

The C-1'ers followed the junior women, and showed everyone what they were capable of, with the extra leverage their high sitting position gives them. They threw wicked cleans and stuck some of the sickest blunts imaginable. Former World Champion C-1'er, Cheesy Robertson of Great Britain ended up on top, showing his versatility, as he has been ripping in the kayak as well. Robin Bell of Australia powered his way to third position, and a great spot from which to launch his assault on the gold medal in the finals. Both Kynan Maley and Brock Flowers made impressive showings, finishing in 10th and 5th

position respectively and also securing a position in the quarter finals. Kynan's achievement was made even more impressive by the fact that he only received the boat he was paddling in the competition the day before the event. The top 10 men moved onto the semifinals.

Finally, the Junior Men started out, but they only made it through 4 of the 10 heats as time (and water) ran out on the organizers. The first few heats of Junior Men set the pace for the rest of the juniors the next day with some awesome runs. Marlow Long had the most impressive run of the day. Evening activities included the welcoming dinner from the township of Sort. The inevitable bar hopping and Spanish salsa dancing commenced as the temperatures once again became comfortable.

DAY 2

The day started later than normal for the multitude of competitors, family members and the townsfolk of Sort after an enlivening welcoming party the previous night in the downtown city park. The regional Catalonian government and local town elders served up a sensational assortment of local paella, a rice based casserole dish prepared on a massive cast iron skillet over an open fire. There was free wine, compliments of a local winery sponsoring the event, as well as live folk music and a flaming rum and sweet bread dessert dish to sate any appetite.

Once the sun was in the sky, the water beckoned. The remaining junior competitors wasted no time getting through the preliminary runs. The end result was hardly suprising, with the American team taking a clean sweep of the top six spots. Australia's competitors gave a fine showing with Andre Hemmerle, Anthony Yap and Toby Hanson finishing in 26th, 30th and 35th position respectively. Only the top 20 advanced to the quarter finals.

The women's K1 followed around noon, and tensions ran high for some



who had made long journeys to Spain to prove their abilities in the 90 second rides. Anna Levesque of Team D eclipsed the high scores of the first few heats of women. Anna stayed in control and well back in the foam pile in her Dagger Ego, ticking off a flurry of vertical cartwheels, cleanspins and a clean cartwheel as well. Australia's Georgia LePlastrier finished in 25th place, and was followed by Ali Parker and Catherine Kent in 37th and 40th place. The top 20 advanced to the quarter finals.

DAY 3

Day 3 saw the beginning of the Men's K-1 preliminaries and the action was HOT!! The top athletes all came out with the rides needed to make the cut to the top 40 for the quarterfinals. After SICK rides the evening before, from Canada's Ken Whiting and USA's Eric Jackson, the heats continuing on day 3 had some pretty big shoes to fill. The highest scoring ride had come from Canada's Billy Harris, who threw down enough vertical mixed with enough variety to rack up over 415 points!! Australia's Aaron Hemmerle lost his paddle during his second ride, but managed to continue chucking about 20 vertical ends followed by a huge loop to give the lively audience one of the most entertaining rides so far!! Aaron finished in 28th position and advanced to the semi-finals.

DAY 4

Another 95 degree heat under a perfect blue sky...Both the C-1 and K-1 Women's fields were cut from 20 athletes down to 10 in the quarterfinals. With the best two out of three 45-second rides counting, the strategy was simple: go for it! Once again, with no major upsets, things turned out pretty much as one might expect. The top paddlers advanced into the semifinal rounds and there were some close misses by a few up-and-comers. Then, in a mad flurry of light-speed ends, the best C-1 paddlers in the world showed their stuff in the first rounds of the day. The top 10 moved forward to tomorrow's semifinal round. All Australia's C1's made it into the final round.

The top women, including England's

Deb Pinniger, Canada's Julie Dion and the US's Tanya Shuman, put on a very impressive show, offering up smooth cartwheels, clean and superclean spins, clean cartwheels and vertical splits. Following the Women's K-1 and after a short siesta was the Junior Men's K-1 quarterfinal. This throw-down provided BY FAR some of the hottest action in the 2001 World's! The top juniors came up with rides that would have easily put them in the top 10 of the Men's K-1 class!

Huge vertical sequences seemed to be the flavour of the day - getting it done in style!! The US crew dominated once again, with some impressive performances also from England's Mark Berbank and the local Spanish juniors.

DAY 5

Friday morning started off quickly with the quarter finals for Men's K1. The men's field had already been cut down from 155 to 40 and was to be cut again to just 15. The day started with some great rides by Allan Ellard of GB, and

Mikey Abbot of New Zealand, but no one stood out until Kevin Varette threw down a ride of non-stop verticality, which earned him the highest score of the competition. From that point on, the pace quickened, and the competition was fierce. The day ended with the top 5 paddlers from preliminaries, Billy Harris, Ken Whiting, Nico Chassing, Eric Southwick and Eric Jackson. EJ threw down two rock solid rides, then threw away his paddle and pleased the crowd with some hand cartwheels and loops for his third ride.

Next came the C1'ers, and once again the US team looked impressive taking the top 3 of 4 spots once again. The field of 5 is heading to the finals on Sunday, with Chris Manderson in the pole position. Australia occupied the other two positions with Rob Bell in 2nd and Brock Flowers in 5th.


DAY 6

The K-1 Junior Men's and the K-1 Women's semifinal rounds took place with the field of 10 athletes in both

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classes getting cut to 5 for the final elimination rounds. The pressure was on each paddler to go out and rip it up in the juicy rodeo hole, with their best ride out of two counting as their semifinal score. This format encourages aggressiveness as opposed to paddling conservatively as athletes knew they needed a high score to make the cut. The result is generally an exciting throw-down with no holds barred. With few paddlers left in the competition, each round ended with a few upsets and some top paddlers were eliminated from the chase.

The 2001 World Squirtboating Champions were also crowned at the wave and eddy line upstream from the freestyle hole. They wheeled to the roaring approval of the amassed townsfolk. When it was all done and said, the U.S. and French paddlers were the most consistent.

Fireworks followed the event, stiltwalkers and fire breathers took to the streets, and the throng of reveling Spanish and international partiers packed the bars and discos until the sun came up.

DAY 7-FINALS DAY

The nighttime in Sort appeared the most exciting time to hold finals. The air was pleasantly warm and the ten o'clock start time of the men's semi finals coincided perfectly with the relaxed Spanish schedule. Special lighting was brought down to the hole and the venue absolutely shook with anticipation. Each rider was welcomed with a spotlight, screaming crowds and thousands of flashes. Approximately three thousand spectators packed stadiums on both sides of the Rio Noguera, and lined the banks above the hole three deep as far as the eye could see. There was a definite charge in the air as the top twenty paddlers all entered the hole from above.

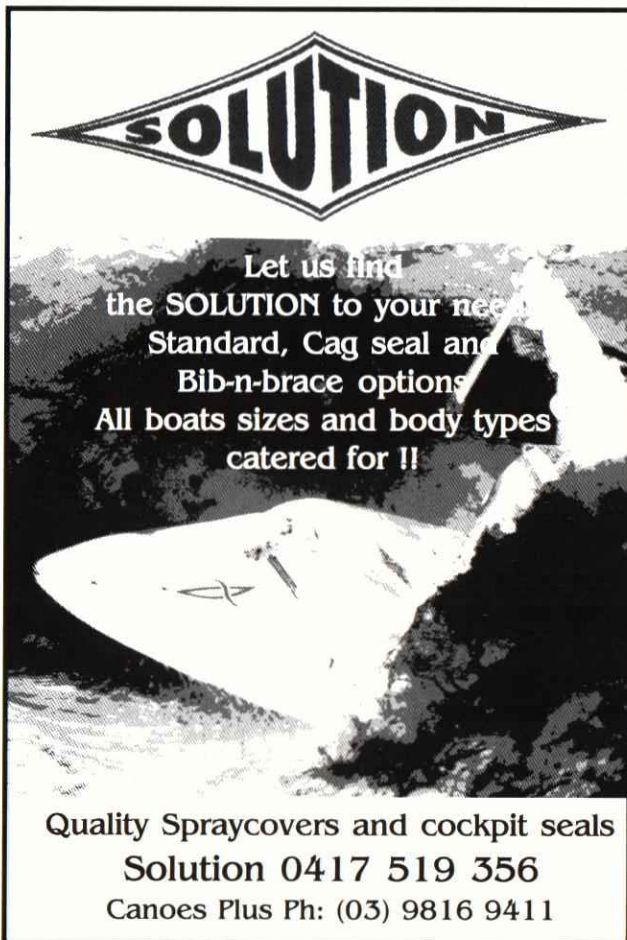
The open canoes led off the knockout finals with each paddler taking one ride. The lowest scorer was then eliminated until a champion was determined. Eli Helbert of the USA continued to show us why he is "Mr. Open Canoe", winning every round in grand style to become world champion once again. Australia's OCI finished 6th overall.

The C-1 contest was a good showing with Barry Kennan winning the honors as world champion. Robin Bell finished with a silver medal to match the one he won at the last World Slalom Championships. Brock Flowers finished 5th overall and Kynan Maley finished 9th overall. A great effort!

In the Women's K-1 event, Team D member Anna Levesque was poised to go off, quietly assured of her ability to link lots of ends. She paddled consistently to third place and a Bronze medal. Erica Mitchell finished first and Debs Pinneger came in second.

The US Juniors and Men dominated their contests sweeping all three spots in both classes. Eric Jackson carried away the Gold, followed by Eric Southwick and Bryan Kirk also from the USA.

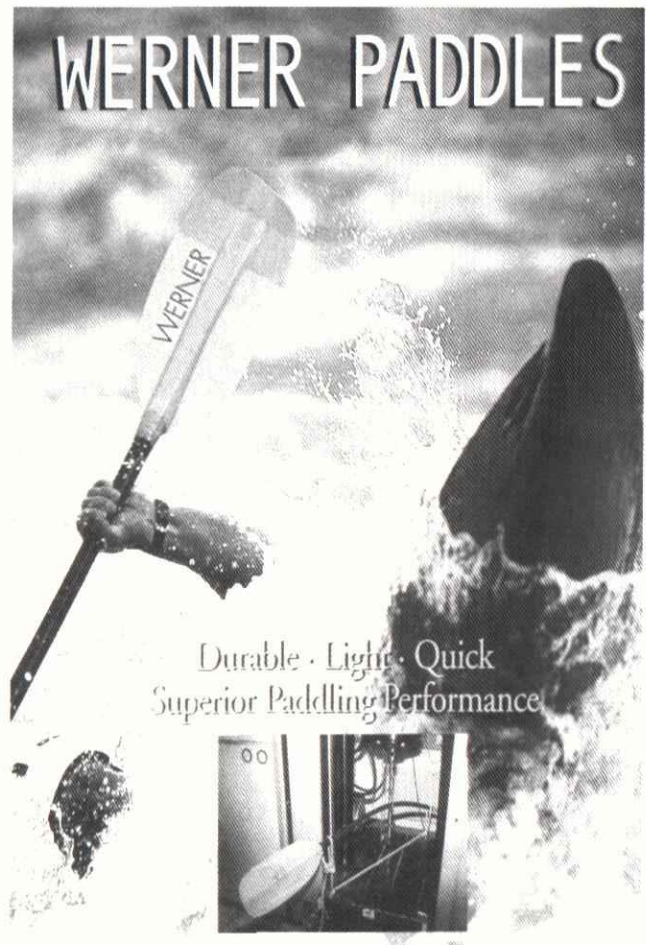
The Competition seemed to prove that new moves and computer scoring systems are showing the way forward in the dynamic and rapidly growing sport of freestyle kayaking and that there will be many more great days on the river yet to come.



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Victorian Schools Championships 2001

Photos

Paul Shire, Dita Pahl, Roy Farrance

The day of the Victorian Schools Canoeing Competition dawned grey and dreary. And I am sure that not many of the competitors wanted to get out of bed to compete. Eltham College had a vested interest in defending the crown from previous years, and Ivanhoe Boys Grammar Schools were champing at the bit to have their go at the overall title. The downriver race from Jumping Creek to Warrandyte started promptly at 9.30am, but many competitors were still missing. Both Eltham College and Ivanhoe Grammar were short entrants.

Among the confusion of sorting body numbers, teams and boats, we managed to safely get all competitors on the water. Even though a few missed their starts when they weren't looking. The start looked easy enough, but at the finish boats collided, people looked wet and tired, and the stories after the finish grew in the telling.

The results showed a large number of Eltham competitors winning their classes, including Fiona Bowie in Girls Open K1, Leanne Guinea in the Girls 16 K1. Manning Thompson in the Boys 14K1, Mark Bellafiore in the Open C1 and Neil Joubert in the Boys 16C1, to name a few. Ivanhoe also won a large number of titles in the downriver including the open boys K1 by Matt Kerr, Aaron Yeats in the boys 16K1 and many of the boys open canoe sections. Lachlan Scott from Bendigo College won the Boys 17K1, while

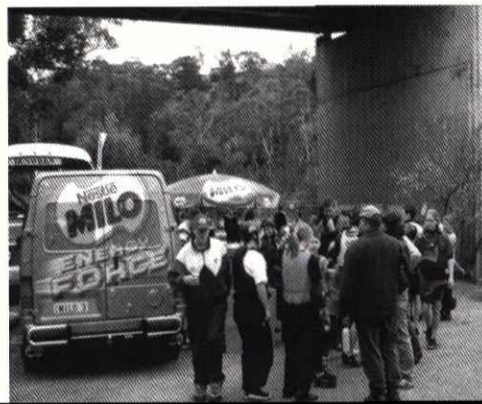
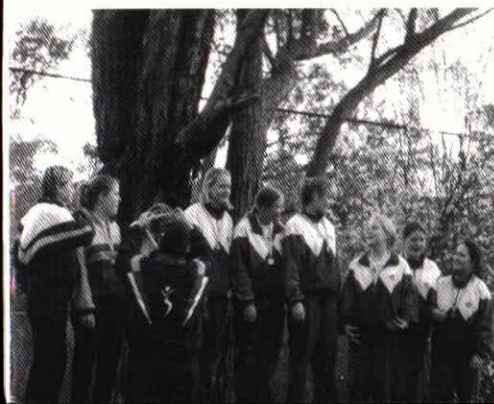
Kirsty Mission, also from Bendigo won the Girls 17K1.

The overall results after the first day and the down river competition ended in one of the closest finishes ever seen, with only 20 points separating the two largest schools competing, Ivanhoe Grammar and Eltham College. Day two, and the slalom competition, started with an early rise, and a nice sunrise. Many grumbles could be heard at Warrandyte Bridge, the slalom site and site of the second days competition, about the cold, and fog rising off the water. The day promised to be nice and warm, however, and spirits were generally high.

Eltham College had a strong team entered and hopes were high about retaining the overall trophy at the end of the day. Paddlers and C2 crews were seen early warming up above the start pond, and a few last minute changes had to be made when C2 partners didn't arrive, and people didn't fit in boats. The under 13's had to be commended on their willingness to try anything and compete for their school in a boat they had never been in. The results for Chris Norrie and Adam Medforth from Eltham College, showed their potential as they were entered in the 16 years C2 and had to compete against the senior boys. Chris and Adam finished 4th.

In general, the results for all competitors showed a dedication to the sport and the canoeing talent Eltham won the overall trophy for another year. Ivanhoe Grammar won the Boys trophy, Ivanhoe Girls won the medium sized schools trophy and Bendigo College ended up victors in the small schools trophy.

It was great to see so many new entrants and new faces, including Sale Catholic college, who put a new face on supporting their friends. The event was enjoyable and fun, and all paddlers were a credit to their schools and themselves.



Surfing the Zambezi - Robbo Bennetts

The first time I rafted the Zambezi I was pretty calm. I mean I was pretty naive. I didn't really appreciate the power of the river. The second time I rafted it four years later I was fully aware of its power. I had reflected on my first experience. I had surfed the net and chatted to others about their experiences. I had read Death of a river guide. I had spoken to real river guides about their most frightening moments. They all had horror stories. There had been fatalities on every rapid between 4 and 19. A teenage girl had just drowned as a result of foot entrapment on a down river trip. She was a family friend of the trip leader. I had met her four years earlier. I was packing polenta even before I began the descent by foot into the gorge. I was still packing polenta when I struggled up out of it six hours later. So I can't explain why the next day I signed on to surf the river on a boogie board. Perhaps it had something to do with the mystical significance of the boogie board in the Australian national psyche. Perhaps it was just the mad dog coming out in me, yet again. In any case, the terror rushed back as we suited up. We were about to plunge into one of the world's gnarliest rivers strapped to a glorified eskie lid. The concept involved descending the river face down and head first, reaching out like Superman. We would boogie until we puked. There were four downbeat punters and three upbeat river guides. The other three punters had just flown out from England. They had skin like the white cliffs of Dover. They hadn't been in Africa long enough to go pink. Tommy was a soldier decorated with tattoos. She deployed herself comforting her sister, Dulcie who was hunched up with fear. Their friend, Brian, was pensive in a frail kind of way, as if he was contemplating his own watery crucifixion.

The number of international guides had dwindled over the years as the river's workforce had become Africanised. The two black guides had grown up in dusty villages not far from Vic Falls. The white guide had grown up on a farm outside Harare. I noticed how easily and naturally these guides related to each other. It was as though they were still boys living out their childhood fantasies. They took turns rowing the safety raft and boogying with us. In a boat, you sit up out of the water. On a boogie board, you eyeball the

water. The scenery is different. You see the surface of the water bend and flex. You see ? and feel ? currents collude and collide. You see how the water slopes away on either side from the main current like the camber of a highway. You have to work hard not to be pushed off. You travel fast. Wave after wave rushes to meet you. It feels



like you are trapped inside a giant pinball machine. We watched the guides boogie with attitude. They executed donuts and eskimo rolls like grommets at a surf beach. We watched them slip feet-first into the smooth "V" above larger rapids where they surfed motionless the way kayakers do. When we tried to imitate them, we were spat out into the current. It was really bumming me out. At the bottom of each set of rapids, the guide on the raft would pull us out of the water because of the crocodiles. Then we would row to the next rapids. Strangely, my fear was now under control. Maybe it was because the experience was so surreal. Or because I needed all of my concentration to stay on the "split line." Even Dulcie seemed to be coping; though she always kept within arms' reach of Tommy. Together, with nothing in common but our suppressed fear, we travelled downstream. We bagged the Three Sisters, the Mother, the Terminator and the Washing Machine. Now, from the safety of an eddy above, we contemplated rapid number 18 better known as Oblivion. Twice before I had met Oblivion. Twice I had witnessed the carnage. Three fearsome standing waves barred the way of down river travellers. As I drew inexorably towards these waves I wondered what would happen. I expected to be torn at and tossed about and held under like before. Following instructions, I aimed right

at the first wave. In a flash, I punched through an explosion of broken water. I came out below all three waves, unscathed. I could hardly believe that I had conquered Oblivion with little more than my bare hands. Rapid number 19 was my last chance to surf. Brian went first. I watched him drift down, and then lay motionless for twenty seconds

on the cusp of green and white water. When it was my turn, I slipped down the V feet first and was immediately ejected. Below the rapid, Brian enthused, "Let's do it again!" I was in no mood to do it again. But Australia's reputation as a nation of surf champions was at stake. So I hobbled off after Brian over cracked rocks along the riverbank, and we made our way up above the rapid. Brian went first again. He jumped out from a boulder into the current and disappeared into the V. This time he was ejected. Now it was my turn. I searched my mind for a meaningful tune or mantra. The words "I come from a land down under; then she gave me a vegemite sandwich" formed in my mind. I jumped and drifted downstream as before. I tried to relax. I reached the bottom of the V and this time I stuck! I was facing upstream. I looked up and saw a sheer four metre wall of smooth water above me. My top half was in the smooth water. My bottom half was in the swash. I was in the Green Room. I gaped in awe as millions of gallons of water all the way from the jungles of Angola swept under me. A short distance away, a guide took photos with a camera that had no film. After a while, it occurred to me that I couldn't stay there forever. With a subtle transfer of weight, I broke out into the current and continued down the river. I was gushing to have so honorably represented my nation. But I was drained by the drama of the occasion.

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Natural Nadgee

Text and photos - John Wilde

With a feeling of anticipation we finally launched our heavily laden sea kayaks from the boat ramp at Eden's fishing wharf to begin what must rank as one of the best multi-day kayak trips available in the southern regions of Australia. We were not to be disappointed, and as an omen of good intent, as we cleared the breakwater, a playful dolphin appeared, to give us its blessing as it gambolled past our bows. Its attentions were well received, and over the next six days we counted ourselves the lucky ones, as we moved from one memorable experience to another.

Though it is feasible to paddle this corner of the Australian coast in a couple of days it is well worth spending some time to explore along the way, and to learn to respect this haunt of the sea eagles, dolphins, whales, and penguins. We were

allowing ourselves up to a week to explore this beautiful coastline, which is also bombarded by some of the fiercest of Bass Strait storms not to mention strong currents. Indeed the coastline of Nadgee Wilderness and Croajingolong National Park are best seen with time to spare and the intention of returning. This is not a goal to be conquered or time trialed, but a place of immense beauty and tranquillity, of storm and wreck which has much to teach us if we have the time to learn.

That night, after a short paddle to leave the wood chip mills of Eden behind, the scent of fresh sap heavy in the air, we camped near Mowarry Point and gazed over a calm sea, watching the gannets leave plumes of air bubbles as they dived from dizzy heights to collect their evening meals. Away to the east a sudden splashing caught

our attention, and in seconds we are rushing to remove dry clothing and re-enter our still dripping paddle gear to sprint out and get a closer look at the huge bulk of black and white. Two hump-back whales were amusing themselves breaching into the evening air with stupendous drives from their great flukes. We stopped well short of their antics, which were now almost over, and admired their great bulk and power, as they finished their display, and then continued their journey south, back to their unlimited feeding grounds.

We return to the beach in awe of our surroundings, and feeling but a small part of this huge and incredibly complex universe of ours.

The following morning sees a relaxed start as we followed the cliff lines of the coast, weaving in and out of the kelp and rocks, attempting the occasional awkward gauntlet to provide a quick burst of adrenalin, and admire the architecture of nature in the cliffs above. Much of the coastline is sedimentary rock, carved and featured by the aeons of storm tossed sea, and often coloured the most marvellous pink and purples. We are lucky indeed.



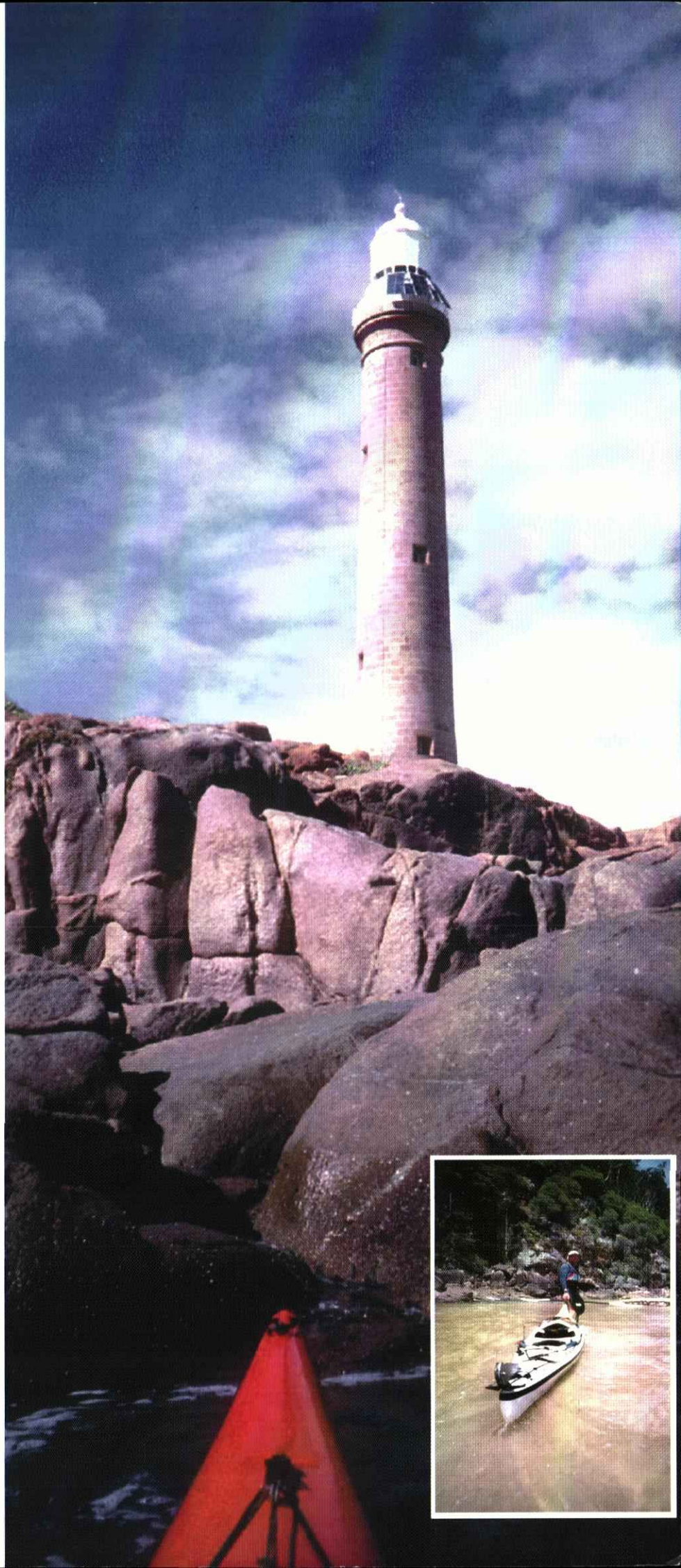
A short break at Bittangabee Bay allows us to refuel our bodies before we push on around Green Cape, the lighthouse a stark warning of more violent seas and epics. In the midst of the chop, off Green Cape point, we witness a remarkable scene, a large group of seals, basking in the sunny waters, flippers waving in the calm air, are unaware of our approach. Suddenly there is a *bark of warning*, and they dive as one, to surface shortly after and with curious looks, and large innocent eyes, dive and weave amongst our craft, to their amusement and ours.

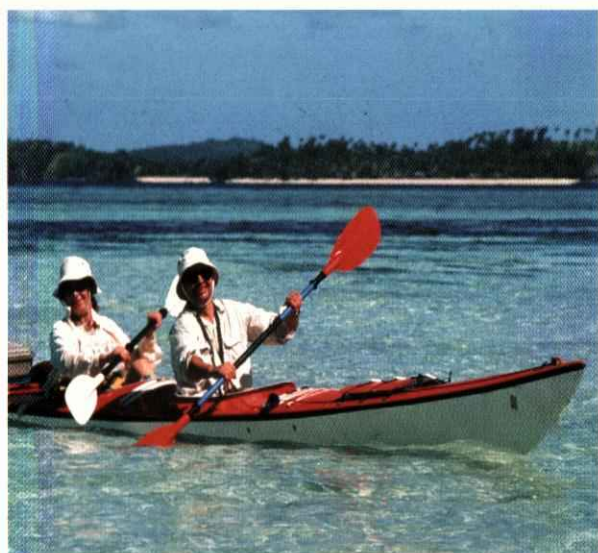
An inspection of the Wonboyn bar seemed in order, as it has quite a reputation amongst both paddlers and fishermen, and we are not to be disappointed, as one of our party on his first multi day trip, increased his learning curve considerably with a couple of swims. Now he knows that you never stop paddling when going out through the surf, and that a good brace is essential.

A final plug through increasingly strong winds and a now storm tossed sea, sees us safely into Merrica River, which has a special place in my heart. It has one of the most sheltered landing spots on this section of the coast, its mussels and oysters are the freshest and best tasting of any city restaurant, and its tranquil waters and cliffs, going back several kilometres to its final, crystal clear creek, are a haven for the lofty sea eagle.

We watch the sunset slowly approach, as the wind increased its overhead roar, and long dead tree limbs crash into the bush nearby. During the night our flysheet blows down, and we are left in the glow of the near full moon, as we shield our eyes and return to sleep, feeling at one with our surroundings.

The following morning the wind still roars, but the forecast is to moderate, so we explore local sea caves and while away the time in convivial conversation before a late start that still sees us plugging into strong winds and a choppy sea to pass Newtons Beach and onto Nadgee River, where due to the off-shore winds the usual big breaking surf is absent. We explore the beach, admire the incredibly sheltered bush-walker camp site at the southern end, and endure the sharp cries of the disturbed oyster catchers on the sheltered beach.





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Island is thought to be the largest little penguin rookery in the world, and despite the intrusion of a herd of cows on the island they are certainly still going strong.

To finish our magic sojourn around this south-eastern tip of Australia we took a 4 am start, and were treated to a marvellous dawn, as well as an almost lack of the dreaded head wind to finish our final leg into Mallacoota. As we looked back to the fiery dawn over the pink granite finger of the Gabo light, flashing its warning and welcome to us, we considered this very special place. We will be back.

FACTS

The Nadgee Wilderness area and abutting Croajingalong National Park usage is strictly controlled by a permit system which only allows 20 people to be using the area at any one time. Popular times such as Christmas, January and Easter are often booked out. The Nadgee area in particular is almost the last wilderness area on the NSW coast. It is well worth protecting. Any usage should adhere to strict minimal impact conservation codes.

For Sea Kayaks there are some difficulties as it is often difficult to predict which campsites will be used when, due to weather and tidal conditions. Beaches such as Newtons, Nadgee River, Nadgee Lake and Bunyip Hole can frequently be closed due to big and dangerous surf, particularly Nadgee Lake, where the beach is very steep, providing dumping surf.

Details on permits can be gained from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, PO Box 656, Merimbula NSW 2548 or Parks Victoria, PO Box 179, Mallacoota Vic 3892. In theory no camping is allowed on Gabo Island, though in a storm this may be the only shelter on the southern coast. There is a house available at the lighthouse for \$80/night which sleeps 8, but again, it may be booked out. The current caretaker is a sea kayaker, and understands our problems.

Further details on accommodation at Gabo can be gained from Parks Victoria as above, or phone 03 5158 0219, fax 03 5158 0583.

Other than rough seas and big surf conditions visitors to this area should be aware of the usual danger from snakes during the summer months, and from late spring through summer, that of ticks, which are prevalent in the area. If discovered they should be removed immediately, either with tweezers or long finger nails. Take care not to squeeze the body, as this will inject further poison, and remove with an anti-clockwise twist. Ticks can cause swelling, discomfort and paralyse in the worst case. Parks Victoria publish several brochures on this little nuisance. Collecting fresh water may be a problem during summer, so be prepared to carry a few litres in the kayaks. The book "Walking the Wilderness Coast" by Peter Cook and Chris Dowd gives a lot of useful information and is available at most outdoor retailers.

This is a special area, remember the doctrine "Leave only footprints, take only photographs".

NEW TOYS!

Teva has launched a new line of paddling apparel for spring 2001. This technical water wear includes boardshorts with fast-drying, microwoven, stretch fabrics that repel water and feel great next to the skin. These designs should be available mid next year to Australians.



Seattle sports have launched a number of new paddling accessories at this years US outdoor retailers show. These include a bilge pump, self inflating back band, mesh stuff sacks and two new additions to the H2Zero line. The new self-inflating back band boasts a removeable pillow inside a comfy padded band intended to make your paddling adventure more comfortable.



Kokotat has introduced four new garments including the Gore-Tex Paclite designed specifically for recreational touring paddlers. The Paclite series are based on a slightly larger pattern than Kokotat's other designs allowing for slightly more freedom of movement, ventilation and user-friendliness.



Teva has also introduced a new line of footwear. The neutron ultra marine bootie is made of superstretch neoprene with a forefoot/instep/heel lock strapping system for complete custom fit and security. The sole is made of sticky, vulcanised spider rubber. These are available now in Australia for around \$85.00.

Thule have introduced a new Kayak Roller-Carrier. The Roller-carrier consists of an integrated roller and hydro-glide saddle, with a heavy duty roller that extends back from the roof rack an extra foot and a half, so that the boat never needs to touch the vehicle or loadbar. Retail for around \$195.

North Water Rescue and Paddling Equipment will introduce their new Thermal flow back band in August. By combining the rigidity of ABS and thermal form technology they have created a lower back support that is unparalleled. The Back band is adjustable to a perfect fit from both sides and has extra lumbar support built-in.



North water have also launched a new modular deck system to offer the utmost in function and versatility when storing gear on the deck. The system consists of a vinyl base with three storage bags. One is mesh and two are stuff sacks. The bags retail for about \$130 and can be purchased separately or as a set.

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NEW TOYS!

Dagger has churned out a whopping 15 new boats for the coming season. The composite Cortez sea kayak combines the hard chines and low decks of the polyethylene Cortez with Dagger's composite construction. The reelfoot is the newest addition to the canoe family and there are many new play and river boats ready for next season. The g-force in a large and small size are guaranteed to improve playability, with stability, comfort and a planing hull. For more information see www.dagger.com

The islander lipstick and bigstick are designed with a surfboard in mind. The v-shaped tail, removeable skeg and adjustable footbraces make both boats easily manoeverable in the surf and easy to load onto your car. For more information go to www.islander kayaks.com



Perception Kayaks has unveiled the Java, its newest creek boat. The java was designed to complement the phat, and combines the size and carving performance of a playboat, with the deck volume of a hardcore creek boat. The java offers exceptional performance for beginners and experts. For more information see www.perceptionkayaks.com



Liquidlife has launched their new PFD's at the Ski and Outdoor Trade Show in Melbourne. These PFD's are comfortable, well designed, hardy and affordable alternative to many of the imported models. There are two designs - a basic canoeing jacket called the 'puddle', without pocket and retailing around \$85 and a jacket designed with recreational kayakers in mind, featuring pockets, rescue capability and much more. This jacket, called the 'creek', will retail around \$180.



The new Rescue Signaling Device: The Rescue Streamer is now available to the boating community. The device is military approved. Rescue Streamer technology is now available with retro-reflective capability for 24-hour per day visual distress signalling. Mariners and sea kayakers in distress can now signal search and rescue teams day and night with the only continuous signaling device that is completely passive with no batteries, chemicals or electronics. In addition to the Navy and other branches of the US Military have now approved the Rescue Streamer for use by all personnel.



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Wausau World Cup - Slalom World Cup final

Jane Farrance

The Final of the World Cup Series was held in Wausau, Wisconsin USA on 8-9 September. The course is a 'man adapted' course that runs through the center of this small Wisconsin town. It is a grade 3-4 rapid some 400 meters long with good variety, that allows course designers plenty of scope to create imaginative and difficult courses. Most athletes had been at the site training on the water for several days and were confidently trying to explore all options.

The course, when finally erected was very technical and continuous. Every gate was challenging and part of a sequence which dictated that the angle, speed and exit of each gate be exactly right. Australia had the full team in attendance, apart from Justin Boocock who was to arrive in USA just in time for the World Championships at the end of the month. The Australian contingent had 4 boats in K1 and WK1, 3 boats in C1 and two in C2.

In the qualification event K1 paddlers knew that a sub 110 time would be

required on both runs to have any chance of qualifying. The top 20 boats would compete in the finals the next day. The best performance was by David Ford [Canada] who had two clean runs of 104 and 102. This set the benchmark for the others. The Australian paddlers were comfortable on the water and looked good. John Wilkie, put down a great first run of 106 and just needed a consistent second run to be assured of a place in the finals, unfortunately a small error and his second run was 111. Which put him in a vulnerable position. Luck held and John took out 18th place and a berth in the next day's finals. Lachlan Milne had two consistent runs but a 112 in both runs was just outside the required time for finals. Warwick Draper with a 114 and 116 plus penalties looked very smooth on the water but did not make the top 20 cut. Andrew Stamp, who was battling a heavy head cold, was unable to produce the speed for which he is famous.

The Women's K1 was very hotly

contested with Rebecca Giddens [USA] posting the fastest total time of 228sec. Both Louise Natoli and Mia Farrance on 256 sec just missed out on the finals as in WK1 only the top 15 boats compete in the finals. Both girls were well in control and looked good on the water making no major mistakes taking 18th and 20 places respectively. Victoria Milne was caught in the top stopper between gates 2 and 3 for what seemed like an eternity, this blew her first run time out, and put a stop to any finals hope. Victoria's second run was a great improvement and showed what Victoria could really do. Emma Lefroy in her first year of international competition is rapidly gaining experience.

C1 were watched with great interest as Robin Bell and Kynan Maley had both been having a good international season. Robin had already posted two silver medals in World Cups and Kynan's results have steadily improved this season. 109 seconds was the time to beat and Robin's time

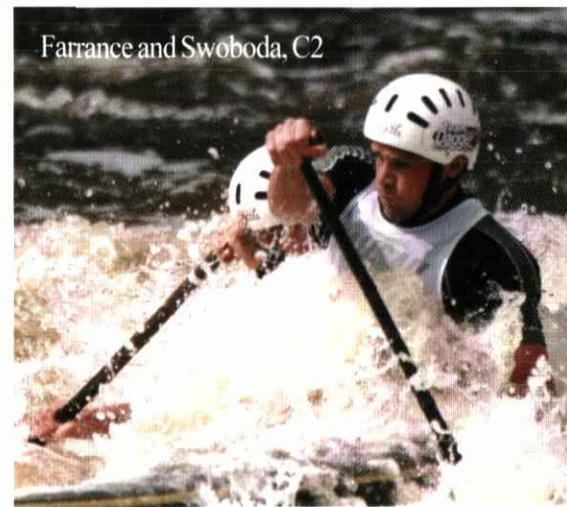




Louise Natoli, LK1



Farrance and Swoboda, C2



of 108 put him in a very comfortable position. An unfortunate touch put his final place back to 7th, but easily in the finals and looking very dangerous. Kynan too, had a better first than second run and just missed out on the final 15 taking out 17 position. The final class for the day was C2. Australia's Andrew Farrance and Kai Swoboda were at their first international event for the year. They put down two very solid runs with no mistakes and sit in 10th position only 10 seconds behind the winners, knowing they have more speed to give. Hankinson and Cole, Australia's youngest crew and in their first year of senior international competition are showing sparks of top level paddling. They collected 8 penalties on each run, but ended in 14th place to move onto to the finals. The course was changed for the finals and those competing watched carefully as the new course was erected. A series of off set gates in the middle of the course promised a great challenge if paddling direct, with no loss of speed or penalties.

Finals

C1, Robin Bell was in the hot seat, by winning this event he could win the World Cup Series, this would be a first for Australia. Robin has the speed, the experience and has been at the top since his silver at the World Championships in 1999. He paddled fast and then a small error he almost tripped on his paddle, not a big error and quickly corrected, but not before a touch on the gate and the loss of speed put him out of medal contention. The second run is again just off the pace for a place but allowed Robin 10th place which is great for Robin and for Australia. K1, John Wilkie the sole Australian finalist paddled well to take 18th place. He had the technique and the race plan but just did not paddle as fast as he is capable of doing. But for Australians to be qualifying for finals is a positive result. Australia has two C2 crews in the finals and Danielle Woodward is coaching both crews. She has the experience of many years at the top of WK1 paddling on the international

scene and back home has won many National Mixed C2 titles. Cole and Hankinson from NSW qualified for their first World Cup Final in 14th place. They needed to focus on race plan, technique and let speed take care of itself. They completed a solid first run, but are unable to maintain consistency and a 50 on the second run put them in 15th place. This result for possibly the youngest crew in the field is a great effort. Farrance and Swoboda have also studied the course well, and worked with Danielle to step up their speed a notch from the Saturday qualifiers. Their first run was good with a 117+ a touch. But, both Andrew and Kai knew they could go faster and can clean up the silly touch. Their second run is clean and two seconds faster. The Australian C2 crew take out 8th position, the best result an Australian C2 has ever obtained in a World Cup final. It is also the best Australian result at this competition. This crew is continually improving they know what works for them and have their eyes firmly set on Athens 2004.

My Opinion

Roy Farrance

CANCELLED

To cancel the World Slalom Championship was a major decision.

I am not privy to the information that the decision-makers were basing their decision upon. However, for a simple 'outsiders' view I feel the ultimate decision to cancel was wrong. The decision was made in haste, as a knee jerk reaction- America was in shock- the Americans believe deeply that their country is impregnable, that their law enforcement, armed forces and intelligence are infallible. In the movies US is on the side of right and right always wins. The September 11th terrorists proved this deep seated belief wrong and the US was shocked to its core.

All planes were grounded, all public buildings/offices shut down, reservists all over the country were put on alert. Baseball and other major league games were cancelled. People were stranded both inside USA and around the world. So it appears to cancel the Slalom World Championships was a logical extension. But is slalom really an international target?

A baseball game held in an enclosed venue has tens of thousands of spectators. Slalom has a few hundred participants and spectators, all are well spread up and down the length of the course. The venue is out in the 'backcountry', far away from major population and business areas. If, as suggested the concern is that local vigilante groups may target the international athletes one has to ask who? There are no middle eastern, Afghanistan or similar involved in slalom canoeing.

Sport is the international bridge builder. An international event depicts friendship and peace between Nations, particularly in slalom. The Olympic Games being the epitome of this philosophy. Yet all International Sport carries this message to the world. To cancel

shows that the terrorists have won another small point.

Golf, a much higher profile sport postponed events for a couple of days only showing respect to the victims. The Slalom Worlds were almost 2 weeks after the attack, to cancel within 36 hours appears an overly hasty reaction.

Paddlers have trained daily, organized their entire lives for the past year and longer, around this one event. The decision-makers owe it to these athletes to run the competition if for no other reason. To cancel shows a lack of respect for these fine athletes and their countries who support them. The organizers, too (many volunteers) have put hours of work into this event are suffering unnecessary frustration. The World Mountain Bike Championships went ahead as planned less than one week after the attack.

My view is that Slalom should have held firm and conducted the World Championships. Coped with the difficulties of possible of small numbers of personnel, of the local security being called away for other duties. Some athletes may have been a few days late, but all could have been their prior to the scheduled start.

Slalom should have been used, along with Mountain Bike riding and Golf as a show case that International sport is strong, that Nations do support each other and respect each others differences and will not be intimidated by terrorism.

To show that terrorism cannot weaken countries, merely strengthen the resolve of the international community. Sport is above international politics, we must keep it that way.

Do not cancel

ASK DR DITA

Dear Dr Dita,

I am sick of people treating me as if I am a really bad paddler. I have improved much over the last year, but still people act as if I have the paddling skills of a monkey. Indeed, in some instances I feel as if they think a monkey might even have better paddling skills than I do. What can I do about this situation? or should I even try to change it?

**Feeling the lack of support,
Melbourne.**

Dear Lack of support,

One would hope that you at least have some friends who enjoy paddling with you, and from whom you can get some support. But even if you do not, get over it, ignore those who make you feel unworthy and just paddle for the love of the sport. As I always do, if you are good! everyone will notice anyway, you dont have to tell people. On the other hand perhaps they are right, and any ape could handle a boat better. If you are really worried use a video to check up on your skills.

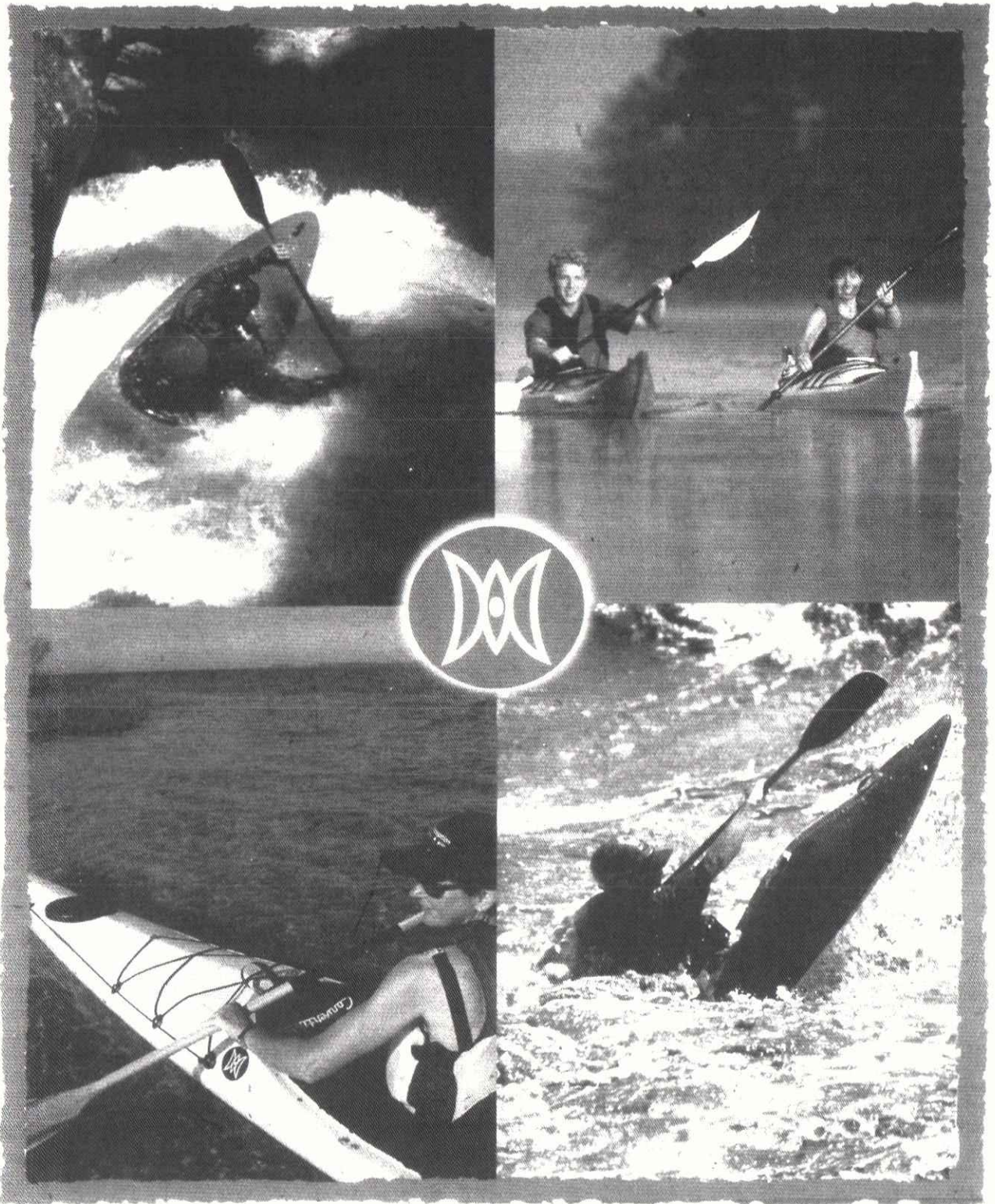
Dear Dr Dita,

Is it true that you have to be a good paddler to be a good coach? and is this true of any sport. Are the great coaches all winning athletes that are now later on in their career? If so, is there a school that trains egotistical athletes to think of someone other than themselves, or does that come naturally when you finally give up competition? How do I decide whether to become a coach or not?

Confused, Penrith

Dear Confused,

History shows that some of the greatest coaches were never great athletes, simply look at the footy for some great examples. There is so much more involved in coaching than simply being able to perform yourself, that perhaps the first question you should ask yourself is why you want to become a coach? The best coaches are generally those that have a variety of skills, and deal well putting their athletes needs before their own. A great ability to get along with a variety of personalities also helps. You can do coaching courses in a few places - but try the Australian Institute of sport website for pointers



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THE COBUNGRA RIVER - My first decent

Brian Cooper

It all started one Saturday at Warrandyte, after just finishing a lesson with some beginners. After running into some old friends we arranged to paddle the Mitta Mitta, with the possibility of the Cobungra if there was enough water in it. Ha Ha!! I have been hearing that phrase for years now and know that there is never enough water.

I rang Greg Pearson, who was also involved, on the Monday before and arranged to meet at the Blue Duck Wednesday afternoon. No the Blue Duck is not a Duck that has spent too much time on the Mitta and turned blue with cold, it's the name of a Pub. On Wednesday I rocked up with my new Dominatrix 44 tucked up securely inside the old trusty, or is that rusty, Rangie and Greg and the group arrived back, from the day spent practicing Swift Water rescue on the Mitta to tell me that others in their group had paddled the Cobungra that morning before they started work. Yes! there was enough water and unless there was a significant drop overnight it would be paddleable again tomorrow. Andrew, Gregs' oldest son and Tony (part of the group who paddled the river that day) weren't saying very

much about what it was like, except for the few meaty bits that capsized them. All three of them capsized and rolled up during the trip. Not to mention the numerous times they found their heads under the water just negotiating the rapids. As I tried to find out, just how difficult the river is, Greg just happened to ask me "is that a full blown rodeo kayak that you have brought with you?". It was then that I began to ask myself if I could handle this river or if I should I go home? Comments like, I would not paddle your boat on this river, but it is your choice, and maybe we can borrow a more suitable boat for you from someone, made me uncomfortable and more anxious.

Well Carrie, who was preparing our evening meal in the Blue Duck just happened to have a husband who just happened to be a very experienced paddler (owned a company that worked on the Colorado) and he just happened to have a few kayaks at home that just happened to be just up the next road about half a kilometer and it just happened that he might like to join with us tomorrow to paddle the Cobungra. Over dinner it was decided to go and visit Jeffe, Carrie's husband the next day, which by the way, none of have

met as yet and ask him if he would like to come for a paddle with us and maybe lend me a kayak.

It could only happen in the white water canoeing world, Jeffe is more than delighted and offers me a choice of no fewer than four different boats to choose from and would you believe it we are both the same size and he pads out his boats nice and tight, just like me. I selected a Perception "Phat" which is just that, nice and fat. It would not sink and get pinned, although it was a little long for my liking.

We loaded all the gear into and on to Greg's car and began the half hour grade five / six car shuttle. 4WD drive most of the way.

At the Blue Duck the Cobungra looks a little like the Big with no water in it and at the put in point it looks like the Big with a little bit more water in it. I didn't have anything to worry about? After a good stretch and a warm up on this Grade One water we were off. About fifty meters from the put in Jeffe paddled up to the first rapid, then got out on the left bank for a closer look. I stopped just above the drop to peer over the edge. All I saw was the boulder garden from hell.



Greg and Andrew were talking "start on the right then go hard left". Jeffe was signaling, over the drop into this churning mess of white water, between the two boulders (that were big enough, that if they had windows you could live in them) make your way hard left and then down this even bigger mess of churning white water that disappears out of sight, hopefully into a still pool. Oh!, I forgot to mention that to get over the drop you have to "Boof" because there is only a few inches of water covering the rock ledge at the top.

Greg went first, he looked good in the air, landed and was slammed hard up against the second boulder right where the water looked the meanest. He couldn't get through between the two boulders so let the water take him around behind the second boulder. There was a small eddy here and it looked easy to use this to get across to the left and take the main current into the pool below. That was the way for me. I followed after Jeffe and Andrew and made it, then turned

around to look back the way we had come. WOW! The drop had to be fifteen to twenty meters high over about the same distance horizontally, that's around Forty- five degrees. And from the bottom you couldn't see a line through either.

The next few rapids were much the same except with eddies to stop before committing to the next section. One of these eddies I missed and while back paddling to the screams of "don't go there" I got a pretty good look at one of these don't go places. But, most of the rapids were just a blur, and I made sure that I only went where told. On one particular section, we had stopped in a large eddy and Jeffe had positioned himself in a micro eddy just a little lower on the right. His instructions as I paddled past were "go under the tree and over the bump". The trick was to "Boof" off this bump, so I made sure that was what I did. As I went over I got a quick look at what I was dropping into and yes, over the bump was the only safe route.

We stopped and got out about a

quarter of the way down one of the longer rapids to inspect a rather nasty section. Here most of the water flowed through a rock sieve at the top of a two-meter drop to form a large stopper running down the river, not across the flow as normal. The only way through was to sneak along a vertical rock shelf on the right, then line up to go over the drop so you did not land in the pour-over forming the stopper. It sounded easy, except that the water you had to paddle in was hitting the rock wall on the right and pushing you left, just where you didn't want to go. Greg went first and positioned his boat in just the correct spot. Next was Jeffe, the water pushed the nose of his kayak left as he went over and into, yes you guessed it, where no man or his dog wants to go. He recovered and made the next eddy okay.

Andrew and I decided on using our discretion to portage this small section. Andrew decided to slide down this thirty to forty degree angle smooth rock into the eddy where Greg and Jeffe were waiting for us. This slide



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WEIGHT: 32 lbs.

SUGG. WT. LIMIT: 225 lbs.
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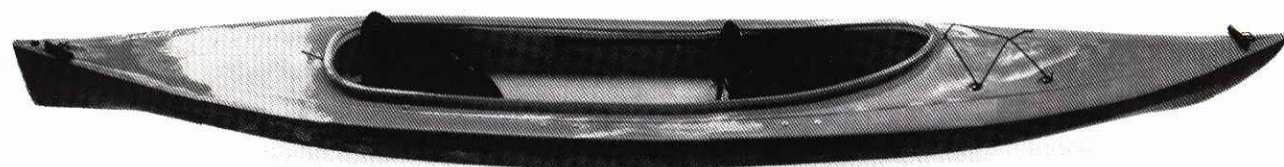
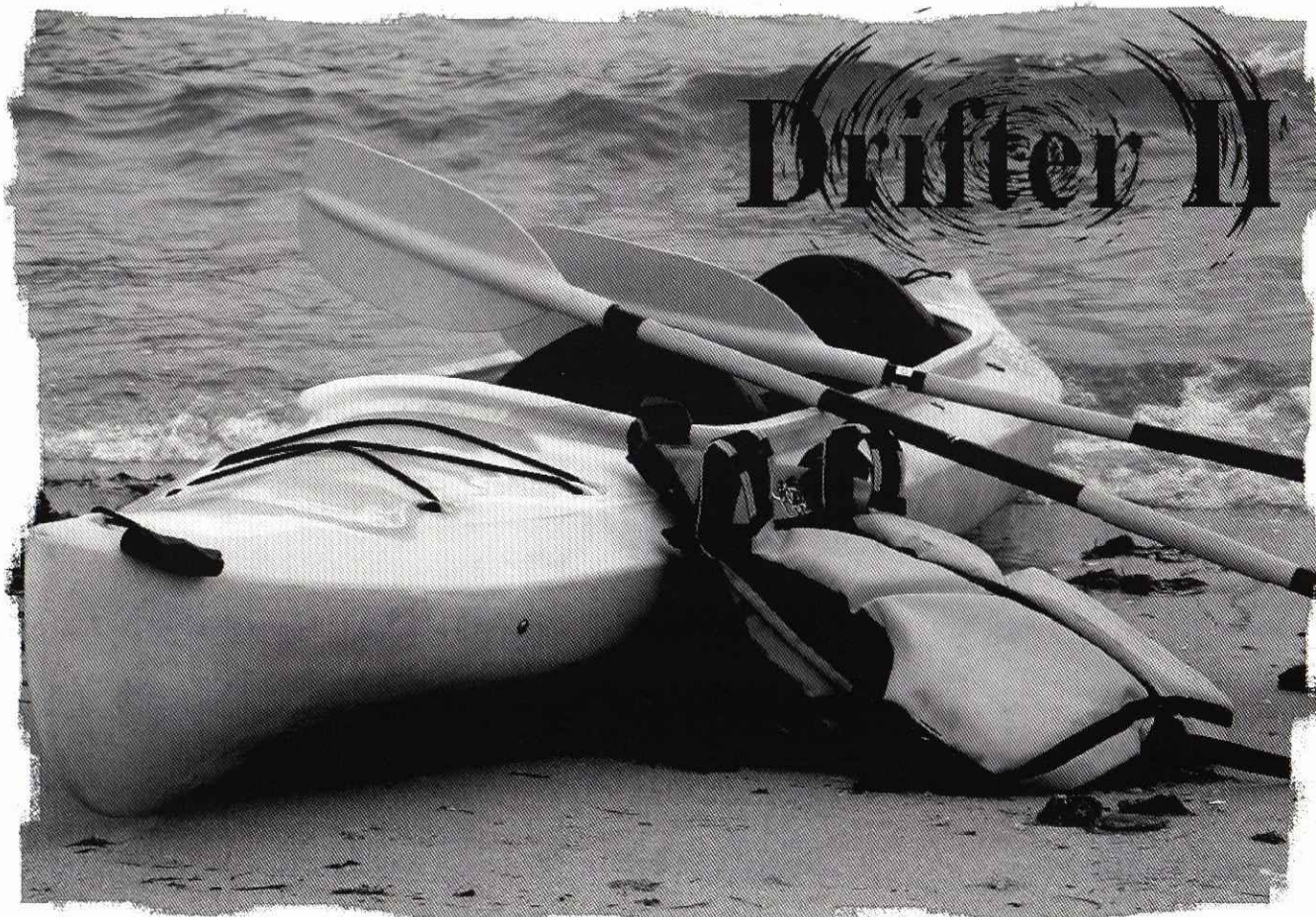
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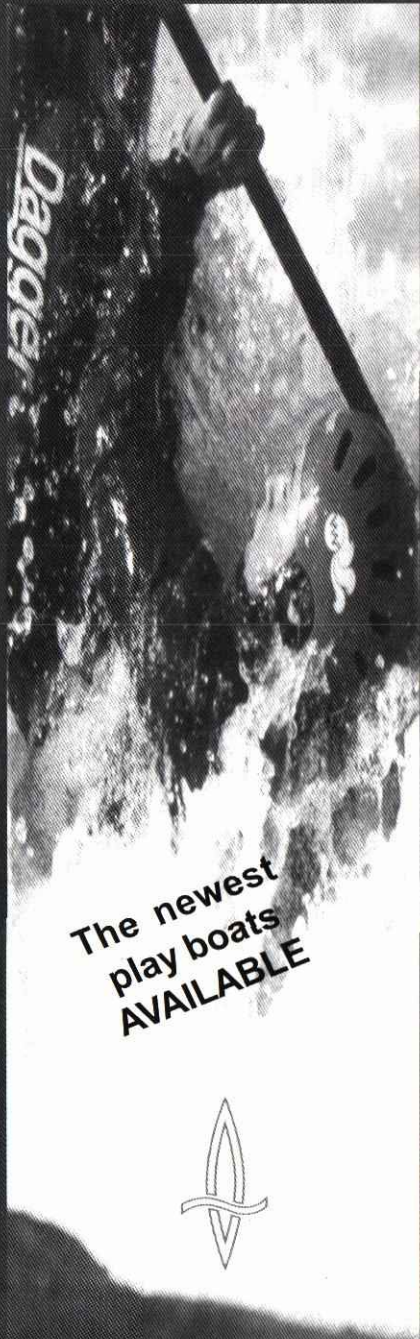
Drifter II

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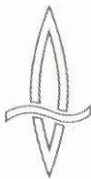
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was probably eight meters long and the pool it finished in was barely three meters wide. I held his boat while he got in and let him go gently, the result being that he slammed into the rock on the other side of this small pool with great force. I was encouraged to do the same only sideways, no way! After the portage, at least a grade five, I thought it might have been easier to paddle, as it was only a high grade four.

I don't remember how many rapids there were as my brain was far too busy trying to survive than to count rapids. What I can remember, after getting very strict instructions on yet another particular section of a rapid which involved many, go left then right then left then right kind of things, was this.... As I neared the pool at the bottom where they waited for me. I heard Jeffe say "he is talking to himself". What he heard was, me talking to the Phat saying, "go left, now go right, now left no, left you bastard" as I negotiated my way through this rock garden.

We negotiated down another rather long rapid until Jeffe stopped and started to get out of his boat. This drop was called the waterfall. Every one got out, clambered over rocks and walked through water until we were overlooking the vertical drop. It didn't look too bad -about three meters wide at the top dropping around four meters between two vertical clean rock walls into what seemed a very deep clear pool. No worries!, you say until you consider that the approach was neither open nor deep. All the water was funneled from the left and directly above. It soon became obvious that the drop was not the problem but the run up to it. Get it wrong here and you're history! Then under a low overhanging tree and over a shallow drop, another three meters to the next shallow drop leaving about three meters to position yourself and line up for the waterfall. The problem with these small drops were that they were shallow and your boat slid over rocks with the possibility of being turned sideways. And of course, according to Murphy's Law that is what happened to us all.

Any mistake made at the top meant a mistake going over. To complicate all of this, when you surfaced there was

only about four meters before you were committed to the rest of a grade four rapid. Not a good place for a swim!

Jeffe again went first, and as he wanted he was just left of center pointing slightly to the right he hit the water at the bottom and disappeared, one, two, three, four and he re-appeared with a smile on his face. Next was Greg. As with Jeffe, Greg turned sideways just before going over but he straightened up and over he went. He to went down for the four count but popped to the surface turned into the eddy and then the smile hit his face.

My turn was next I had seen it done, all I had to do was copy what I had seen. Bob down under the tree get the paddle back into my hands turn slightly to the left to negotiate the next small drop, dam! It turned me to the left. Very quickly a left sweep to face forward, pull off the lip with a strong right forward stroke, lean back to keep the nose up but I was too far left and the rock wall knocked the paddle out of my left hand. As I was under water I felt that I rolled on to my right side. I hung on like grim death to the paddle with my right hand and fought to get the blade to grip the very aerated water for some kind of support. I broke the surface to try and execute a one hand on the paddle shaft support stroke but my left knee slipped from under the thigh brace and popped the spray skirt. I thought, I'm out of here and fast!, as I surfaced and grabbed the boat. My mind and the other two who were sitting in a small eddy to my right were shouting swim! and swim fast! Luckily there was a large flat rock just to my left so I was able to get out of danger.

Andrew came over the drop without any dramas. I emptied my boat and got back in to continue our trip.

The grade of the rapids declined from here through grade four to three and two finishing at grade one by the Blue Duck.

This trip represented two and a half hours down the most technical and steep remote mountain river that I have ever seen, let alone paddled. It was a great day, with a group of great people (friends) that finished at a Pub with a roaring fire to get changed by (inside the pub) and any thing you could wish to drink hot or cold.

Was I in paddler's heaven or what?

RACE AND EVENT CALENDER 2001

| DATE | DISCIPLINE | INFORMATION | LOCATION |
|----------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Oct 3-4 | Slalom | Qld Schools Championships | Nymboida |
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| Oct 5-14 | | Australian Masters Games | Newcastle |
| Oct 6 | Wildwater | Victorian Rapid Sprint championships | Big River |
| October 13 | Freestyle | Alpine paddlers Demo day/freestyle | Jindabyne |
| Oct 13-14 | Slalom | Southern Zone Championships | Nymboida |
| Oct 20-21 | Slalom | NSW Championships | Nymboida |
| October 21 | DR | Pre victorians | Homestead Rd |
| October 21 | Slalom | Yarra Series # 4 | Warburton |
| October 21 | Demo Day | Dagger come and try day | Currumbin Creek, Qld |
| October 28 | Demo Day | Jurkiewicz come and try day | Canberra, ACT |
| Oct 27 | Marathon | Hawkesbury Classic | Hawkesbury |
| November 3 | Freestyle | Freestyle competition | Penrith |
| November 4 | Slalom | Yarra Series #5, Final | Dights Falls |
| November 17-18 | Slalom | Canoes Plus Slalom Country Series Final | Goulburn River |
| November 17 | Demo Day | Dagger Come and try | Goulburn River |
| November 11 | DR | DR Victorian Champs | Homestead Rd |
| November 22-25 | Slalom | Talent Identification Camp | Goulburn River |
| Nov 25-26 | Marathon | Australia wide Marathon | |
| December 3 | Slalom | Victorian Championships | Goulburn River |
| December 1-2 | Slalom | DCC Championships | Bradys Lake |
| Dec 27-31 | Marathon | Red Cross Murray Marathon | Murray River |
| January 3-17 | Slalom, DR, Freestyle | Australian Age and Schools Championships | Nymboida |

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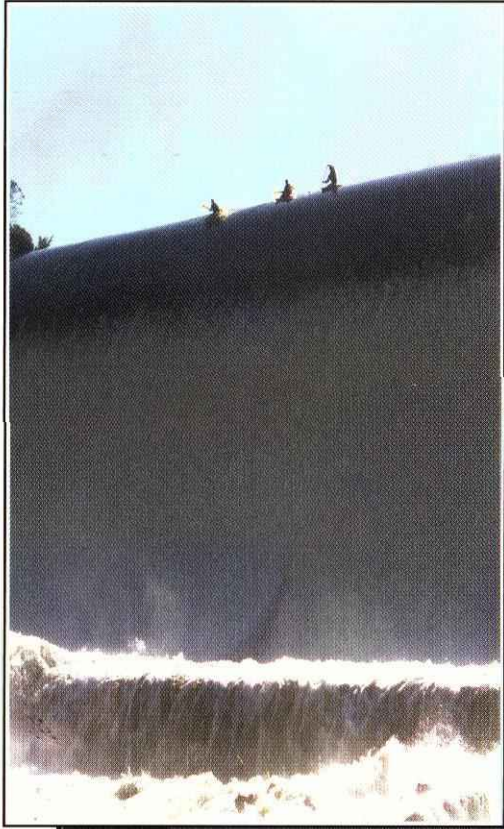
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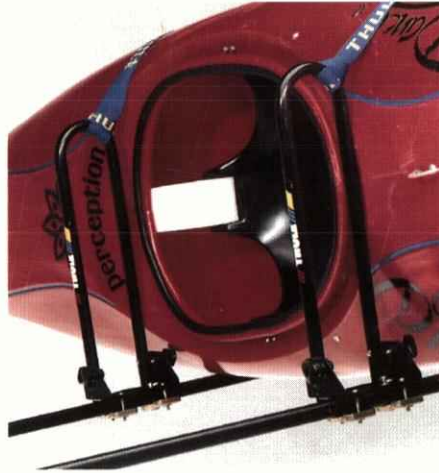
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