

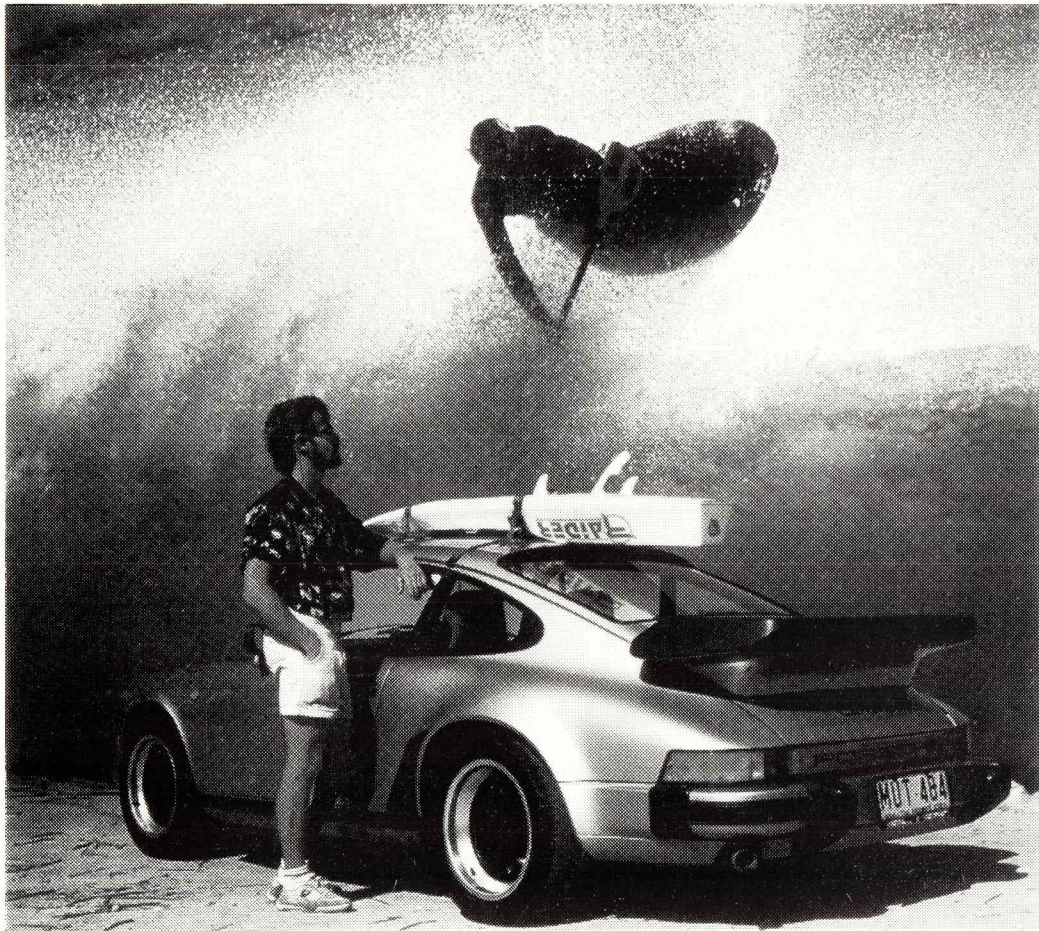
PADDLER

A black and white photograph of a person in a kayak on a body of water. The person is wearing a dark, sleeveless top and shorts, and is holding a paddle. The kayak is a long, narrow, pointed boat. The background shows a shoreline with trees and bushes. The overall scene is bright and somewhat overexposed.

NUMBER THREE.

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Performance Style Quality!



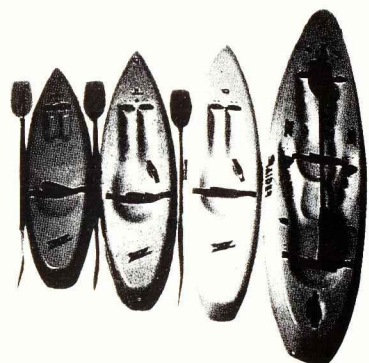
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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
JUNE 15**

MILES AND MILES

James Sloan

Finishing the Murray Marathon is always a very emotional moment, no matter how many times you have done it.

1987, my ninth marathon, was no exception.

By the time you get to Murray Downs Homestead you know the race is almost over. Despite all the pain during those five days there is almost a feeling of regret that the end is so close. It is said that torture victims develop a kind of love for their tormentors. Perhaps the feeling at the end of the Murray Marathon is the same.

To win outright in record time after such a closely fought race and to take line honours at Swan Hill at the same time was a great thrill. But as usual, the finish was an anti-climax. After five days of intense racing how could it be otherwise.

It was at the British National marathon championships at Worcester in 1986 that Robin Belcher asked me to paddle the Murray Marathon with him.

He had competed in 1984 in K1 and wanted to try K2. An Australian partner has lots of obvious organisational advantages and we had done some races together when I was living in England in 1982.

I was fairly reluctant about the idea as I intended retiring from competitive canoeing after the World tour in 1986. I became even more reluctant when I suffered terrible bum ache on the second day of the Tour du Gudena in Denmark after only two and a half hours.

However, painful memories fade and after a number of letters from Robin I agreed, with the warning that I might not be able to do enough training.

Robin is a fairly determined paddler having been a member of the British team for a number of years and twice winning the World Cup in K1 in 1982 and 1983. He arrived in Australia in mid October.



From his arrival my serious training started. Our first race was the Echuca mini marathon, which we narrowly won from Zane Douglas and Tony Zerst. Next followed the Goulburn Classic where Peter Hogg and Zane Douglas taught us some valuable lessons in making navigational mistakes and letting your competition get away; they won!

As readers will know, we tried to drum up a good K2 race this year. The main draw card was supposed

to be three times K2 World Cup winners Lars Koch and Thor Nielsen from Denmark. These two set a fast K1 time in the marathon in 1984. They arrived in time to do the Murray 40, which they won from us by a couple of lengths. However, they found the distance very hard and are training for sprints so unfortunately decided to pull out of the marathon.

The hype was not altogether unsuccessful though, drawing Joris Claves out of the woodwork. Joris, a South African with a Belgian

England's
Robin
Belcher,
a little
tired after
a day
at the
'office'.

The outright winner of this years Red Cross Murray Marathon explains just what it's like to race a kayak over 400 kilometres under the gruelling summer sun.

passport, migrated to Australia and is living in Cairns.

I knew that Zane Douglas was looking for a partner and suggested Joris try him. They turned out to be a very successful combination and provided Robin and I with the toughest battle I have had in a Murray Marathon.

Zane and Joris paddled a very good race. They certainly had a higher top speed than us, although I believe we were marginally better at the long slog. As it turned out this is what won us the race.

I have always said that in the Marathon the best position to be in is a minute or so up on the first day.

Both crews were relying on drink changes to keep weight down and to ensure cold drinks. When we got to Tom's Beach, two or three kilometres after Cobram, Zane and Joris went for a drink change. We decided to forgo ours and got that important break on them. We managed to turn a small break into a 3 minute 15 second lead - something we were very grateful for during the next four days.

This was the Murray however, and a race of such length is never won until the end. We were taught this lesson on the second day when we damaged our rudder before checkpoint B and broke the tiller bar about 1500 metres from the end. Zane and Joris had a 30 second win that day. To be fair, as the next two days proved, they would have probably beaten us over the line anyway.

Zane and Joris, much to their credit, kept the pressure on over the next 3 days. Despite outsprinting us to the line each day they weren't able to make the decisive break they needed to win back that 3 minutes.

Personally, I found this to be very tense racing. The atmosphere on the water was not particularly friendly.

Zane and Joris usually got the lead in the sprint for the food and I believe whatever energy we got from those soggy jam sandwiches was used up in catching up again!

The official margin on the third and fourth days was a one second win to Zane and Joris. So the pressure was still on them entering the last day with our lead at two minutes 47 seconds.

After a fairly easy start on the last day, Zane and Joris made a few half-hearted attempts to get away, without much success, until we went for a food drop just before checkpoint B.

They really went away then, but we managed to get them back in about 1000 metres, only to hit a big log in the middle of the river shortly after. The rudder was



jamming in the middle and Robin was obviously having a lot of trouble steering. We would fall off the wash and then have to chase the others back. There were many hard and worrying moments during that long stage between B and C.

Having just managed to survive the steering problem to checkpoint C we decided to get a member of our support crew to bend down the rudder. Unfortunately, to do this we had to stop. Seeing Zane and Joris quickly disappearing around the corner was an awful sight. They probably got about 45 seconds on us, which looks a long way when you are chasing on the river.

This was their chance to do what we did on the first day. We knew it and worked very hard. Again, our ability to slog it out was useful and we caught them we caught them after a 20 minute chase.

At that point, the race was really over. They were exhausted and unlikely to try another break while we felt good.

And so the two crews hit the finish together at Swan Hill with us about a quarter of a boat in front.

What a race! I was very relieved to finish. I must pay credit to Zane and Joris for such a good performance. I have raced with and against Zane for many years and did not believe he had such a race in him.

Our land crew, John Ferguson and Annette Summerhayes, did a fantastic job and were always cheerful and keen about the race.

My gratitude also goes to our sponsors, Max Tunbridge and 'Paddle Power' magazine.

Finally, I must thank Robin for his determination and persistence. I have never paddled with anyone who can get back on a wash so well when the need arises.

Now a comment on a couple of aspects of the event.

Firstly, South African Greyling Viljoen did a very good job to break Lars Koch's K1 record by 21 minutes.

What should be remembered is that he did this by riding the wash of two fast K2's - something Lars was neither allowed nor had the opportunity to do. The change of rule in 1985 was to Greyling's advantage.

Having said that, Greyling was a damn good wash rider and could stick like glue to the K2's - something most paddlers wouldn't even attempt. I would not like to go out and try to break his record now.

Secondly, the handicap system has obviously been proved a farce. That is unless you accept that, comparatively, veterans are better than others, with 7 of the top 10 on handicap being veterans.

The system is too arbitrary. How do the organisers work out that the open K2 should be eight hours faster than the womens veteran TK2? For us to have won on handicap would have required an actual time of 24 hours 50 minutes. That is an average speed of close to the boats maximum - for 400 kms.

I do not really know how a proper handicap system can be developed which takes into account factors other than the type of boat. The fact is that the people who race seriously in International classes train a lot harder than most others. It is a bit of a joke when a person who breaks the K1 record set by a four times World Cup marathon winner comes 6th.

The winners of the handicap are from my club - they did a great job, and excellent time. But it does grate a bit when I recall being asked by one of them with some surprise, "do you train every day?" (we were paddling twice a day and running once a day 7 days a week at the time!).

Finally, I note with interest that the Red Cross have calculated that they earn about \$20.00 for every person involved in the event. This is really not sufficient in terms of a revenue earner for the Red Cross.

The event has the potential to attract more publicity and hence bigger sponsors eager for TV coverage. In my view, this will only be done by promoting the race as a high standard sporting event, and attracting the best canoeists from around the world. The present approach is against this. Until there is a major change, the Red Cross is only going to earn around \$100,000.

A huge event like this should earn much more.

GOLD HUNTERS

Victoria's Martin Hunter performs brilliantly at Dora Creek, winning a place in Australia's Olympic Team.

Reg Hatch

From the beginning the course had been condemned.

It was labelled the worst, the most unfavourable course yet. Everybody was sure that competitors wouldn't be given a fair chance.

As it turned out, medals were won in the finals from every lane.

The course turned out to be, from a competitors point of view, fair and fast.

Look at some of the times from the K1 1000:

1st - lane 3 - 3:30.51

2nd - lane 7 - 3:31.45

3rd - lane 9 - 3:32.42

4th - lane 6 - 3:32.88.

7th place, lane 2, was 3:37.13

The 7th place time was equal to the best that Greg Barton (U.S.A., winner of 2 gold medals at the Duisberg World Championships) could paddle at last years World's in what were almost identical conditions.

The K1 500 was won by

Victoria's Martin Hunter in 1:39.96, a fabulous time, and the World's best to date.

The K2 and K4 times were also absolutely World class, giving a hint that Australia's competitors are returning to the level they need to be competitive on the International scene.

All indications are that this generation of Australian sprinters can train and achieve results at least the equal of the competitors of yesteryear.

Outstanding performances were turned in by the few competitors who remained in Victoria to work and train. This group was lead by Martin Hunter who, aside from winning the K1 500, placed 2nd in K2 500, with Cliff Goulding, 3rd in K1 1000, and 4th in K2 1000, again with Cliff Goulding.

Marianne Frei led the ladies home in all events except the most important one; the ladies K1 500.

It would have been really good to

see Marianne win this event. It might have given her the lever she needed to force her way into this years team.

She was beaten by Ingrid Raimann of Switzerland, who finished 5th in a semi final at last years World Championships.

The outstanding junior competitor was 15 year old Cathy Kesterton of Victoria. This girl, who has ability in a number of canoeing areas, swept all before her in a masterful display of mature racing.

Another junior, Richard Macquire also performed well, winning medals in a number of events. Richard has a bright future in slalom, but could do well in sprint also.

The Australian Institute of Sport team gave warning that they have the countries best competitors. With Brian Trouville at the helm they aim to stay on top.

The team, of Grant Kenny and Steve Wood won both K2 events. Later, they teamed with Brian Thomas and Paul Gilmour to win both K4 events in fine fashion. In fact, A.I.S. teams placed 1st and 2nd in the K4 1000 race.

The great number of competitors forced nine heats of the mens K1 events. However, junior entries were sadly depleted, as were the womens events.

We need a coach who can specialize in canoeing for women. At the moment the women are lumped in with the mens teams. Frequent problems arise from this situation eg. most women find it difficult to keep up with men; in the weight room the constant changing of weights upsets both sexes.

The current situation is simply not good enough.

At the moment I am hoping that Judy Morgen will take up the reins. Her knowledge would be invaluable.



SUMEGI

Who killed the goose that laid the silver egg?

Scott Whiffin

Five months ago, John Sumegi decided to put it all on the line again. He'd left canoeing at the top, left in disgust, and sworn he'd never come back.

But now here he was at Dora Creek.

It was hard to know what the other competitors thought of having him, John Sumegi, as an opponent.

Some seemed to be saying, *'he has done everything there is to do better than just one or two in the world. He is a great, we are nothing. He is a legend, we are afraid'*.

But others had seen him race just a few weeks before at the Queensland State championships. He raced well, but he wasn't dominant. His biggest weapon, his intimidation, was missing.

On the water, some looked through the legend, at the man, and scratched their heads; *everything to lose and nothing to gain*.

They seemed to be saying, *'he is old and we are young but let us derive what we can from the man. After all, he used to be quite good, one hears'*.

So he went to Dora Creek, knowing that he wasn't quite the man he used to be. The rest is history.

He lost, sure he did. He didn't even make a final in singles, but I saw him get on the water for his semi, and watched him as he paddled away tense and determined, and it was incredible to see him, just to see him, on the water, tense and nervous, even though I never once saw him paddle during his hey-day when he raced and won and when he raced and everybody knew he was one of the best in the World.

For me, that was enough.

Perhaps a National Womens Coach could be appointed.

INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR.

A class field of international competitors were on hand for the championships.

These included:

- Thor Neilson and Lars Koch of Denmark. K2 World Champions in Marathon. Silver medal in K2 10,000 at Duisberg World Championships in 1987. 7th in K2 1000 semi final.

- Daniel Scarpa of Italy. 1984 Olympian. Italian K4 500 and 1000 crew to Duisberg in 1987. Daniel made both K1 finals at Dora Creek.

- Grayson Bourne, Great Britain. He was Jeremy West's K2 partner in 1986. Grayson was disqualified in K1 500 for finishing out of his lane. A shame; he may have added some interest to a very hot final.

- P. Heikkila, Finland. Not much history except that he has been training in South Australia for the last 3-4 months.

- Ingrid Raimann of Switzerland. She finished 5th in LK1 500 semi final at Duisberg in '87. She won the LK1 500 at Dora Creek.

The international flavor was just right without being overpowering, giving our competitors that little something to aim at.

Sumegi.

Was John Sumegi cornered into returning to competitive canoeing? Did he return of his own free will?? Whatever the reason, a legend has been destroyed.

This was the man who won every Australian singles final he entered as a senior competitor. The same man burst onto the International scene when he paddled into second place behind Vlademir Parfenovich

at Duisberg in '79. He also achieved two fourth placings.

He followed this up in Moscow the following year with a silver medal in the K1 500 and another 4th in K1 1000.

He retired shortly after this event after receiving good media coverage while he was away. John toured through Europe for 8-10 weeks after the Olympics. By the time he got home, the Olympic Games were no longer topical. There was a meagre welcome from his close friends and the V.A.C.A. presented him with a silver goblet to mark his achievement.

After working for awhile as a builders labourer, John moved to Dubbo where he eventually went into business at a wholesale sporting goods store.

Inticed back into the sport by a request for coaching assistance, John somewhat reluctantly agreed. One thing led to another and he began training again.

Ian Ferguson (N.Z.) was somebody John could always beat. Perhaps the fact that Ian, despite his age, has gone on to be a very successful International paddler, gave John a certain encouragement.

After some 8 years away from the sport the legend chose the 1988 Olympic trials at Dora Creek to make his comeback.

John had ample publicity and had convinced us all that he was as good as he was eight years ago. The only mistake he made was to race at the Queensland State Championships (he place 3rd in K1 500 behind Graham and Wood, 2nd in K2 500 behind Kenny/Wood, and 5th in K2 1000). All of a sudden the dominance was missing. Everybody knew that the unbeatable could be beaten.

At Dora Creek, the sad part was that John didn't make a singles final, even in his favorite K1 500. He did make the K2 final and finished 3rd in both.

A shame? I think so. John was just so good that no one had the right to demolish him in two days. It took years to develop that legend.

The Team

The 1988 Olympic team to represent at Seoul, Korea:

- Grant Kenny/Steve Wood (AIS)
- Martin Hunter (VIC)
- Paul Gilmour (AIS)
- Brian Thomas (AIS)
- Kelvin Graham (QLD)
- Grant Davies (QLD)
- Peter Foster (QLD)

Manager: Hayden Kenny (QLD)
Coaches: Brian Trouville (AIS)
Reg Hatch (VIC)

Perhaps two competitors were unlucky not to be chosen in my opinion: Richard Zillman (for his team boat performances)
:Marianne Frei.

QUICK VIC.

Jane Farrance

The 1987-88 sprint season in Victoria closed with the Victorian Championships being held in brilliant weather on Lake Wendouree, Ballarat on February 27-28

This season has seen a lot of changes in Sprint Racing due to the work of the new president - Gavin Smith. Throughout the season paddlers have been sorted into grades rather than the traditional means of sex, age and class. This has produced an interesting array of events and most races are hard fought with no easy winners or very slow tail enders.

For the championships the events reverted back to the age, sex and boat classification with the exception of B & C grades which had their own events.

The results highlighted some of our best paddlers. In the Open Mens, Martin Hunter (Ivanhoe) was clearly the best paddler, winning all the sprint distances in single kayak and then repeating the performance in the doubles with Cliff Goulding (Ivanhoe).

Marianne Frei was the top female paddler, whilst the juniors were out in force, creating heats in many events. Outstanding performances were seen from Peter Cannard, Cathy Kesterton (VCC), Mia Farrance (VCC), Richard Macquire (VCC), Tom Quick (Iv), and Andrea Smith (SCC).

It is interesting to note that the number of entries have increased this year in juniors, junior ladies and senior ladies. However numbers have dropped in the senior elite mens class. The Under 20 class is proving popular with the men and was won by Tim Blee.

This years innovation of shorter (250/300 mtr) races have created great interest and a lot of fun. They are closely fought and give paddlers an extra race as well as being good for spectators.

Another popular idea was the introduction of the 'paddle card'. A once-up entry fee for the whole season, enables paddlers to enter



**The secret to
Martin Hunter's
success; food**

as many events as they like at every regatta. This saves not only money but also a lot of the hassles of entering on the day.

Criticism of the new ideas are few, but there are a couple

Sprint races are never run on time. Surely it can be done. I don't really believe that holding up a race for a latecomer is productive. It is good for one person, but puts every one else out. Do it a couple of times and the whole day drags on and on.

Get the races going fast and per the scheduled time and paddlers will get there and simply not enter for races that clash.

The second criticism is really

only a suggestion. We have a new program of events, but it is the same each regatta, with only very small variations. Possibly we could have distance variations, family events, club relays, etc., but a different one each regatta.

Sprint racing is moving in the right direction by involving juniors and families. People are interested and enthusiastic.

Next season the grade system is to be continued and refined. This is an exciting time for sprinting, but new thoughts and ideas are required. If you want to become involved, if your parents would like to help, please give Gavin Smith a ring on (058) 21 3023.

WATER SPORTS CENTRE

NEARLY THERE

Progress on the National Water Sports Centre

After the floods which wrecked the nearly finished weir last year, there has been a considerable amount of redesigning. At present there are no reasons why reinstatement work should not have started.

In addition to the weir re-build, there are only a few minor items to be completed to ensure the waterway is complete by mid April, although this does not include lane marking or amenities.

Currently, Opening Day is set for 23rd or 30th April: the actual date

is dependant on the Prime Minister and should be known soon.

What will be available for Opening Day? The course (no lanes), access roads and car/trailer park (all unsealed), and portable loos. Architects have been engaged to plan building facilities, but these are unlikely to be finished before Christmas. This architectural study is being funded by the three water sports (\$1250 each), Monash Sports and Recreation Committee- \$1250, and the remainder by the Dandenong Valley Authority (DVA).

The DVA estimates that annual running costs will be in the vicinity of \$160,000, so the Operation and Finance Committees have a lot of planning and development to finalise. These two committees will be assisted by the only other sub-committee - the building sub-committee.

Other expenses for which money has already been allocated are;

- (a) water - \$53,000
- (b) power - \$40,000

(c) sewerage - \$10,000

You can see that all parties involved are quite determined to make this facility top class to ensure that it is suitable for international competition, and like the National Tennis Centre, to ensure it earns the right to be called the NATIONAL Water Sports Centre.

The V.A.C.A. delegates to the National Water Sports Centre Carrum, Steering Committee, and delegates on the three sub-committees are Jon Mayne and Tony White. If you have any questions or suggestions, please channel them through your delegates.

The next two meetings will go a long way to resolving such questions as;

- Who will operate the course?
- How will the operating costs be financed?
- What allowances will be made for training?
- What type of buildings will ultimately be built?

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Scott Whiffin

MOOMBA DRAGS



Rowing on Melbourne's Yarra would be great.

They're so graceful. And fast? You'd better believe it. Those guys can really move.

And they know how to look after themselves too. Along the banks they've got their club-houses. Old looking things, most of them; weatherboard, with the club name painted neatly above the door; Melbourne Rowing Club, Yarra Yarra Rowing Club, Richmond Rowing Club, and so on.

It looks like such a clean health sport. But there's more. It's got something else, something most sports haven't. It's got a sort of dignity. When you watch you can sense the opulence and the tradition.

Usually the rowers have got the river to themselves. But today was going to be a problem. Today, the 1988 Melbourne Dragon Boat Festival was getting, as far as the rowers were concerned, very much in the way. In fact they've been in the way, very much, for quite a few months now, as they've been training for this competition.

The problem with rowers is that they've got nothing uncommon with dragon boat paddlers.

The rowers boat looks, and is, incredibly fast. They're like a blade in the water, slicing a clean

line through the surface and then leaving it almost politely as they found it. There's hardly a wake. Even at full speed they barely dust the surface. They look powerful, but always calm and rational.

Dragon boats are nothing like sculls. They're long, sure, nearly forty feet, but they're blunt at the ends, fat in the middle and really quite ugly. The twenty paddling members of the crew sit bunched up on bench seats, ten each side. Forty feet isn't much room for twenty men. Nobody has very much room. Everybody looks cramped.

After watching a scull glide by, oozing with grace and dignity, it's a little hard to accept the insane frenzy of the dragon boats. Far from polite, they slaughter the surface in their mad gallop, ploughing a channel from start to finish. No grace here, just brute strength and enthusiasm.

The rowers shook their heads as they watched. This was a bad joke. How could anybody take this seriously.

But most of the dragon boat crews were definitely taking it seriously. Indeed, the quality of the crews involved has improved dramatically.

This year's championship produced a brilliant final. As

expected, it was a showdown between two crews, 'Canoes Plus' and 'Beau Tin Assets'. Both could boast teams virtually amounting to a 'who's who' of canoe and surf competition in Victoria.

Canoes Plus set a very fast time in only the second heat of the day. This was a time which, while only a split second behind, Beau Tin was unable to better.

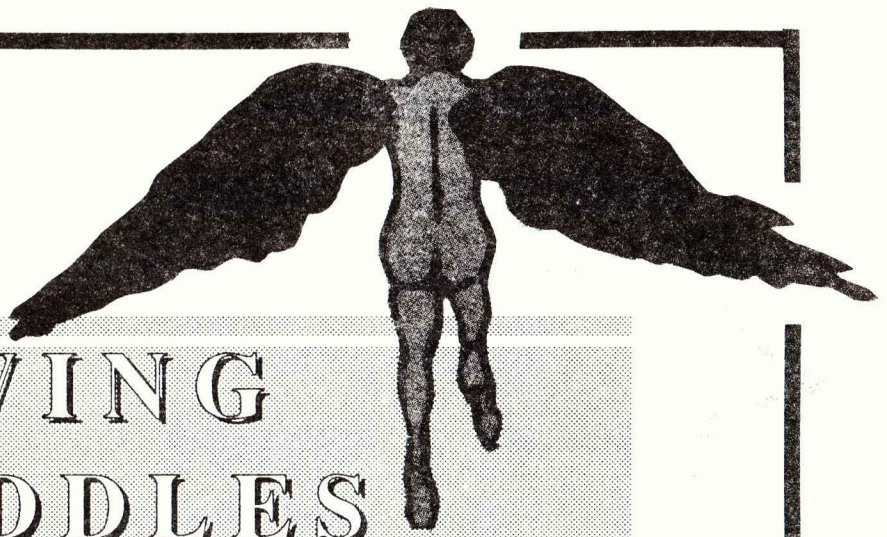
There were rumours that the tide was running; or that the breeze was up, to help Canoes Plus set this time.

They were probably right. In subsequent heats Canoes Plus couldn't get within 10 seconds of their first time.

Consequently, all the 'smart money' seemed to be on Beau Tin Assets, a crew from Geelong; consistently fast, impressive to watch.

But Canoes Plus managed to produce a somewhat remarkable victory, lunging from behind like a track sprinter to win by less than a half second. They had won the start easily, but lost the lead midway when the big horsepower of Beau Tin finally got into gear only to snatch the lead back in the final few metres.

Everybody enjoyed the close racing. Everybody, except the rowers; nobody saw any of them smiling. As if Moomba wasn't bad enough.



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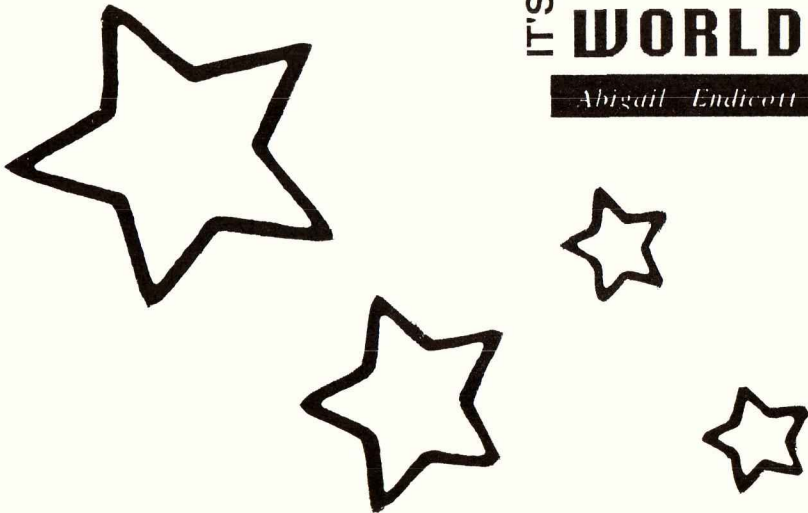
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IT'S A **SAVAGE
WORLD**

Abigail Endicott



The Savage River Invitational Wildwater and Slalom races held August 20-23, 1987 in Bloomington, Maryland, were the first races organized by 1989 Whitewater World Championships, Inc. and were an effective training ground for both organizers and participants.

The success of the weekend as well as the opportunity it provided to pinpoint weaknesses bode well for the 1988 Pre-World Championships and the World's themselves in 1989.

Most impressive were the improved paths and landscaping along the slalom site, the provision of attractive temporary buildings for administration, press, information and concessions, the availability of telephones and communications provided by Contel

Executone, a public address system made possible by the sponsorship of the Perception Company, a highly organized and hospitable off-course registration office, spectator shuttle busses, computerized results tabulated by Prime Computer personnel, extensive participation by State Police and Natural Resources Dept. personnel of the State of Maryland, and hospitality extended to athletes and volunteers by the organizing committee both at the site, where free refreshments were provided by Central Coca Cola, and in the form of evening receptions at Frostburg State College, at the Cumberland Holiday Inn, and at a barbeque at Deep Creek Lake State Park.

Frostburg State College opened its modern dormitory and food



services to the racers who found the television lounges ideal for video review and the attractive eating area a pleasant place to meet and talk with other athletes.

The College, in its scenic valley setting, proved to be a comfortable drive from the race course and an ideal location for members of international teams to stay and have meeting rooms for the upcoming international events in 1988 and 1989.

C & P Telephone Yellow Pages generously sponsored the room and board for members of the 1987 US Whitewater Team as well as the barbeque at Deep Creek Lake Park for approximately 300 racers and volunteers.

Since the August Invitational races, the State of Maryland has approved a funding plan to back up the '89 World organizing committee.

Maryland Governor William Schaefer approved State funding of one million dollars in cash and services to assure staffing, site improvements and professional sports promotion as well as funds to support the organizing committee's needs while corporate sponsorship continues to be pursued. This State funding has been approved in order to assure the success of the Championships, according to Governor Schaefer.

The Pre-World Championships will take place June 23-26, 1988. The 1989 Whitewater World Championships, the first International Canoe Federation Whitewater World's ever to be hosted in the United States, will take place June 11-25, 1989, in Bloomington, Maryland.

HOLIAK HIRE

HIRE & SALES OF CANOEING
CAMPING & HIKING NEEDS

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64 PARKHURST DVE., KNOXFIELD. 221 6018

AFTER HOURS 288 2440

TOURING.

The Olegas Truchanas award has been won by Earl Bloomfield (leader) and his party of Larry Grey, Graham Joy, and George Pompei, for their exploits around the coast of Greenland. A book will be released in October, and the film of the trip will be on the ABC.

The Canoe Guide is to be revised and updated. Input as to format or content should be passed on to the editors by May. It is hoped that the new edition will be available by the end of this year.

WARNING:

Jet Boat Safaris pose threat to Canoeists.

It is very likely that a jet boat safari service will soon commence on the Goulburn River between Mitchellstown and Trawool.

The Victorian Amateur Canoe Association has issued warnings that these services pose an extreme danger to canoeists. They have advised the relevant authorities accordingly. It does not appear that their concerns have been recognized.

They have been advised of the following information about the proposed service:

- the boat is 16 feet long.
- It will travel at 20 kph and slow to 8 kph when near canoeists.
- it will operate only once per week.
- it will only be driven by the owner.
- similar services will not be allowed without permission.

The V.A.C.A. expressed serious doubts that the boat operator would operate at a maximum speed of 20 kph,

and more serious doubts about him reducing his speed when canoeists are present.

The dangers such a service poses to canoeists are very real:

(1) There is a possibility that the boat will run over canoes, therefore all canoeist should keep to the right hand side of the river, especially when paddling around bends.

(2) When the boat slows down it will create a large wash. The more competent members of touring groups should ensure that group members do not:

- get swamped and lose control
- get pushed into the trees by a large wave
- get capsized by a large wave and get pushed into the trees whilst swimming.

If you believe the boat operator is not driving in a safe manner, please make a report to the Rural Water Commission and send a copy to the V.A.C.A.

KILL THE COOK

As a subscriber to the new Paddler I am less than pleased at the constant lateness of publication.

Indeed, there seems to be no 'scheme' at all, the magazine simply comes out when the editor feels like it.

Surely this important position demands somebody more responsible. If you can't do it properly, don't do it at all.

- Outraged

golly!



WEDDING BELLS.

Melissa Mayne, ex-National Ladies champion and a World championships representative, is to be married to Ashley ?, who was a member of the winning TK2 team in the Murray Marathon. They will be married in Doncaster on October 15.

Congratulations to well-known slalom C1 paddler Craig Bartlett, who was married to Cassandra recently.

Melinda Jones, another slalom paddler, was also recently married.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of you.

S T O P T H I E F

There have been a lot of reports of cars being broken into whilst parked at the regular put-in and pull-out points along the Yarra River, especially at Fitzsimons Lane. In most cases the thief gained entry by breaking a window.

The Doncaster police have been notified and asked to patrol the area more frequently.

It is wise to:

- park in an open area.
- keep cars locked.
- place everything in the boot so that there is nothing visible to steal (owners of station wagons should place their belongings in a friend's boot).

Slalom gets another shot.

Everything seems to indicate that the 1992 Olympic games in Barcelona will see the re-introduction of slalom as an Olympic sport. To achieve this goal, much work is being done with the Olympic Organizing Committee, who entirely approve of the I.C.F.-endorsed initiative by the Spanish Canoe Federation.

Works are currently in process to build a canal in the river Segre, on its way through Seu d'Urgell, a highly traditional site for the ever-spectacular slalom events.

In flatwater, the Barcelona Olympic Canal is yet another challenge that the Organizing Committee has taken up along the course of the river Llobregat, within Barcelona itself.

Rules & Regulations; What the hell is a P.F.D. anyway?

P.F.D.'s (Bouyancy Vests). After recent concern with changes to Victorian legislation on the wearing of P.F.D.'s (as of 1-12-87) and the proposed National Standard recommendations on reflective tape, the following has taken place:-

a) request to Victorian Authority to re-consider the regulation on inland water activities.

b) V.A.C.A. requested to write for either a change to regulations or an exemption.

c) Executive Director attend a further meeting of the Australian Standards Association to discuss items put forward by A.C.F. administrative workshop.

It must be noted that until we are further advised...

i) From 1-12-87 P.F.D.'s in all Victorian waters must be fitted with retroreflective tape over the shoulder area, clearly visible front and back and if the P.F.D. is reversible, on the inside as well.

ii) Other states not affected.

iii) Except that: **P.F.D. 1** (life jacket) must also have retroreflective tape as above, inside and out if reversible. **P.F.D. 2** (Bouyancy Vest) Aust. Standard approved (minimum buoyancy) in safety colours - no addition of retroreflective tape. **P.F.D. 3** (Bouyancy Vest) All other colours than 'Safety' colours - no addition of retroreflective tape.

A.C.F. Executive Council.

S p r i n t N e w s

SPRINT LADIES.

Marianne Frei will travel to Switzerland in an attempt to gain Olympic selection.

Judy Morgan is hanging up her paddle. However, it is hoped she will continue in the sport as a coach.

DALZIEL MOVES ON.

Shane Dalziel will quit full time canoeing this year and return to the surf. Things won't be quite the same without Shane's regular gutsy performances.

Good luck for the future.

BLACKMAIL

Last Monday I awoke as usual, and readied myself for school.

After preparing my lunch and putting on my uniform, I skipped happily off to school.

Imagine my surprise when I remembered I was a 53 year old unemployed gas fitter.

Care For Kids.

Are we giving our young paddlers the best opportunities to learn the skills of slalom? Many have the best equipment and the ambition and some secondary schools now offer coaching. But the only real test is moving through the poles and for many the only time they get to practice this is on race day.

The Yarra novice slaloms are excellent training courses and give youngsters an early taste of competition.

At what stage do the senior paddlers pass on their expertise?

Most, when asked, willingly give advice and even instruct. But maybe we need to create a more formal structure that will keep the kids in the sport and satisfy those eager to learn.

What about weekly training sessions? They might even create a club environment and give teenagers the proud feeling of belonging to an amateur sport.

In Melbourne, a few gates could be slung across Fitzsimons Lane on a Sunday morning where two or three volunteer instructors could offer their services.

Every slalom is overflowing with 13, 14, and 15 year olds eager to learn the sport.

They're the future of slalom paddling in Australia. How far do the organisers look?

ADVERTISING ON BOATS.

Permission was granted for RMIT to have advertising on their polo bats. All future approvals must go through the V.A.C.A. Executive.

Advertising is not allowed at the Australian Championships at this stage.

The Executive is proceeding very cautiously with this innovation.

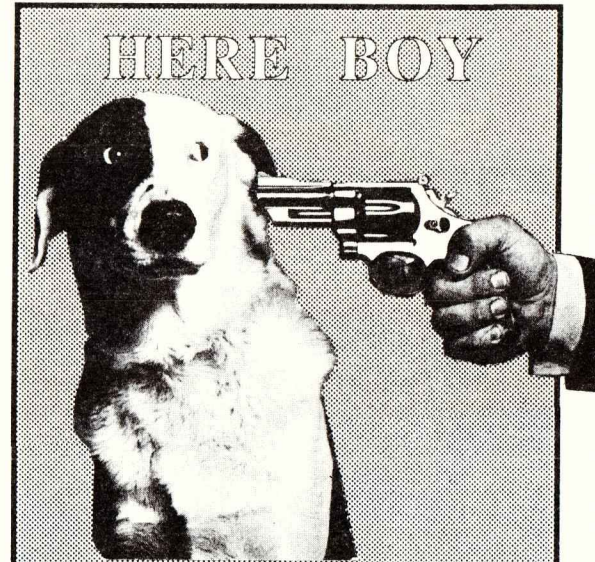
The AIS, in

conjunction with the President and Chairman of the Sprint Committee, has conducted interviews for the position of Coach to the short-term elite program. The program will commence early in January, 1988 with Josef Capousek (West Germany) as the international coach based at Maroochydore.

Final organizational details were determined before

christmas. The A.I.S. has also employed an architect to instigate the initial planning of a long term facility. The site for this long-term project has yet to be finalised, as the A.I.S. criteria must be considered.

The outcome of the short-term program for elite sprint racing Maroochydore will determine any future involvement of the A.I.S. with canoeing.



What a pity the only things hanging on the end of a rope at slaloms are the poles. Dog owners continually assume the entire population enjoys the company of their canines. Who enjoys squelching into a barker's nest, keeping the scavengers from your picnic basket, tolerating their yapping while you try to relax by the river or dodging them when they swim near gates during races? Remember, the breath of a tiger on the back of the neck, can sometimes be mistaken for a warm summer's breeze. Dog owners, leave your status symbols at home for the day

YOUR CANOEING ASSOCIATION WANTS



YOU

V.A.C.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

POSITIONS VACANT:

President
Vice President
Secretary

June 11, at 8.00 p.m.

HAWTHORN
RECREATIONAL
CENTRE.

SLALOM

BABY BLITZ

Victoria's Juniors dominate the Nationals at Harvey

Roy Farrance

Victoria's junior slalom squad dominated not only the junior events, but made their presence felt very strongly in the open categories at the 1988 Bicentennial Australian Championships and International events at Harvey (WA) during January.

Our senior ladies also took out the slalom events, clearly showing Victoria's dominance in this area.

Of the nine juniors selected in the Australian Junior Slalom Team to compete in Spain during July this year, eight come from Victoria, filling spots in all classes.

These paddlers also qualified for

senior team selection for the Pre World Championships.

Richard Macquire was the top Australian paddler at the International event held several days prior to the Australian titles. He was only several seconds behind England's current World Kayak Teams title holder Russ Smith. We also had excellent results from Aaran Merrill (7th) and Jarod Pinder (9th).

The Australian junior team to go to Spain for the Junior Slalom World Championships this year will be:

Richard Macquire (K1), Kaine Pinder (K1), Aaran Merrill(K1),

Mia Farrance (K1), Cathy Kesterton (K1), Jane Wright (K1), Greg Salter (C1), Andy Farrance/ Tim Wilson (C2).

The championships attracted some international paddlers, including World Champion (Teams K1) Russ Smith and France's Myriam Jerusalem.

Victoria was represented by a very young and very talented squad, which would indicate great things for the years to come.

In the club event, Victorian Canoe Centre again dominated by winning some 27 gold medals with the nearest club being New Norfolk (Tasmania) with 9 gold medals.



**Saturday May 21.
OVER 50 USED BOATS.**

EVEN BIGGER THAN '87

OUR 2nd

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- Rapidriders, Rapidrider 11's.
- Wallaby's, Wanderers.
- Kevlar Endeavours.
- Plastic Endeavours.
 - Velettas.
 - Europas.
 - Dancers.
- Spezial C2's.
- Polo Bat's, Roto Bat's.
- Raider Wave Ski's.

Boats from \$50.

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Over 100 Harishock, Wildwater, & others.

Paddles:

From Power Paddles at \$25 to French Propulsion at \$250.

Spraycovers:

Factory second neophrene to cheap nylon.

Plus a large range of canoeing odds and ends.

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EVERYTHING MUST GO THIS DAY.

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CanoeEd

Newsletter of
the
Victorian Board
of
Canoe Education

GENERAL NOTICE

Notice of A.G.M.

The annual general meeting of the V.B.C.E. will be conducted at 2 pm. on Saturday, May 28 at the manor house, Westerfolds Park, Lower Templestowe.

All qualified Instructors and Basic Skills Instructors have voting rights and are eligible to nominate for any of the eight positions. Trainees are encouraged to attend as observers. The meeting will be followed by an open inspection of the new V.B.C.E.

boatshed at Westerfolds Park (approx 4 pm) and then dinner at 'Jimmy Finns' room at the Templestowe Hotel, Parker St., Lower Templestowe from 6 pm. (bookings at V.B.C.E. office essential). Cost \$24/head including drinks.

UPSTREAM (RECENT EVENTS)

1. Boatshed completed.

After many years of negotiations, the V.B.C.E. now has a permanent operations base at Westerfolds Park. Constructed alongside the existing toilet block in the north-east corner of the park, the boatshed provides storage for our fleet, change rooms and a small office. In addition the MMBW have constructed a new canoe launching ramp and steps, with a vehicle access track leading from the boatshed.

The agreement with the MMBW covering the use of the boatshed over the next 20 years commits the VBCE to an initial payment of \$10,000 and an undertaking to conduct at least one major Family Fun Day at the park each year. In addition the VBCE has agreed to provide instructors for Come 'n Try Canoeing sessions once a month during summer (see Downstream).

Not only will this new facility make the courses conducted here easier to run, but it stands as a tangible product of all the effort

and dedication of those who have volunteered their time in the past. To those instructors the VBCE owes a great deal.

2. Instructor training video.

Videoining has just been completed and editing has commenced for a series of training video's produced by the VBCE in conjunction with the Teaching Services Unit at Victoria College, Burwood.

Aimed initially at instructors and trainees these videos will illustrate flat water basic skills for C1, C2 and K1 and the whitewater application of these techniques.

Using the same original vision, similar videos will be produced for use with learner groups.

The VBCE has been extremely fortunate to have Vincent Drane, a qualified instructor with a background in media production working on the program.

The videos should be on sale by June.

3. Canoe Safe.

For many years there has been a need for a comprehensive set of safety guidelines for leaders and instructors working with school and youth groups.

'Canoe Safe', published in Jan '88 by the VBCE aims to provide such guidelines for anyone involved in schools (govt. or private), scouts and guides, clubs and youth groups.

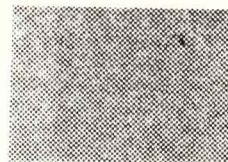
Detailed information is given on the following:

- leader qualifications and experience.
- leader/student ratios.
- student preparation.
- emergency contact procedures.
- clothing and equipment lists.

This is a standard reference for all trainees and essential reading for all instructors.

The format and low cost also makes this an ideal reference for all school students involved in Outdoor Education.

Copies can be attained from the VBCE at \$3 each plus postage. Bulk orders of over 50 for schools, clubs, scouts etc. at 33% discount.



DOWNSTREAM (COMING EVENTS)

1. A.G.M.

(see previous notice)
Sat. May 28.
Manor House, Westerfolds Park,
2pm.

2. Annual Dinner.

(see previous notice)
Sat. May 28.
Tempelstowe Hotel.

3. Sea Kayaking Workshop.

To be conducted at Wilson Prom. on April 30/May 1. Co-ordinated by VBCE instructor Malcolm Cowell with assistance from Victoria's most experienced Sea Kayakist this weekend is seen as a forerunner to regular courses to be conducted in the future. Practical sessions will cover a variety of techniques for all weather and sea conditions with theory back up on navigation, weather forecasting and tides and currents.

4. Family Fun Day.

Sunday, October 30.
This is the one day in the year where not only can you come and help out but also bring your family and friends along so they can have a paddle.

This year there is the added convenience of our boatshed at Westerfolds Park and new canoe launch facilities.

If you have access to a fleet of canoes or kayaks that may be available on this day please let Cary know. We need more than 150 places on the water at any one time.

5. Come 'n Try Canoeing.

At our Family Fun Day the VBCE will be launching a new program to be conducted at Westerfolds Park at best once a month between October and May.

Member of the public will be able to try canoeing for 1 hour sessions throughout the day. All sessions will be supervised by instructors.

The VBCE is seeking to contract a group of instructors who may be wishing to do some regular weekend work at commercial rates to provide this service which is part of our agreement with the MMBW.

Interested instructors (or trainees) should contact Cary to discuss contract arrangements.

6. Instructors and trainees Skills Improvement Weekend.

An instructors and trainees skills weekend will be held on the Mitchell river in Spring.

Victoria's top male and female paddlers will be available to coach on these weekends in K1, C1 and C2 (C2 craft must be suitable for advanced grade 3 manoeuvres).

Top whitewater paddlers will be employed as coaches to conduct organised sessions on the water. Group size will be 1:4. Places will be limited so register early.

Dates:

1. August 20-21.
2. September 10-11

Cost:

\$70 (to cover instructor expenses) for each weekend.

7. Advanced Course.

The format of the advanced course has been changed slightly this year. There will now be a training weekend during which all the manoeuvres expected at advanced level can be practiced under expert tuition from our instructors.

Testing for the Advanced award will be conducted independently on the following weekend. Candidates may sit the Advanced test only if they do not wish to take advantage of the training.

Dates:

Training (2 days).

October 1-2.

Testing Sunday October 9.

Venue: Mitchell River, Slalom Rapid.

Cost: \$150 (training & testing)

\$120 to VBCE trainees and instructors.

Testing only \$30.

8 Video skill feed back days.

One of the best ways to improve your own paddling is to observe yourself on video. We will be conducting video sessions from our boatshed in Westerfold Park. These sessions help polish up your basic skills for instructional purposes.

Full one day program ensures adequate time to view video and get additional coaching. The VBCE instructor training video will be available for viewing by then as well.

Dates:

1. Saturday July 16.
2. Saturday July 17.

Cost: \$30 (BYO lunch).

ONSTREAM (ARTICLES OF INTEREST)

European History:

The first documented information on the Mitchell River National Park area comes from Alfred William Howitt, one of Victoria's greatest explorers and amateur scientists.

In 1875 Howitt conducted a geological survey of the region and, guided by two Aboriginal companions, proceeded to make the first recorded trip through the Mitchell River Gorge. His accounts of the journey make colourful

reading.

Howitt arranged for two Aborigines, Bunjil Bottle and Turnmile, to meet him at Tabberabbera and the Aborigines proceeded to make some canoes for their journey down the river.

Howitt wrote: "The canoes were no great triumph of naval architecture and not even good as canoes, having been taken from small, poor trees- the season was bad for the bark to strip. Stepping cautiously from a small ledge on the

river bank, formed by a dyke which there cuts across the fossiliferous shale, into the largest canoe, about eight feet in length, I sat down on a piece of bark which was luxuriously provided for my especial use, with my geological hammer in one hand and my notebook in the other."

And so the account proceeds through the rapids and rainforests, until one of the canoes was wrecked near Woolshed Creek. Here the party decided to walk back to the settled parts of Gippsland.

PROMOTION



PADDLE POWER AWARDS

On February 11 the V.A.C.A. officially launched the Paddle Power Achievement Award Scheme.

The successful day was organised by John Jacoby. Neil Tresize, the Minister for Department of Sport and Recreation, spoke on the importance of developing the junior ranks of sport. He said that the V.A.C.A. philosophy of junior development was well received by his department.

Colin Amos represented Shell Australia who have also sponsored the P.P.A.A. and other junior events over the past few years. Assistance from both of these groups is most appreciated by the V.A.C.A. and juniors in canoeing.

A media race saw representatives from The Age, Channels 10,9, and SBS, Aussie Sports, and the Department of Sport and Recreation pairing up with Victoria's top paddlers for a race across the Yarra River in canadian canoes.

The race was hotly contested by John Jacoby, with a Channel 10 reporter, and Martin Hunter with one from Channel 9. Nearing the finish there was a small collision, a push or two, and Martin Hunter emerged, with his reporter, the winners.

Whilst these competitors retired to afternoon tea and refreshments, students from Ivanhoe Grammar demonstrated their skills in canoes and kayaks.

Martin Hunter decided to try a polo bat but, finding it a bit different from his sprint kayak, ended up wet.

The day ended with the announcement of the Victorian Canoeist of the Year Award, jointly won this year by triple world champion, John Jacoby, and the VACA's president, Tony Prior.

Publicity on the day was excellent. Articles appeared in The Sun, The Herald, and The Age and television coverage on channels 10 & 9, with SBS doing something a little longer later on in March.

For information on the Paddle Power Achievement Awards contact John Jacoby on 489 5078.

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@ \$1.00 each
plus postage @ 15 cents for each set of 15
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PLEASE INCLUDE CHEQUE OR MONEY
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S C O R E B O A R D

1988 AUSTRALIAN SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS. Dora Creek, March 10-13.

MENS K1 500

1. Martin Hunter 1:39.91
2. P. Foster 1:40.39
3. P. Gilmour 1:40.93

MENS K1 1000

1. G. Davies 3:30.51
2. P. Gilmour 3:31.45
3. M. Hunter 3:32.42

LADIES K1 500

1. I. Raimann (SUI) 1:58.36
2. M. Frei 1:58.75
3. G. Mayes 2:02.94

LADIES K1 1000

1. M. Frei 4:06.58
2. G. Mayes 4:10.48
3. D. Cooper 4:11.32

MENS K2 500

1. S. Wood/G. Kenny 1:29.25
2. M. Hunter/C. Goulding 1:29.72
3. P. Foster/ J. Sumegi 1:30.74

MENS K2 1000

1. S. Wood/G. Kenny 3:12.55
2. S. Dalziel/B. Thomas 3:13.43
3. P. Foster/ J. Sumegi 3:13.84

1988 Australian Marathon Championships, Brisbane QLD.

MENS K1. (42 km)

1. J. Jacoby (Vic) 2:55.45
2. M. Coulter (NSW) 2:55.47
3. J. Sloan (Vic) 2:55.49

MENS TK1 (42 km)

1. A. Boyce (NSW) 3:24.09
2. M. Jones (NSW) 3:24.13
3. P. Vibert (NSW) 3:24.19

MENS K2

1. P. Hogg/J. Sloan (Vic) 2:48.37
2. R. Anderson/T. Doyle 2:54.01
3. C. Barnett/R. Edgar 2:54.01

MENS C2

1. K. Phillips/L. Tunbridge 3:18.34
2. I. Docking/R. Fenwick 3:19.36
3. C. Bridger/C. Klep 3:22.41

LADIES K1

1. J. Hall (NSW) 3:12.12
2. D. Cooper (QLD) 3:13.58
3. G. Mayes (QLD) 3:15.24

LADIES TK1

1. S. Gardner (QLD) 2:03.30
2. E. Salaris (NSW) 2:12.50
3. V. King (Vic) 2:18.25

LADIES K2

1. G. Mayes/D. Cooper 3:12.20
2. E. Harvey A. Corner 3:15.04

1988 AUSTRALIAN MARATHON TEAM for World Championships, at Nottingham in July.

D. Cooper, G. Mayes, R. Edgar,
C. Barnett, A. Corner, J. Hall,
L. Punbridge, M. Coulter, J. Jacoby,
P. Hogg, J. Sloan, R. Fenwick,
K. Phillips, D. Drummons,
R. Andersson.

1988 Australian Slalom & Downriver Championships, Harvey W.A.

DOWNRIVER.

MENS K1

1. David Worthy 24:10.34
2. Lindsay Binning 24:11.76
3. Steve Muir 24:14.06
11. Craig Falconer 25:32.94

LADIES K1

1. Andrea MacQuitty 26:41.62
2. Jane Wright 28:04.83
3. Sharyn Cahill 28:38.63

SLALOM.

MENS K1

- R. Smith (GBR) 150.79
1. L. Binning 156.18
 2. M. Vucak 157.37
 3. M. Pallister 160.20
 4. R. Macquire 166.75

LADIES K1

- M. Jerusalemi (FRA) 173.10
1. D. Woodward 174.85
 2. M. Linden 189.25
 3. V. Golding 194.28
 4. R. Galloway 197.60

MENS C1

1. K. Songberg 160.68
2. R. McGuinness 163.52
3. P. Eckhardt 164.57

MENS C2

1. McGuinness/ Eckhardt 204.50
2. Nelson/Songberg 226.57
3. A. Farrance/Wilson 240.62

1988 Australian Slalom Team:

(eligible to compete at Savage, USA
in June).

Ladies K1:

V. Golding, D. Woodward,
M. Linden, R. Galloway, M. Farrance,
C. Kesterton, S. Cahill, J. Glawson,
J. Wright, A. McQuitty

Mens K1:

L. Binning, M. Pallister, R. Macquire,
A. Tribe, M. Vucak, K. Pinder,
J. Males, A. Merrill, P. Beattie,
W. Thomas.

Mens C1:

K. Songberg, P. Eckhardt, K. Pinder,
R. McGuinness, G. Salter, M. Pallister,
W. Smith, R. Fry, G. McLean,
K. Kruyssen.

C L A S S I F I E D S

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Fully imported.
Immaculate condition.
Winner of numerous National &
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\$1500.

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Competition Kayaks.
All White.
Excellent Condition
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AS NEW.
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Full Kevlar.
Excellent Condition.
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Covers.
Excellent condition.
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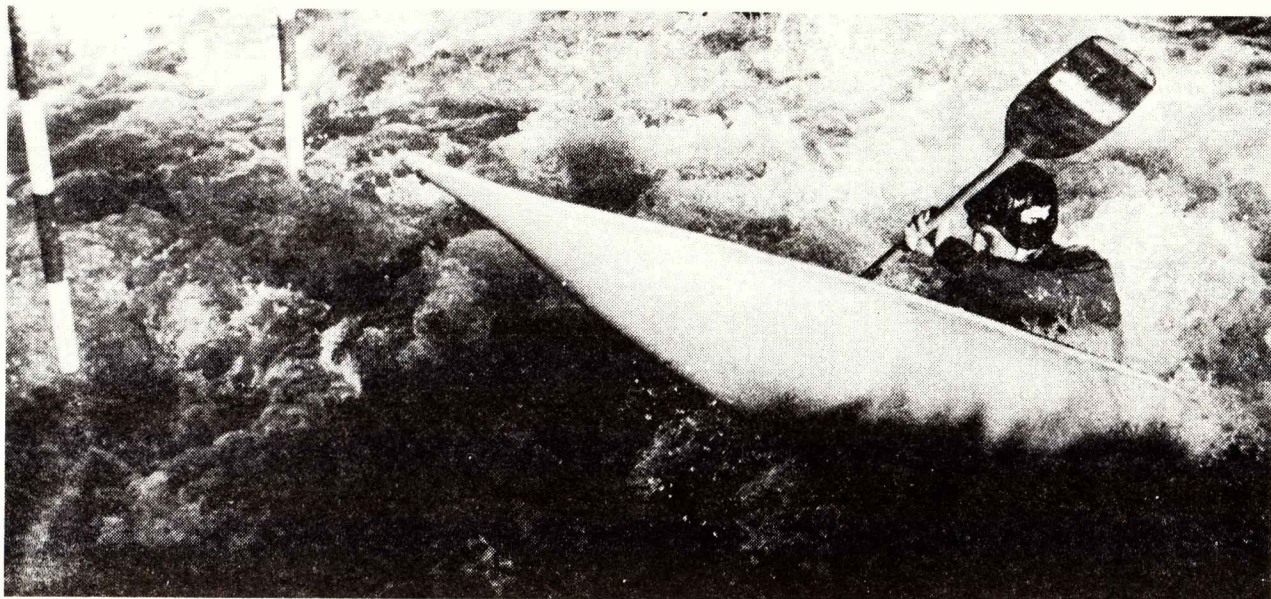
FOR SALE:

K2 COMPETITION
KAYAKS PACER.
2 SEASONS OLD.
EXCELLENT CONDITION
SPRINT & L.D. SEATS.
CRAFT COVER.
Contact:
Andrew: B.H. 5277532
A.H. 5230357

STOLEN:

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LANE, TUESDAY, Feb 9
at 4 p.m.
PYRANA PREMIER 11
SLALOM KAYAK-
yellow deck, black
seat, kevlar hull
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M E R I D I A N



T R A V E L



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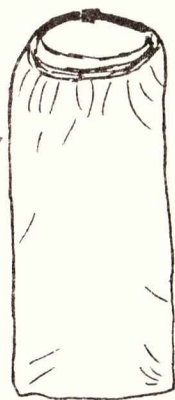
FLOAT SAC Waterproof storage bags

A quality Australian product which solves the universal problem of keeping equipment, clothing and food dry.

The bag closure rolls/folds down around a sewn in stiffener forming a watertight seal. It then secures with a fastex buckle, providing a secure handle.

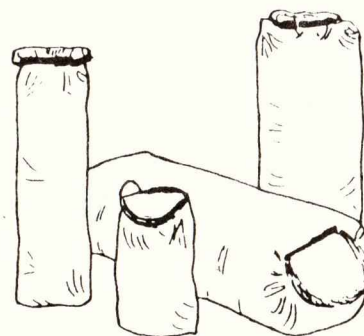
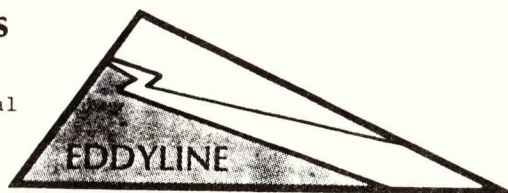
durable, high friction coated nylon is specially chosen for its pliability and ruggedness to ensure maximum performance and protection

sizes that make sense



all seams are double sewn french seamed and then completely tapped for a strong, effective watertight seam

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COMING UP

APRIL

- 1-3 Slalom**, New Zealand championships, Taupo.
2-3 Marathon, Australian championships, Brisbane, QLD.
9 Marathon, Geelong Lions Marathon, Barwon River. M. Rock (053) 41 3351
10 Slalom, Yarra Slalom 2, Fitzsimons Lane.
17 Dragon Boats, Australian Dragon Boat Championships, Sydney, NSW.
17 Downriver, C.F.C. 3, Fitzsimons Lane.
17 A.C.F. Mass Paddle.
24 Carrum Water Sports Opening.
24 Canoe Fun Relay, Yarra River.
24 Marathon, Race 1, Yarra River, Melbourne.
30-MAY 1 Slalom, QLD slalom Championships, Tully, QLD.

MAY

- 1 Slalom**, Wild Cherry Drive Slalom. Yarra River.
7-8 Slalom, NSW N/Zone Slalom, Nymboida. (066) 42 4340
7-8 Polo, Polo Finals, State Swim Centre.
15 Slalom, Yarra Slalom 3.
15 Marathon, Race 2, Echuca, Murray River.
16-22 Slalom, AIS camp.
22 Downriver, C.F.C. 4
29 Polo, Victorian Schools Polo Championships, State Swim Centre.

JUNE

- 5 Downriver**, C.F.C. 5, Homestead Rd., 255 159
5 Marathon, Race 3, Footscray, Maribyrnong River

- 4-5 Polo**, Australian Inter club Canoe Polo Championships, Tasmania. (07) 396 5705
25 Slalom/Downriver, Pre-World Championships begin, Savage River, U.S.A.
26 Marathon, Race 4, Goulburn.

JULY

- 8-10 Slalom**, NSW slalom Championships, Nymboida. (060)424340
17 Marathon, Race 5, Essendon Nite Race, Maribyrnong River.
24 Marathon, World Championships, Nottingham, GBR.
30-31 Slalom, Mitta Mitta club slalom, Snowy Creek, (060) 212675

AUGUST

- 7 Marathon**, Race 6, Cobram, Murray River.
14 Slalom, Yarra Slalom 4, Warrandyte Bridge, 589 1852
20-21 Slalom, World Cup Final, Augsburg.
26 Marathon, Race 7, Geelong, Barwon River.
27 Downriver, Victorian Schools Championships, Yarra River.
28 Slalom, Victorian Schools Championships, Yarra River.
30 Dragon Boats, World Dragon Boat Championships, Hong Kong.

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Downriver**, Victorian Downriver Championships, King River.
11 Marathon, Victorian Marathon Championships, Footscray, Maribyrnong River.
11 Triathlon, Whitehorse Bush Triathlon, Barkly/Mitchell.

- 18 Slalom**, Southern Cross Canoe Club Slalom, King River, 8781152

- 17-18 Marathon**, Victorian Marathon Titles, Yarrowonga, Murray River.

- 25 Slalom**, Victorian Slalom Championships, Mitchell River (old rapid), 817 1820

- 26-01 Olympics**, Canoeing in the Olympic Games, Seoul, South Korea.

OCTOBER

- 15 Marathon**, Red Cross Echuca Mini Marathon, Murray River.

- 16 Downriver**, Big River.

- 23 Meeting**, ACF's AGM.

- 30-31 Marathon**, Goulburn Classic, Goulburn River.

- 30 Meeting**, VACA Marathon Committee AGM, Seymour Caravan Park.

NOVEMBER

- 6 Slalom**, Yarra Slalom 5, Finns Reserve, 458 1185

- 20 Marathon**, Tarwin Lower Marathon, C. Brown (051)222062

- 20 Marathon**, Red Cross Yarra Marra, Yarra River.

DECEMBER

- 3 Marathon**, Murray 40, Yarrowonga, I. Docking (058)734392

- 3 Slalom**, Australian All-Schools Championships, Goulburn River.

- 4 Slalom**, V.C.C. Annual Slalom Championships, Goulburn River.

- 3-4 Polo**, Australian Interstate Polo Championships, Sydney.

- 10 Slalom**, Tasmanian Slalom Championships.

- 11 Slalom**, Yarra Slalom 6, Warrandyte Bridge, 844 3366.

- 27-31 Marathon**, Red Cross Murray Marathon.



JUST A NICE PLACE TO PADDLE

Russell Bathard

Blue Rock Lake, situated 18 kms north of Trafalgar, offers an interesting canoeing venue within comfortable distance from Melbourne.

At first glance it appears as the usual drowned valley reservoir with large expanses of open water surrounded by farmland.

If, however, you proceed past Millgrove to the northern entrance, the drowned Tanjil River arm provides a very pleasant (approx 20 km return trip) paddle.

Starting from the carpark (with

toilets, barbeques and shelter), proceed directly across the open water, which may be a little choppy, to the quietness of the drowned river.

Although full of dead trees there appears to be few hidden underwater hazards and picking a pathway through is an interesting experience.

Ducks, shags and pelicans will soon be seen and as the arm takes on a more riverlike appearance its beauty enhances. You can hear lyrebirds call from the ferngullies,

and tall gums line either side of the narrowing valley.

Isolation is almost assured. There is little sign of habitation, and the dead trees act as a barrier to most boat owners. After about 9 kms the water becomes colder, and soon rocks, and the first rapid are encountered. Current flow is reasonably swift here, so care needs to be taken on the turn for the return journey.

A plaque in the picnic area describes how the lake was built over an old gold mining area.

• Ducks, shags and pelicans will soon be seen and as the arm takes on a more riverlike appearance its beauty enhances. You can hear lyrebirds call from the ferngullies, and tall gums line either side of the narrowing valley. •



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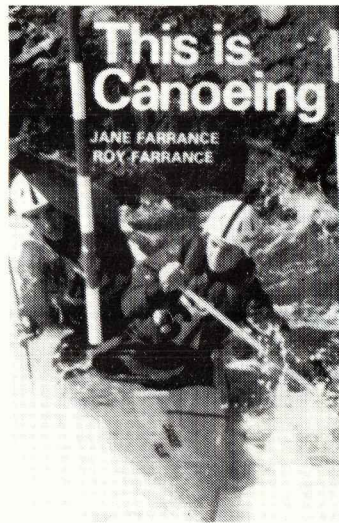
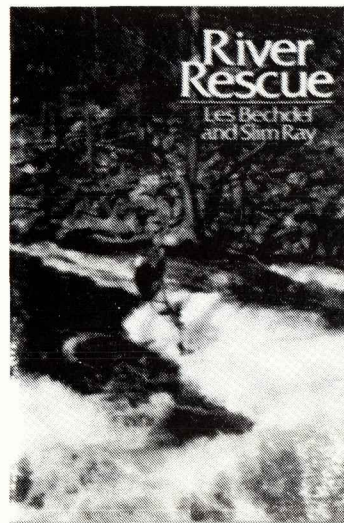
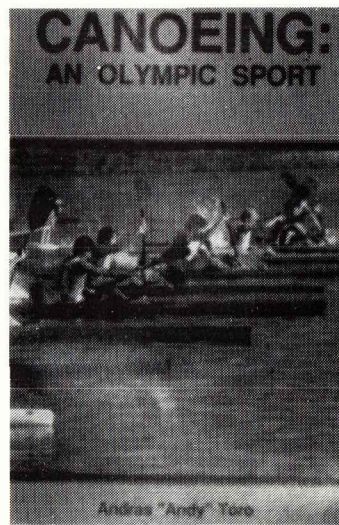
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