
May – June 2006

the TRASHER

Kingfisher Canoe Club

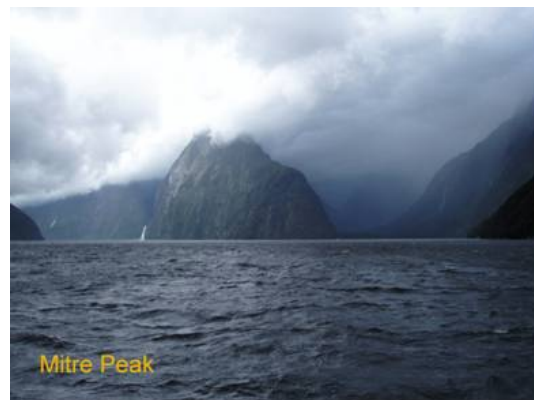
Down Under or Upside Down Paddling



Following the discovery that both Roger and I were planning to take our wives to New Zealand in January 2006 we cooked up a plan to meet up and do some paddling together.

Our first paddle was supposed to be sea kayaking in Milford Sound on the Southwest coast of South Island. Roger and I were up early and drove the 120 miles from our Motel in Manapouri to the back packer's hostel to meet our guides and fellow paddlers.

Unfortunately it was blowing a gale up the Sound so the day's paddle was blown away. Instead we took a 3 hour cruise around the Sound in lashing rain, standing on the top-deck of a small boat in the squalls admiring the waterfalls. We stopped to visit the underwater observatory where we climbed 10 metres down in a glass bowl with the fish swimming free..... a strange inversion. Milford Sound gets 7 metres of rain a year and this explains the lush temperate rain forest that clothes all of the sides of the fiord.



This was altogether a brilliant way to experience the weather that fashions the place; even if we did not get to paddle.

The next day we were up early again, this time to paddle in Doubtful Sound which was

first discovered by Captain Cook. He did not explore it because he was doubtful that he could get out if he sailed in. The weather this time was perfect with bright sunshine threatening rapid sunburn if not well covered. This trip involved a 40 minute jet-boat ride down Lake Manapouri followed by a 30 minute bus ride. This ground it way up over 1500 feet on a road hacked out of the forest to enable the local 500 megawatt hydroelectric station to be built. Here we were kitted out in paddling gear and embarked via a second jet-boat into comfortable broad-beam double sea kayaks.



We then paddled leisurely round the deserted fiord while our guides enthusiastically explained the history, flora and fauna as we went. We got back on the jet-boat which had moved along the fiord for our lunch. There is nowhere to land and nothing can be taken from, or left in, the National Park.

After exploring more waterfalls and tree avalanches Roger and I finished our paddle successfully demonstrating how to roll a double kayak something neither of us had tried previously. We can claim that we were UK way up for at least 3 seconds that day. Home to our Motel via the jet-boat, bus-ride over the pass and back across Lake Manapouri. We marvelled at how different 2 days could be in this wonderful country.



Our last paddling experience was supposed to be an idyllic paddle in the Abel Tasman

National Park on the North-West Corner of South Island. We had booked an organised tour to spend 2 nights in lodges within the Park with our bags taken by launch while we paddled and walked along the coast. Having been kitted out in Kaiteriteri near Nelson we embarked with our wives and 5 other couples in double sea kayaks escorted by 2 guides. While in the bays we were sheltered but we had to round the headlands in the face of a fresh north-west wind and sea spray was particularly uncomfortable for the front seat paddlers. We spent the night spent in luxury in a restored homestead on the beach with excellent food and company. The next day Roger and I paddled while the ladies joined a party walking the coast path. The weather was kinder and we explored beaches, islands and lagoons, saw seals, and tried to take the photos we had seen in the brochure. We showed off to our paddling companions 2 rolls so that we can again claim to have been upright for about 6 seconds that day. After a morning spent paddling we bid farewell to our kayak and tramped (Kiwi for hiked) to our next lodge where we celebrated Roger's birthday in some style with a cake and candles and excellent NZ wine. The final day we walked on along the coast path and then cruised back to our starting point on the Wilson's Experience Company ferry. A great way to see the country and thoroughly recommended if the wind is not in your face. There is also excellent white water in New Zealand to be explored but we left that for another day.....

Alastair Wilson & Roger Wiltshire –
Paddling in New Zealand

Wednesday Evening Rota

As the Wednesday evening sessions have started up again, we need to have a coach available at the hut on the 3rd and 4th Wednesday of each month for any beginners that turn up. Could I please have volunteers for the following dates:

21 Jun - 28 Jun - 19 Jul - 26 Jul - 16 Aug - 23 Aug - 20 Sep - 27 Sep

If you have any questions, give me a call -- Dave Hodgkinson

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OXFORDSHIRE COACHING PANEL

CANOE SAFETY COURSE AND TEST

Come and learn new skills, and get wet in the process! The Canoe Safety Test Course 2006 is an ideal opportunity learn some new rescue skills and polish up your existing ones.

This years course will take place on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June 2006, for further details please contact::

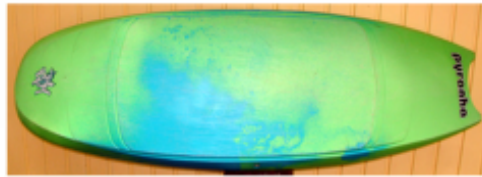
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Dart Trip 14th & 15th January 2006

Great trip was run at the Dart on 14th & 15th Jan 2006. Thrills and spills and well timed trips with plenty of playing on waves although the water was not as high as we would like. The seal launch provided some good laughs and quite spectacular rides. Thanks to Vicky for organising the trip. Some photos attached to show what we got up to.



Received: From KayakoJacko after their recent visit to the club

Hi Dave,

Den and me enjoyed the visit immensely. Great group of people and a nice weir session to practice on.

We can do 2 hour sessions for £18 per head or a day session at HPP for £45. You would need a minimum of four and max of 8 people

With a strong group like this a session at HPP would be an ideal way to go although I fully understand that lots of people might be put off however HPP does offer the best summer learning environment for freestyle and in a day we could do a morning session with video analysis and then complete the day with an afternoon of putting it all into practice

Boulters in Maidenhead offers a nice site for a two hour session where we could go through cartwheels and vertical moves. It is a little limited as it is one feature but is set in a fantastic location.

We also run 5 star and whitewater safety and rescue courses as well as loads of holidays. Did you go to Italy on a coached trip or on your own? If that kind of trip is your bag you should take a look at our Park 'n' Huck trips which are all about how to run waterfalls, granite slabs and grade 4+ water. We are looking at a trip to Corsica for next Easter which would fit this bill. Cost is likely to be £750 inclusive of food, accommodation and transport once on location.

There was also some interest in Level 2 and 3 coaching courses which we offer. I can supply full details if anyone would like this.

I hope some of this will be of interest to Kingfisher and look forwards to talking some more with you about these

Kind regards

Jacko

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Diary

- **Scotland** - October (half-term week) - Staying at Fort William more details later in the year.
 - **Blastathon** - Sat 10th June - Date dependent on water levels. The most important rodeo competition on the Thames, remember old school move score extra and there's a BBQ afterwards to celebrate. -- Contact Dave Surman.
 - **Triathlon** - Sun 10th Sept - Provisional date - The Todd Morris Memorial Triathlon in aid of cancer charities. Who can step and break Frances unbeaten string of wins? -- Organised by Dave Hodgkinson
 - **Canoe Safety Test Course** - Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June 2006 - for further details please contact Daryl Perkins
 - **Austria** – 28th July – 6th Aug – contact Simon Knox
-

Saturday June the 10th , Dave Surman Presents....

BLASTATHON 2006

Starting at the club hut at 5:00 PM or Abingdon Weir at 6:00PM.

BYO BBQ afterward at the Hut

| Cname | Sname | Key | Home No | Address | Town | Town1 | County | Pcode | Work No | e-mail | Mobile no |
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If any details above are wrong or have changed get in touch, in any which way you like, with **Louise Royle**.

B LASTATHON 2005 – MATT AINTREE



Remember, this years Blastathon at 5:00 on the 10th June