



# Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

## Wet News 91. May 2014.



### Club Officers

President	Terry Calcott	07828 652775
Chair	John Mitchell	01752 219246
Vice Chair	Ian Ruse	07980 355019
Club Leader	Chris Doidge	07973 285969
Asst Club Leader	Jane Hitchings	01752 691274
Secretary	Buck Taylor	07717 821934
Membership Sec	Tracy Jones	01752 510653
Treasurer	John Elworthy	01752 823381
Equipment Officer	Alan Ede	07799 556876
Publicity Officer	Andy Nicholls	07801 367363
Welfare Officer	Joy Ashford	01752 344425 07891 221781
Introductory co-ordinator	Jenny Nicholls	07740 103398
Youth Development	Sami Pluckrose	07542 059465
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:PPCA@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk">PPCA@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk</a>	
(E-mails to this address goes to the club secretary).		

### June edition of Wet News.

Items for inclusion in the June edition of Wet News to reach the editor, Clive Ashford, by 21:00hrs on 31 May please.  
Publication date 1 June.

E-mail address:

[cliveashford-newsletter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveashford-newsletter@yahoo.co.uk)

Post: Please call me for my postal address if required. Tel: 01752 344425

The editor (Clive Ashford) reserves the right to edit / reject items submitted.

**Disclaimer.** Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the PPCA.

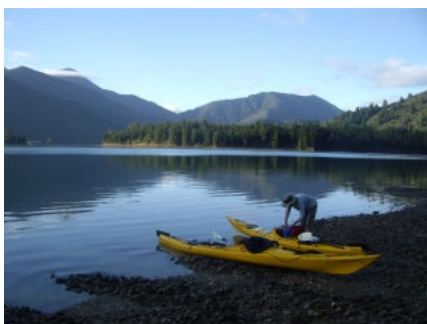
### The prologue.

On a recent camping trip I had taken an envelope with me to use as an aid to lighting a fire only to find that said envelope seemed to be made of flame retardant paper. I eventually got a fire going but discovered that even though I had purposefully sat with the wind behind me I still had smoke constantly blowing in my face. More Bear Grylls than Ray Mears then.

### Four star sea kayak assessment.

Congratulations to Anthony Graves on passing his four star sea kayak assessment at the Isle of Skye over the Easter Holiday. If you are going to spend time getting cold and wet then what better place to choose than Skye? Anthony has written up his experience so you can look forward to reading all about it next month.

### Paddling Pelorus Sound, South Island, New Zealand. (Stephen Pryor).



Nydia Bay

Imagine Loch Scavaig and Loch Coruisk off the coast of Skye, triple them in length, smooth off the munros a bit and add 15 degrees to the average temperature. Toss in a string of offshore islands for shelter from the swell in the Cook Strait and there you have it, miles and miles of remote but sheltered kayak touring in the Marlborough Sounds at the top end of South Island New Zealand.

We loaded the boats with five days' food and two days' water and set off with a good forecast of light variable wind for the first three days and then N 20 kn on day four. Allowing 10 kn lower for the inner sounds this looked Ok. Signal permitting, most evenings we would get an update text forecast from Aaron at the kayak centre.

The hills are steep up to 1200 m and the channels deep so not much tidal flow to worry about but places to land and camp are limited.

Day one saw us paddle under clear skies north up the sound with big views to flooded river valleys on both sides each extending back 5 - 15 km from the main channel. When there are no roads, an occasional homestead accessed by water only and a couple of commercial mussel boats way off in the distance you feel the wilderness trip has begun.

The afternoon breeze assisted our paddle to the first night camp at Nydia Bay (except for the last couple of km when the wind funneled over the saddle in the hills and went through 180 degrees). A good supper of fresh tagliatelle and a local vintage to wash it down ended the day beautifully.

The next day the boats were packed and we were paddling by 8.30. The sun came up over the hills promising a calm paddle for a couple of hours which took us well on the way to Jacobs Bay. The afternoon breeze set in from about midday and it being our first long paddle since September we camped there, a designated Department of Conservation (DOC) site solely for kayakers. This site was all you could wish for, easy launching, a patch of grass, a water supply, pit loo and no one else for miles.



Tawero Point



Jacobs Bay

The forecast we picked up last night remained stable with a light breeze, so we changed itinerary to head across an exposed channel to a DOC site marked on the map as "No Facilities". What did that mean? No hair dryer? No microwave? Anyway we soon found out. After an early start, surprise! Having not seen a soul for three days here at the camp were two doubles out for a few days' fishing and three intrepid women paddlers, and space for only two tents. There was a pit loo but no water and we had 4 litres left. The fishermen left so we squeezed our little tent in.

The breeze came up E 15 kn that afternoon and the update forecast for tomorrow was N 30kn in the afternoon. A worried short night followed thinking about the return trip. The alternative exit was another open water crossing and 20 km to the nearest road access, four hours return on gravel mountain roads from the kayak centre. We had plenty of food for another two days but only one day's water.

So we were on the water at dawn with head torches on hoping to cross the channel before the wind came up. We could already hear the willie waws from the hills announcing their arrival in the trees. We headed across yesterday's channel doing Ok in an uncomfortable cross sea lop when a mussel boat appeared and its bearing was constant.

Immediate assumption was they would not see us. The rules of the road said right but which way would they turn? Could we move quickly enough to avoid collision? At last the green and red navigation lights turned to a green only so we yelled left at each other and paddled hard.



Kenepuru Sound

Another 20 minutes and with a big gasp of relief we pulled into the lee of Tawero Point and found a strip of rocky shore to put on some layers of clothing and grab a Mars bar. A couple of hours later we were back at the safety of Jacobs Bay. The day was cloudy after the brilliant sunshine of previous days and the NW wind was freshening. We camped for the night and enjoyed a feast of green lipped mussels from a solitary boat which had cooked a kilo or so but did not want them. A few pacific oysters pulled off the rocks and the rest of the wine completed the meal.



Back to Jacobs Bay

The text from Aaron for tomorrow for our last day was "variable 10 kn then S, it will be a stunner". Yes it was indeed a stunner, clear skies, mirror reflections and just right for the morning swim as the sun had already cleared the ridges of the hills. The water was so calm that we could see the big sting rays flapping their leisurely way along the bottom as we approached. We had seen gannets, shags and herons but not much other bird or fish life, and heard rather than seen the Tui bell birds in the bush with a magic single echoing piercing call. Bugs and biters? Some sand flies and a few midges came out in the evening easily fended off with Skin So Soft.

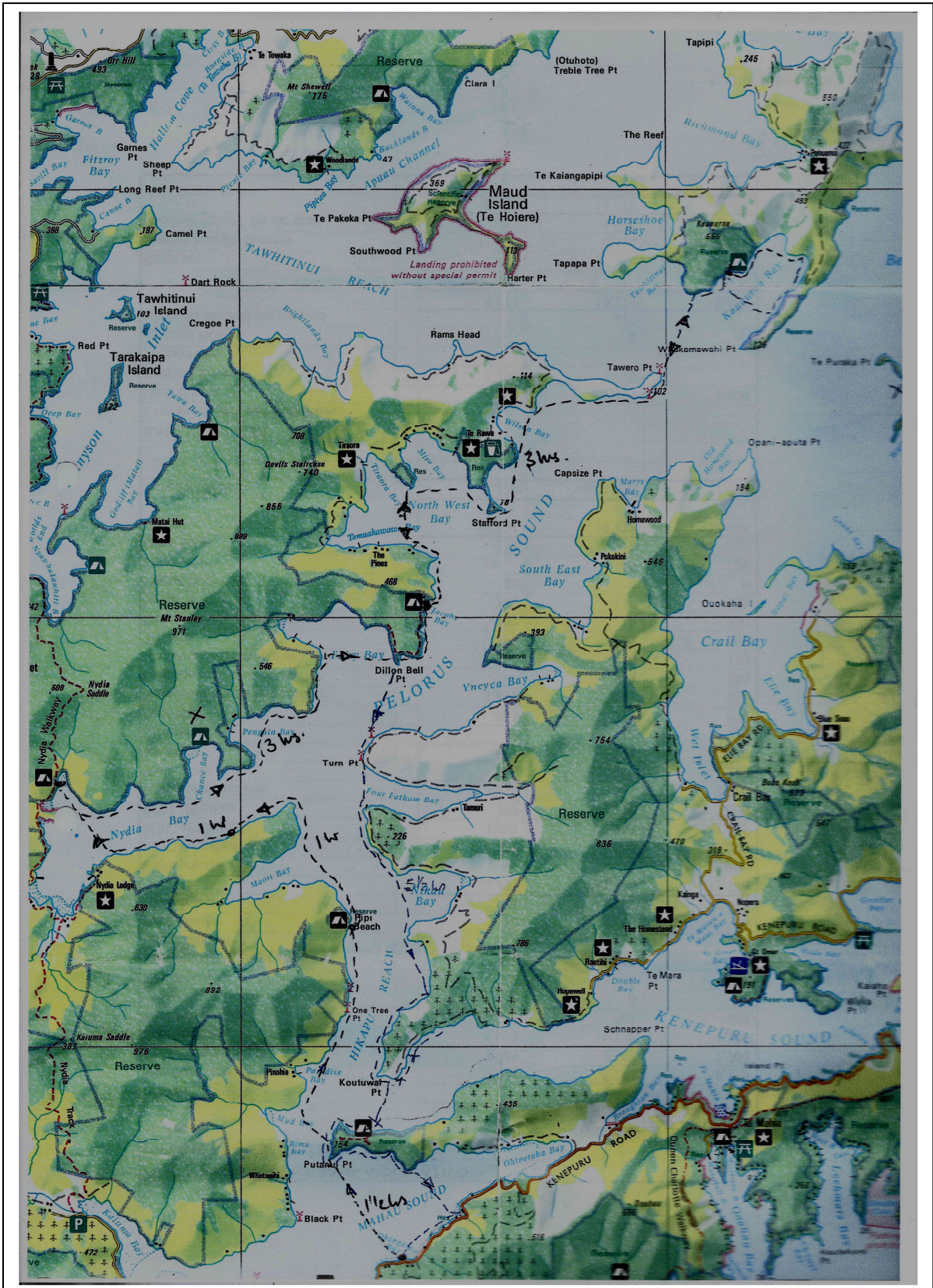
So on our final day we paddled a sedate 25 km back to our pick up, finding a beach for a swim now and



then. By lunchtime it was spring high tide so the beaches disappeared under water. The only possible lunch stop was on a huge kauri tree trunk half afloat. We felt as though we could go on paddling for days, enthralled by the never ending interplay of turquoise water, dark green hills and burning sun but it was time to pull the boats out and gaze wistfully back at Pelorus Sound stretching away in the distance to where we had been.

Aaron and his partner Nat at Sea Kayak Adventures ([www.nzseakayaking.com](http://www.nzseakayaking.com)) could not have been more helpful giving us weather and safety briefing and devising an itinerary to suit our capabilities. We hired two single plastic kayaks and this included paddles, BAs, spray decks, splits, pump, repair kit and laminated map. Everything else including dry bags and camping kit we took with us.

We only paddled one of the Sounds, there are another three! We will be back.





## How many banjos?

I was looking through the latest edition of Julie Elworthy's photo album, otherwise known as canoe focus. (The official magazine of the BCU). Next to Julie's photo of James Mitchell playing in a friendly little stopper was a photo submitted by one Paul Banjo. Is this a long lost brother to our very own Banjo Mark? Who knows but this was definitely a bit of a shock as in my opinion 1 banjo is quite enough, thank you very much.

## Not a paddling story.

My back injury is still keeping me out of my boat but I can manage to walk. Whilst visiting the aptly names Ducks Pool on Dartmoor with daughter Jane we came across spied this rather splendid family of plastic ducks. For those not in the know Ducks Pool is a remote boggy hollow some 4 miles south of Princetown as the duck flies. It made me smile anyway.

Photo by Jane Ashford



## Old Nosey, our roaming reporter...

... witnessed the splendid spread that club members had put on for the Easter paddle but suggests that all recipes for aubergine pate be destroyed. Any favourite editors reading this please take note.

## Discounts.

The following traders have been known to give PPCA members discount. If you know of any more, or find any of this information to be incorrect, please let your editor know.

*AS watersports, Exeter.* 5% or 10% dependant on what you are buying and on production of your PPCA membership card,

*Camel Canoe & Kayaks, Wadebridge.* 10% on production of PPCA card.

*Cotswold Outdoor. (Plymouth branch only).* 15% on production of your PPCA membership card.

*Endless River Adventure.* 10% Until 1/9/14 on orders over £30 and quoting reference ERPPCM10

<http://www.endlessriver.co.uk/>

*Kayaks & Paddles, Plymouth.* 15% on production of PPCA membership card.

*Marine Bazaar, Sutton Road.* "What he feels like" for mentioning PPCA.

*Mount Batten Bar.* 5% on production of current Mount Batten membership card.

*Wild Things, Redruth.* 10% to club members. Tel 01209 211977 <http://www.wildthings-canoes.co.uk/>

Picture Bazaar  
Photo by Bob Frost



David Pedlow proving that paddling can be a dry sport, if only on a temporary basis.

That's all folk; see you somewhere cold and wet.  
Good paddling,  
Clive.

## Diary dates.

These diary dates are correct at time of going to print, please check the website forum or speak to the session leader for any changes nearer to the event.

<b>Date May.</b>	<b>Type of paddle</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Session leader</b>
Mon 5, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
Tues 6, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Justin Frost
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat training	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford
Fri 9, 18:00	Sportivate (a)	Mount Batten	Sammi Pluckrose
Fri 9, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 10, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	Tony Blackmore
Sat 10, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford 01752 344425.
Mon 12, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
Tues 13, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Justin Frost
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat training	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford
Fri 16, 18:00	Sportivate (a)	Mount Batten	Sammi Pluckrose
Fri 16, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 17, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch 07966 740025
Mon 19, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
Tues 20, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Jane Hitchings
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Martin Mills
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott
Thurs 22, 18:00	1 star course (a)	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
Fri 23, 18:00	Sportivate (a)	Mount Batten	Sammi Pluckrose
Fri 23, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
Sat 24, 09:00	Taster session	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
Sat 24, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720 957304.
Mon 26, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
Tues 27, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Jane Hitchings
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Martin Mills
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott

**May (continued).**

Thurs 29, 18:00	1 star course (a)	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
Fri 30, 18:00	Sportivate (a)	Mount Batten	Sammi Pluckrose

**Fri 30.** There is no open boat session this week.

Sat 31, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
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**June.**

Mon 2, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
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Tues 3, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Jane Hitchings
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open boat	Mount Batten	Martin Mills
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott

Thurs 5, 18:00	1 star course (a)	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
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Fri 6, 18:00	Sportivate (a)	Mount Batten	Sammi Pluckrose
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**Fri 6.** There is no open boat session this week.

Sat 7, 09:00	1 star course	Mount Batten	John Mitchell
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Sat 7, 10:00	Sea kayak paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828 652775.
<i>The club sea kayaks can be booked with the Club Equipment Officer, Alan Ede, by a text to 07799 556876 or an e-mail to <a href="mailto:alancede@hotmail.co.uk">alancede@hotmail.co.uk</a></i>			

Sat 7, 10:30	Intro rec paddle	Mount Batten	Tom Clarke 01752 208735.
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Mon 9, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
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Tues 10, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Jane Hitchings
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Andy Nicholls
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Doug Sitch
	Open Boat	Mount Batten	Martin Mills
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott

Thurs 12, 18:00	1 star course (a)	Mount Batten	Chris Doidge
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Fri 13, 18:00	Open boats	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980 355019.
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Sat 14, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	TBA
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Mon 16, 18:00	Paddlepower	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe / Linda Brady
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Tues 17, 18:00	2 star training	Mount Batten	Jenny Nicholls
	3 star training	Mount Batten	Phil Cleeve
	3 star plus	Mount Batten	Ken Hamblin
	Open Boat	Mount Batten	Ted Fearon
	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	TBA

Thurs 19, 18:00	1 star course (b)	Mount Batten	Buck Taylor
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**Advanced notice.**

11 – 13 July Roseland Weekend St Just in Roseland Mary McArdle 01752 881166  
See March newsletter / website forum for details of the sea kayaking weekend.

Sept 26 – 28	Sea symposium	Mount Batten	
Details TBA			