



STILL WATERS

What ancient mode of transport this; canoeing. Evolved from carved logs to coloured fibreglass and plastic, no longer ferrying us to new continents or new hunting grounds, the canoe is a means of exploring wilderness areas fragile to human feet. Instead of new shores we seek solitude in the bush, on rivers, lakes and estuaries. Many watery trails snake through Western Australia's dense forest, woodlands and coastal heath.

CALM's Tammie Reid explores the waterways of the South-West by open Canadian canoe, paddling waters first disturbed by Europeans more than a century ago.

A CROSS the sedges drapes a jewelled spider's web.

As the canoes glide underneath we're still in the karri forest...tall, looming and moist. The still waters are cold. Debris brushes our boats and the smell of wet leaves and damp earth taints the air. A western grey fantail flits from branch to twig...what are we doing in her territory?

Our three Canadian canoes are laden with gear stowed in black watertight drums. We have fresh water on board as the coves and inlets we plan to paddle are too salty for drinking, due to tidal influence and upland agricultural clearing. In the same area only 150 years ago, explorer Nairne Clarke noted in his diary that the same rivers yielded sweet fresh water and refreshed his party.

We're paddling down the Deep River to Nornalup Inlet. There we'll find a protected campsite for the night, then canoe up the Frankland River to our car which we shuttled into place earlier on.

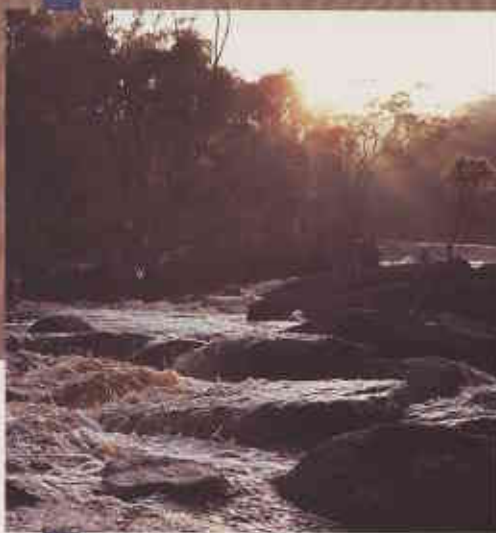
As the river nears the inlet, the vegetation on the banks begins to change from shady eucalypts to open, tufted sedges, paperbark sentinels and thick rushes. After a few hundred strokes we pass over the river delta and the estuary expands before us. Here the waves can be rough and our canoes have little freeboard. The danger of sinking is real.

We decide to lunch on the beach of a sandy island. Its resident pelicans paddle off to a safe distance, agreeing to share their patch.

Refreshed and with new layers of sunscreen, long-sleeved shirts and floppy hats, we push off to continue. The breeze has freshened and one of our



Dew pearls spell a sticky end for river insects.
Photo- Hans Vershuis ◀



Rapids can be an exciting obstacle but are best avoided if you are inexperienced.
Photo- Hugh Chevis ◀

A two-person Canadian and single kayak explore the Frankland River. The open design is used for more recreational paddling- the single kayak is enclosed so the canoeist can eskimo roll.
Photo- Photo Index ▼



crew jokes about the sense of sailing - and why not? My arms could do with a rest. Soon we've rigged up a spinnaker by lacing the tent flys and rafting the three boats together, using paddles as spars with steering oars at the back.

We make good speed but can only travel downwind, which suits us for the moment. Canoeing was never meant to be so easy and we pay for it as we separate to paddle across wind to our campsite on the leeward side.

One canoe fills and sinks. The buoyancy tanks keep it off the bottom and the watertight drums bob about. The wet, bedraggled crew gather their chattels and flop back into the rescued boat.

The murky bottom slowly gives way to shallows. We have to get out and pull our canoes over the last 500 metres to shore. After unpacking for the night's camp, one canoeist pulls out a fishing rig and paddles off to catch a tasty morsel or two.

As the wind drops, the setting sun silhouettes karri tops on the far knolls. Ospreys have been known to nest there, but we haven't seen any soaring overhead or fishing yet.



That night I tell the story of Preston, an early explorer who sailed by this coast 150 or so years ago in a flat-bottomed whaleboat that had oars and a small sail, but like ours, too little freeboard. His party was forced to land at Point D'Entrecasteaux in seas so heavy they couldn't get off again. They finished the voyage on foot, walking all the way to the mouth of the Murray River - now Mandurah. It makes our capsize today seem insignificant.

Another day dawns. We all sit expectantly around the billy, still tucked inside our sleeping bags. After a leisurely breakfast, people head off to the inlet mouth for a body surf, paddle off to catch herring for the pan or stroll across the dunes to the Southern Ocean less than a kilometre away. No one is in a hurry, as this is our last day.

Packed up, we head across the inlet towards the mouth of the Frankland River. My arms and shoulders have a dull ache as the strokes can only be varied by changing sides and not rhythm.

The paddle upstream is easy, but hot, as the sun climbs higher and the seabreeze refuses to come in. One paddler abandons ship to cool off and we all stop for a swim.

We negotiate the last broad river bends in silence as each person soaks up the tranquility of this beautiful national park. Paperbarks give way to karri forest and the river again turns to a deep satin



Canoeing is an activity for all the family.

Photo: Robert Garvey ▲

Limbo on the Warren River; it's not all plain flat water paddling.

Photo: Photo Index ▲

brown, stained by the tannins of rotting leaves and bark.

At journey's end canoes are tied on roof racks, clothing bundled into the boot...another memorable paddle on the rivers and estuaries of the South-West is over.

There will be many other trips on watery trails that gurgle and swirl as the paddle dips in and out....



PADDLES UP - FUN FOR ALL

Canoeing is a year-round activity suitable for people of any age or ability. You don't have to have your own boat, just the desire to learn new skills, meet new people and make the most of the many peaceful waterways the State has to offer.

To start with you can join a club in Perth, or hire canoes on scenic rivers. It's not all flat water though. Western Australia boasts many fast-moving rivers that offer heart-stopping whitewater adventure.

If you enjoy the thrills of shooting rapids there are seasonal slalom and rapid races at Harvey and on the Avon River. Many Western Australians are already familiar with the annual race



White-water canoeists negotiate ti-trees and rocks.
Photo- Kerry Cook ▲

through the Avon Valley from Northam to Bayswater - the Avon Descent.

Canoe touring is also popular. This is a more leisurely paddle through country that you otherwise wouldn't get to experience. Groups of three or more plan a route, pack all necessary equipment (camping gear, life jacket, first aid and survival kit, spare paddles, map, warm clothes) and more than enough food. Cars are shuttled to the finish and authorities and/or friends told about the length of the trip and given check points.

Trips like these are full of fun and discovery. For safety, canoeists should always paddle with at least one partner - preferably someone experienced. Buoyancy vests (and helmets for



Canoeists just want to have fun - wearing buoyancy vests just in case.
Photo- Photo Index ▼

Trees in fast-moving water are a hazard to be avoided.
Photo- Lachlan McGaw ▼

When the paddle's over it's time to pack up and relax.
Photo- Lachlan McGaw ▼



whitewater) are a must, and you should be able to swim confidently.

Always allow for a change in weather and dress accordingly. It doesn't take much wind or cold water to chill - the result can be hypothermia. Pack plenty of water too, dehydration is another killer.

Some of the most paddled rivers suitable for novice canoeists in the South-West are the Swan, Murray, Warren and Blackwood.

The Swan stretches 12.8 km from the Upper Swan Bridge to Middle Swan Bridge near Great Northern Highway. It can be paddled in a day.

The Murray River lies south of Perth, emptying into the Peel Inlet. The lower Murray can be paddled in two to three days, covering 40.6 km. Overnight camping facilities are available.

The Warren is a picturesque river starting from the South Western Highway amongst karri forest, ending near Pemberton in the Warren National Park. Excellent campsites exist along the river banks. The 45.7 km trip can be paddled in two to three days.

The Blackwood River is the largest in the South-West. A good canoeing section, nearly 46 km long, winds from Blackwood Bridge at Nannup to Darradup Bridge near Augusta.

Maps on these rivers are available from the Department of Sport and Recreation, but it is advisable to double check with the local Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) office before finalising arrangements. Roads shown on maps can be temporarily closed or impassable.

Perth has four canoe clubs affiliated with the Amateur Canoe Association of WA (ACAWA): Swan Canoe Club, Ascot Kayak Club, the University Canoe Club, Darling Range and Tertiary Education Canoe Club. ☐

TANYIA MAXTED

For further information contact ACAWA c/o Multisport Office, PO Box 28 Wembley 6014, telephone 387 5756. Canoe tours can be booked at the WA Tourist Centre at 772 Hay St, Perth or by telephoning 322 2999.



LANDSCOPE

VOLUME FIVE NO 1 SPRING EDITION 1989



Perth people were devastated when a fire tore through their favourite bushland retreat. But, with Spring, new life and colour is returning.



Rottnest isn't the only unspoilt island on Perth's doorstep- what about Penguin, Garden, Seal and Carnac Islands? They are steeped in history and provide a haven for some unique wildlife.



Algae has clogged the estuaries near Mandurah, killing fish and creating an eyesore. What is the solution?



Explore the waterways of the South-West by canoe.



Jarrah dieback- the word strikes fear into any forester's heart- but research is fuelling the fight against the killer fungus.

FEATURES

ISLAND INTERLUDES
KYLIE BYFIELD 10

THE DAWESVILLE DILEMMA
ANDREW BELL 18

RISING FROM THE ASHES
BOB DIXON 25

STILL WATERS RUN
TAMMIE REID AND TANYIA MAXTED 33

TREE KILLER
BRYAN SHEARER AND RAY BAILEY 38

A STATELY COLLECTION
CAROLYN THOMSON 45

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS
TANYIA MAXTED 51

PHOTO ESSAY
WILDFLOWER WONDERLAND 56

REGULARS

IN PERSPECTIVE 4

BUSH TELEGRAPH 6

ENDANGERED
FOREST FROGS 17

URBAN ANTICS 58

SPECIALS

PHOTO COMPETITION 29

LIFT-OUT POSTER
HUMPBACKS HEAD SOUTH

Editor: Carolyn Thomson
Designers: Louise Burch/Robyn Mundy
Production: Karen Addison
Maps: Project Mapping, CALM
Advertising: Tim Langford-Smith ☎ (09) 389 8644 Fax: 389 8296
Acknowledgements: Cartoon-Louise Burch
Illustrations-Ian Dickinson, Yeon Hee Kim

Colour Separation by The Colour Set
Printed in Western Australia by Kaleidoscope
© ISSN 0815-4465. All material copyright. No part of the contents of the publication may be reproduced without the consent of the publishers.



Published by Dr S Shea, Executive Director
Department of Conservation and Land Management,
50 Hayman Road, Como, Western Australia 6152.

COVER

What's new in Kings Park this spring?
Artist, Susan Tingay, couldn't resist this magnificent collection of spring orchids. From left- cowslip orchid (*Caladenia flava*), jug orchid (*Pterostylis recurva*), King spider orchid (*Caladenia huegelii*), donkey orchid (*Diuris longifolia*), rabbit orchid (*Caladenia menziesii*), and pink fairy orchid (*Caladenia latifolia*).

Back Cover: *Stimson's python* (*Morelia stimsoni*)
Photo-Jiri Lochman

