

NZ Kayaking Olympic Legend, Ian Fergusson, to speak at next club night on 5th December

Ian will be talking about the following:

- Paddling Techniques
- Services/tours Ferg's Kayaks offer, e.g. trips to Rangitoto, Courses.
- Lifejackets – specifically for yakking.
- Any other new or existing accessories for yaks and / or fishing.

Please bring along a friend - all guests welcome. This will be our **last meeting until February** so come along for a catch up with other members.



Ian Fergusson, Olympic and World Champion Kayaker

Upcoming Trips

For those of you who may be planning important events over the next few months and don't want them to clash with fishing trips (not mentioning names Trev but you know who you are!) here's a list of trips that have been planned for the next few months:

Saturday 22nd December. Evening fish, meet at Sunkist Bay, Beachlands at 5.30pm.

Saturday 19th January - Evening. Try your hand at floundering at Pine Harbour. (See note over)

Sunday 27th January. 7.00am Army Bay.

Sunday 10th February. Mussell Farm near Kaiaua.

Friday 15th or Saturday 16th February. Floundering at Kawakawa Bay.

Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th February. Away trip to Cape Kari Kari peninsula. Bookings need to be made at Top 10 Holiday Park or near by at Whatuwhiwhi. The Holiday park knows that we will be coming. **You need to book direct with them.** See their website www.whatuwhiwhitop10.co.nz for booking details.

Friday 28th Feb to Sun 2nd March. Lion Red Beach and Boat Fish Hunt, Ruakaka.

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th March. Taranaki Kayak Fishing Competition.

Sunday 16th March. Club Trip to Kohimaramara.

Sunday 20th April. Club Trip. Location TBA.

Friday 25th - Sunday 27th April. Zane Grey Kayak Fishing Tournament, Bay of Islands.

Full details will be communicated closer to the time. Put these dates in your diary.



Check out the fish Jackie caught recently! 5.5kg caught off Te Kouma head. A personal best!



From the Chair...

A compact newsletter this month due to time constraints! Back to the usual format next time!

You will see from our list of trips that we are planning a couple of Floundering sessions early in the new year. I am partial to a flounder for breakfast and have bought an underwater light and are keen to try it out. We've attached a copy of an article provided by Grant D (thanks Grant). The pics didn't scan too well but you can get the gist of it anyway.

Our last couple of trips have had good turnouts. Fishing at Tapapakanga was good with several fish caught by all who attended. Sandra was the fisher of the day bringing in the 1st, 2nd =, and 3rd heaviest snapper. Quinn caught the other 2nd heaviest snapper. It was quite windy to start with but once the wind died down the sea became quite calm. It was quite a paddle back for the ones who ventured to the Orere Point marker!

It would be great to get a good turnout to Ian Fergusson's talk next week.

Bring along as many friends as you like. The more the merrier. He will have some product to sell so bring your wallets for the Xmas pressies you are buying for yourself!

Make sure you book the time off for the away trips next year. The camp at Whatuwhiwhi has cabins available so get in quick with your bookings.

Wishing you and your families/friends a safe and happy Christmas. May the fishing gods bless you!

Sue

INVENTIVE PEOPLE BY GRANT DIXON

Kayak flounder fun

Kayaks are the ultimate stealth machines when it comes to fishing, and readers are finding many ways to deploy these versatile craft in the pursuit of dinner.

The latest technique brought to NZ Fishing News' attention is the use of a kayak in pursuit of flounder. Hamilton's Steve White has his Perception Swing kayak wired for light in an ingenious manner. A 12-volt car battery is secured in the rear compartment of the kayak using a polystyrene box. Alligator clips attach the wires to the terminals, and these run under the seat to a waterproof switch in the cockpit.

The wires are attached to two purpose-built lights designed by Steve and his fishing mate, Temple Gardner, which are deployed under the cork, port and starboard via the cockpit scuppers. These consist of 35-watt halogen bulbs sealed in heatproof Pyrex test tubes - simple but effective.

The lights do not draw a great deal of power either. The longest Steve has been floundering was a four-hour session and the lights were still as bright at the end as at the start. So there's more than enough time for Steve to catch a teen working two hours either side of low tide.

At this stage the flounder have come off the mudflats and are concentrated in a much smaller area at the channel's edge. Steve says he can spot flounder in a 5- to 6-metre radius of his sealed position in optimum

conditions and down to two metres under the boat.

His technique is simple: with a flounder in his sights, he either paddles or pushes his way over, and if it looks to be of reasonable size (i.e. well over minimum legal size), he spears it. The kayak has an extremely shallow draft, so he can work almost right up to the water's edge, discharging far less water than one would wading the same territory.

"Even if I spook one, it generally doesn't go much further than six to eight metres away. I probably manage to catch up with eight out of 10 of these by quietly chasing after them," Steve says.

Our intrepid angler uses a landing net kept at his feet to secure his catch, but a sack would be just as easy.

Recently, Steve challenged a couple of his mates to a flounder fishing competition at Raglan; he was in the kayak and they were on foot. He won hands down, 14-2! (The daily bag limit for flounder is 20 per person, with a minimum size of 25cm - except sand flounders, which are 23cm. So if in doubt as to the identity, make sure your fish is over 25cm.)

Steve says the yellow and green 'glowing' hull makes quite a sight at night as he spears over the flats - "the colours make it look quite eerie".

Steve purchased the kayak specifically for fishing and finds it great, having made some good catches of snapper from not only the west coast but also various Coonawaldie dis-



tractions as well.

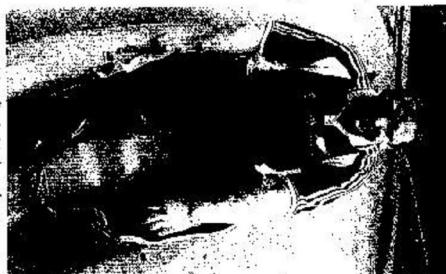
"The kayak is so versatile; simply throw it on the roof and off you go. You don't need a boat ramp; it can be launched anywhere you can walk to the water, and in climates you can be fishing."

For more on kayak fishing, see Stephen Tepp's feature article in this edition.



Above: The light fixture is a 35-watt halogen bulb sealed in a heatproof Pyrex test tube.

Right: The power source is a 12-volt battery secured in the rear compartment of the kayak.



Steve White finds his kayak a very effective tool when targeting flounder.

