

Expedition Overview

The project revolves around two key themes, the expedition and the education. The expedition is



the physical transportation of myself and a kayak from Hobart to Cape York. The equipment, the training, the research and planning that go into that is my main focus

at the moment. Although I have organised long trips by foot or wheel before, I'm a mullet in a

The camera will be cranking out pictures soon, in the meantime here's some dodgy clipart!

school of sharks where kayaks are concerned. Until a month ago I hadn't paddled a single person sea kayak before! By 14th March next year I need to be skilled and fit

enough to steer it safely from our southern city to the tippity-top of Australia. Therein lies the challenge. The question has to be asked; is this pure folly? Am I a goose in human garb? No, for a couple of reasons. Firstly, I'm a sensible, even cautious, traveler. Over many hundreds of days and nights in the bush or along lonely roads I have always (nearly) made the right choices to minimise my exposure to risk. I'm not the guy who pitches the tent at midnight in a blizzard, or hurls himself heroically into the raging torrent to

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"Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself."

John Dewey

Education at the Core

"Adventure learning is an educational approach that provides learners with opportunities to explore real-world issues through authentic learning experiences within collaborative learning environments." (Doering, 2005 <http://polarhusky.com/source/adventurelearning.pdf>)

With some careful planning and the help of experts in education and other specialised fields the

expedition will become a powerful learning tool for students and teachers across Tasmania and Australia. A 12 week, 5-8 hours a week learning package is under development to complement the expedition. As I travel north I will be connected to the students world through weekly emailed newsletters. There will be forums where students can contact me and other experts in the curricu-

lum areas being investigated. The hard-copy curriculum will be distributed to teachers before the journey begins and is being written to give teachers the flexible, relevant and assessable content that is required for all students to make reasonable progress.

What really lies at the heart of this project is the potential to strengthen the connections between the supposedly 'real

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Halfa Brickat aTime :Support isbuilding.

Asking for money or equipment to make this all happen is the least enjoyable aspect of my preparation. The bottom line is that even by sending myself broke (which will happen), I need support. Thankfully, there are beautiful and intelligent people out there who either see the potential or are excited by the daring of the project. Future issues of The Pan-dozer will elaborate more but I

want to recognise the current list of sponsors and supporters for their generous contributions;

- Judy Travers and everyone involved at the Centre for Extended Learning Opportunities (CELO) for their work so far.
- Wayne Goninon at Utas Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology (how am I

supposed to fit that on the kayak Wayne?).

- Matt Dalziel at Sea to Summit for high quality gear and, more importantly, advise and paddling expertise.
- Leigh at Power Plus in Derwent Park for expert advice on all things solar powered, and mobile power solutions.

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Education at the Core (cont. from pg.2)

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world' and the school world. The paddling component is important only insofar as it provides the motivation to attend to the project. It is my acknowledgement that to capture the widest audience requires an elaborate show. Once the students are successfully seated the next challenge is to maintain their attention while some important understandings are explored. No gimmicks are needed here, just well planned curriculum that connects with

what I'm doing and what students already know. We will ensure that students can collaborate with myself, experts and other students.

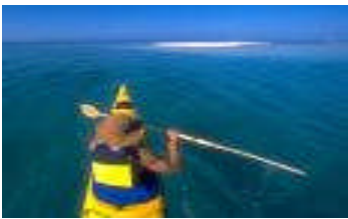
The important understandings that we are developing the curriculum around are derived from the Tasmanian Essential Learnings Framework. Students will investigate issues around maintaining health and wellbeing, both physical and mental/emotional. There will also be an emphasis on understanding large Earth systems such as the

marine food web and impacts of over-fishing, and coastal development.

Hopefully there will be opportunities before, during and after the expedition for school visits to consolidate the big ideas behind the project and add that important human element. The adventure and the education inform each other to the point where they are indistinguishable from each other. The project began as a personal dream, hopefully it has transformed into something measurably more useful.

"I've seen many strong bodied people struggle when the reality of a situation didn't meet their expectations."

Expedition Overview (cont. from pg.2)



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save the drowning wombat. I know my limitations and cuddle-up to them without apology. Given

Let's hope the tide is already high, and this guy wasn't counting on coconuts!

my long time-frame (7-9 months), I won't be in any rush to take foolish risks.

Secondly, I understand what it

takes to stick out a long journey of this sort. Up to a point, the physical demands are not as critical as the mental attitude. I've

seen many strong bodied people struggle when the reality of a situation didn't meet their expectations. Admittedly, I need a lot of work on paddle fitness and technique, and it will be hard work. But the less tangible mental requirements are already in place.

Lastly, I have full support from family, friends and colleagues. Stay tuned for the next issue for more on the expedition logistics.

Half a Brick at a Time (cont. from page 2)

From page 2...

- Anthony Wood(y) for his time and design prowess. Check out the quality at; www.anthonywoodeditions.com.
- Greg Cairnduff and the Utas Faculty of Education for continuing support on many levels. How long before they kick me out of the computer lab Greg?

- Kim and Ian at Roaring 40's Ocean Kayaking in Kettering.

The common theme running through these people and the business or institutions behind them is an energetic, can-do attitude. I'm sure it would be easier to ignore my emails and get on with already busy lives.

Hopefully next issue there will be a

few more businesses or institutions to add to the list. If you know of anyone in positions of purse-string power who might like to be part of it, let me know and I'll send out a sponsorship proposal.



Unfortunately I couldn't find an image of half bricks... but can you feel the symbolism?

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The Pandozer Issue I



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"Don't be too timid and squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better."

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803– 1882)

Next Issue

- **Training for the journey.**
- **Photos, photos, photos.**
- **Arrgghh...the plan for crossing Bass Strait.**
- **How I'll stay connected to the rest of the world.**
- **Sponsor profiles.**
- **Special report on my trip to Sydney with Eric.**



I Don't Want Your Sympathy, I Want \$50

As a novel approach to fundraising I've come up with the idea of charging people money for a newsletter they never asked for in the first place. The first three, pre-departure issues, including this one, are free. They are designed to build the suspense to the point where you will feel compelled to deposit \$50 into expedition funds to subscribe to the post-departure newsletters. Throughout the journey I will be writing a fortnightly (minimum) account of my experiences on and off the water.

It will include up to date information on the expedition progress, including stories, photos and short movies. Get the goss, subscribe to The Pandozer now!

With me? Email me at pandoz06@gmail.com and I'll advise you of payment options. Or let me know if you can help in other ways (contacts along the way, empty beach houses etc.). Can't find a spare \$50, don't trust me to meet your friends? No problems, but please do forward this newsletter to anybody that might be interested.

Teachers

Are you a teacher? Do you want the full learning package, including weekly newsletters, curriculum, school visits (conditions apply) and a bit more? There are only 40 class packages (\$200) available so sign up now. See the Teacher's Guide for more.



The giraffe told me to do it.