

# PAUL CAFFYN ROUND AUSTRALIA KAYAK EXPEDITION 1981-1982

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sea Kayak voyage around Australia

Paul Caffyn had paddled canoes and kayaks in many locations around Australia, New Zealand and in the Northern Hemisphere. The idea for a round-Australia kayak trip was inspired by voyages in traditional canoes by indigenous peoples, and in modern kayaks by other adventurers, around other islands and countries.

Research into coastline geography, weather, winds and tidal patterns resulted in a decision to follow an anticlockwise route, which would take best advantage of prevailing winds. Christmas 1981 was chosen as the start date, with the goal of completing the journey within 12 months. Queenscliff at the entrance to Port Phillip in Victoria would be the start and finish point.



From previous experience, Paul decided on the Nordkapp design by British kayak designer and builder Frank Goodman.

Two kayaks were built by Paul and a friend, the design having been adapted to accommodate supplies and kit for the journey.

Whilst maintaining his regular job as a geologist, and living frugally to save for the trip, Paul worked hard to obtain sponsorship from private and public organisations.

Accompanied by team member Thom Turbett in the second kayak, the expedition crossed the notorious Port Phillip Rip on an early morning tidal ebb on December 28, 1981. The crossing into Bass Strait was smoothly made and the pair turned south east to follow the chosen route.



March 1982

During the trip, Paul returned to the Brisbane River where he began canoeing at the age of 9 yrs

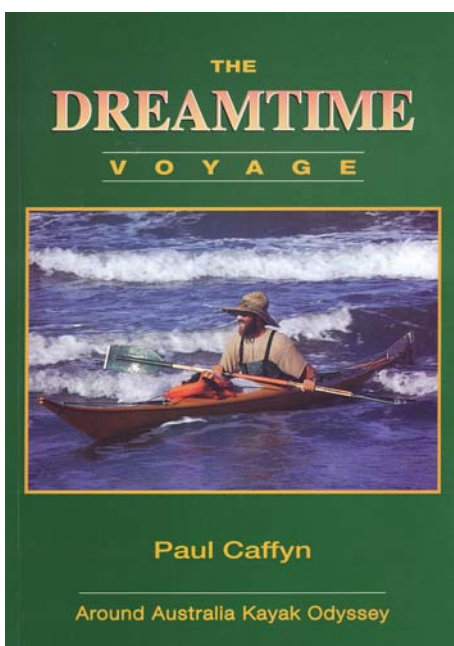
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Nearing the end of the journey, Paul surfs inside Annabel Reef, Warrnambool



Approaching Shortlands Bluff, Queenscliff, on December 23, 1982



A copy of Paul's book describing his 1981/82 odyssey is held in the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum Library

Caffyn, Paul, *The Dreamtime Voyage – Around Australia Kayak Odyssey*, Kayak Dundee Press, Runanga (NZ) 1994

Paul has continued paddling and exploring and has written several other books. A Web search will find various entries regarding his adventures.