

Basic Detail Report



00038296

Title

K2 Kayak

Date

1949

Primary Maker

George Whymark

Medium

Marine plywood over timber frame, metal, canvas

Dimensions

Overall: 6500 x 550 mm Vessel Dimensions: 6.5 m x 0.55 m (21.33 ft x 1.8 ft)

Name

Kayak

History

NEEDLE was used in competition over many seasons in the 1950s, when paddling became well established. It was an Olympic sport and the prospect of the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne encouraged the sports expansion in Australia. Whymark and his crew, 1956 Olympian Max Baldwin won the first 10,000 m K2 race in NSW, staged on the Nepean River. Later on in the 1950s the kayak participated in a 100 km marathon race on the Nepean/Hawkesbury River, from Penrith to Brooklyn, which has since become an annual fund-raising event. In 2003 the second owners of NEEDLE, who had carefully stored the unaltered hull in their garage for many years, donated the vessel to the Australian National Maritime Museum where it is now part of the National Maritime Collection.