

# Epic voyage a dream run

KIM CHRISTIAN

AS she crossed Bass Strait in a sea kayak Turrumurra's Claudia Schremmer was delighted at how friendly the people on the islands were.

A weather expert advised the party of four about local conditions while other islanders helped with repairs and provided fresh fish and tomatoes.

One man even delivered the group's car across Bass Strait by ferry.

"The people were great," Ms Schremmer said.

"One lady offered us six fresh flake fillets and we really enjoyed that meal.

"The area is so remote - it's pristine.

"Nature has remained unchanged."

The team of four paddled two double kayaks across Bass Strait over 11 days, stopping on spectacular remote islands along the way.

"It was what you would call a dream run," Ms Schremmer said.

With good planning and the assistance of strong currents the foursome completed the journey quickly.

Ms Schremmer, 35, said the group, including Kevin Brennan, 50, Bruce Baldwin, 56, and Adrian

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It wasn't dangerous.... we just couldn't see where we were going.

— Claudia Schremmer

Clayton, 61, set off with all their own provisions and no support crew.

They had prepared for the trip for a year-and-a-half, training between Sydney Harbour and Port Hacking and Middle Harbour and Brooklyn.

On their recent journey they encountered a thick sea fog which ensured calm waters but also meant the paddlers had to rely completely on GPS navigation with limited visibility.

"It wasn't dangerous because we had GPS, but we just couldn't see where we were going," Ms Schremmer said.

She said the group was extremely lucky not to encounter "the sort of long crossing every kayaker has nightmares about."



Seasoned kayaker Claudia Schremmer crossed Bass Strait.

## Goodwill gift backs project

THE Taiwanese Australian community presented a \$50,000 donation to Willoughby City Council last week.

The donation will be used to help fund the building of a new library which will be part of the Civic Place project.

The state-of-the-art library will be three times bigger than the present Willoughby City Library in Chatswood.

Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office presented the cheque to Willoughby Mayor Pat Reilly on behalf of the Sydney-wide Taiwanese community.

Mayor Reilly said it was a marvellous gesture of goodwill that would inject harmony into the project.

"This gift shows the leadership of the Taiwanese community in Australia in supporting the development of the Civic Place project and in particular the new library," he said.

Civic Place will be built on the site of the current Civic Centre and library, fronting Victoria Avenue, Chatswood.

The Civic Place Seat Endowment project offers individuals and businesses to have their names inscribed on plaques on the back of 1000 concert hall seats and 500 theatre seats.

» For details, phone 9777 1000.



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### OPEN DAY

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For further information please contact Mrs Vicki Long  
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Chatswood 2067  
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## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### Families First



Families First is a NSW Government initiative to support parents and carers who are raising children under eight years of age.

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are invited from non-profit community organisations to provide the following project:

#### Ryde-Hunters Hill Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Parenting Support Project (Reference: NSN 05-06/5) two-year fixed-term funding of \$115,000 p.a.

The aim of this project is to improve the wellbeing of families from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds who live in the Ryde and Hunters Hill Local Government Areas. The successful applicant will:

- develop a team of bilingual community workers from identified language groups
- assist bilingual community workers to engage specific communities and provide support around parenting and access to services and support groups
- coordinate the service and support programs provided by the bilingual community workers.

Expressions of Interest close 5pm Monday, 1 May 2006.

Information packages are available from DoCS' Northern Sydney Partnerships and Planning Unit on 02 9815 0723 or from DoCS' website [www.community.nsw.gov.au](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au)

For further information contact Glenda Beattie, Families First Community Project Officer on the number above or via email: [glenda.beattie@community.nsw.gov.au](mailto:glenda.beattie@community.nsw.gov.au)

**Important Note:** The act of inviting Expressions of Interest does not commit the Department of Community Services to providing funding to any prospective service provider.