

#18 Barracuda Beachcomber



The Barracuda is a great beginners kayak and is much lighter than most sea kayaks

The Barracuda is the club's best option for people new to kayaking, being very stable, light and comfortable. The Barracuda comes with a tough swing-up rudder, which looks robust and functions fine. To use the rudder, remove the security hook before paddling, then once in the kayak, pull on one of the double strings to the right of the cockpit until the rudder flips over. Pull on one of the strings to lift it back into place. On a mildly windy night, the boat was found to track just fine with the rudder retracted on the deck. The deck seems to have been raised slightly to accommodate space for the lunchbox tray built under the forward deck. This combined with a very low seat gives a slight feeling of having to reach up and out of the cockpit for each paddling stroke. This might be a little intimidating for small paddlers. The seat is fixed, but pedal position is fairly easy to adjust for the short or tall. At race speed the bow hydroplans out of the water, losing waterline length and so speed. That is a drawback of the fixed seat, leaving no way to move bodyweight forward to improve trim.

Setup and care

1. For setup always place the kayak on two stools. If you need to adjust the position of the seat or footplate, place an additional stool under the seat area to avoid cracking the hull.
2. Wash the boat after every use, even after paddling in fresh water. Dry the boat off inside and out with a chamois cloth before returning it to its rack in the shed.
3. Report any scratches or damage to the LCRK committee at committee[a]lcrk.org.au
4. See over for setup of seat, footplate and rudder.

Sea kayak
Stability: Stable
Weight: 17kg
Length: 4.9m
Width: 60cm



Adjusting the boat for your use



To adjust the seat:

The seat position is not adjustable, however the back support can be adjusted by pulling on the string on the right that is secured in a cleat next to your right thigh inside the cockpit.



To adjust the foot pegs:

Find the lever behind and on the bottom of the foot peg (the lower pedal) and pull out into the centre of the kayak. Slide the foot peg forwards or backwards until it clicks into the desired hole in the horizontal bar.



To adjust the rudder:

Tighten or loosen the strap above the foot peg horizontal bar. This works better when your foot or hand is pressed against the rudder footplate so it is in the position you prefer for paddling.