

# President's Blog – September 2023

KayakSafe NZ 2023/24

**Well good news our funding application for the KayakSafe NZ programme has been approved again for the 2023-24 season.** What this means is we can continue to build on the previous years of work and deliver the safety message to new and would be paddlers around the country. Dallas has put a lot of work into the programme and this year we have decided to produce a series of short videos capturing the key information we deliver at the workshops. So, Steve Flack, Simon, Caitlin and myself found ourselves in Tauranga one weekend recently working with Mason Media to create the videos.



We had a selection of boats from play boats, white water boats, Sit on Tops, fishing kayaks and sea kayaks on display and were supported by Richard from Burnsco to talk through the different boats and kit.



After a full morning in the Coastguard building creating video footage for Jarod of Mason Media to work his magic with, we moved onto the water. No photos here, you'll have to wait and see what appears in the videos once they appear on the website.... (Not sure I'm ready for the out takes if they ever appear....).

For a fuller report on KayakSafe and this day filming look out for the next edition of the New Zealand Sea Kayaker Magazine.

## Membership System Update

Hopefully we're getting through this but an amount of my time is still spent getting all members migrated across to the new membership system. Basically, I'm sending out an email at the beginning of each month to all members whose membership renewal falls due in that month with instructions how to re-register. The process hasn't been flawless I'm afraid, it seems to work without issue for most people but for one or two it becomes an issue, if you're unlucky enough to get issues please contact me and I'll get it sorted for you.

## Magazine

I have now got all 224 back issues of New Zealand Sea Kayaker (and its predecessor the New Zealand Sea Canoeist Newsletter starting with Issue 1 from January 1988). It has been a lengthy process but I would encourage you to dip back into the earlier issues, there is a wealth of great articles in there.

To help you navigate I am currently completing the update of the index that Paul Caffyn produced as a PDF whilst he was the magazine editor. Currently there are 1814 articles spanning Issue 35 (when Paul became editor through to Issue 224). I have done the new Index as a spreadsheet so it will be easier to search. I will include it on the website and probably email it out to all members once it's done.

Why not get yourself immortalized by getting one of your articles into the next magazine, I believe most paddlers are keen to hear what fellow paddlers have been up to and what little tips and tricks they use.

Earlier issues had a Letters to the Editor section, do you think this would be of interest now? Maybe Facebook has taken the place of such things..

What about this one from Issue 115, food for thought?

***“Re: Skills & Coaching From: Alan Bye Date: 12 Feb 2005** Thanks for the n/i. Over a year ago John Kirk Anderson asked me to cast an eye over his paddling performance on the weed thick estuary of the Avon in Christchurch. He was about to go to UK where he had some really hard paddling and qualified as a level 5 coach. He did very well. Now he is the man well qualified to be chief coach NZ, but no-one has said so yet. While he was with me one morning, he asked, how did we in UK get coaching going? I said it was all down to enthusiasm and people giving their own time to be with others improving their experiences. That was back around 1960. Here it is vastly different and yet much the same. The tourists arrive at a place hiring kayaks and set off and no-one knows if they can swim, let alone have the basic stroke work and seamanship. The equipment is way superior to any we had, with our fabric covered frame and stringer hulls. These tough roto mould hulls can bounce off rocks but they turn over in much the same way. The club members are varied in their experience and pick up skills while attending weekend camping trips on open water, in the Sounds here. We acquired skills in one hour sessions in winter time in the baths. We paid the rate for the use of the bath, usually late at night, and we prospered because when we went on to deep waters we had some basic skills and could brace into waves. Imagine my pleasure to read that KASK & CSKN have initiated coaching schemes at no cost, usually on open waters. They offered the first weekend sessions, free, and had twice the number they could handle, right off. Obviously the paddlers are seeking skills, just as we did when John Dudderidge and Oliver Cock came north for weekends at our place and the Durham River. Let's hope some lives are enhanced and spared as a result. Alan Bye”*

Thanks for taking the time to get all the way to this point now let's get out there and enjoy the (hopefully) improving conditions!

Steve