

Presidents Blog - May 2021

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Waihi Surf Camp 2021



Courtesy of Nathan Pettigrew

Waihi Beach at Anzac Weekend back in April was the place to be. Paddlers from around the country came together for a Surf Camp that was run by Deb Volturno and Daniel O'Connor with aim of preparing coaches to be able to assist in their regions and at Kayak Fest 2022 at Hahei next February. It was a great mix of paddlers that consisted of KASK Regional Reps from the Far North to as far south as Canterbury.

Saturday involved a masterclass from Deb, Dan and JKA in how to 'master the surf without surfing' and then on the Sunday, students becoming the coaches with volunteer paddlers from BASK. It was a great experience, extremely beneficial and enjoyed by all even the volunteer paddlers!

This time we managed to capture some of the training on film thanks to Jay Howell and his drone camera, but we were also lucky enough to have Nathan Pettigrew, a well known marine life kayaker and photographer there 'to catch the moment' and I am sure that some of his photos will be in the next edition of the magazine.

It was such a great weekend - full of learning, fun on the water and catching up with friends. As it was such a success, preparations are already underway for it to become an annual event to be repeated at Anzac Weekend in 2022.

A big thank you to Deb, JKA and Dan for their inspiration and time.



Daniel O'Connor - Courtesy of Nathan Pettigrew

KASK Events Calendar - 2021 and 2022

One of the questions that is frequently being asked by paddlers from around the country is:

'Do you know of any kayak training events that are taking place that I could go to?' and sadly, my answer is frequently 'No, but I will find out for you' – hardly the ideal response!

In the last six months, there have been four events that I know of around the country:

- Wellington – Skills
- Okains Bay – Skills and Surf
- Urupukapuka Island – Rock Gardening and Dynamic Water
- Waihi – Surf Skills and Incident Management

I took part in most of these events and the common thread for me was that all of the participants were buzzing with excitement, increased their skill level, were more confident paddlers and wanted to know when the next event was happening!

All were reasonably easy to organise and well attended by those in the know.

So imagine if there was a national Events Calendar so that paddlers, of any type, new and experienced, could see what is available and suitable. Paddlers could plan which events they wanted to attend and we would have a melting pot of paddlers from around the country and a cross-pollination of ideas and practices.

In the coming months the KASK Committee and Regional Reps will confirm an Events Calendar which will be promoted on our website and facebook pages. Paddling groups, clubs, networks and associations will also be encouraged to promote the events.

More importantly these events will enhance the paddling community and most likely increase membership on all fronts.

Paddling in New Zealand should not be parochially owned but shared. If we want to encourage paddlers to join our groups, clubs, networks and associations, we need to be more open to promoting, sharing and assisting each other.



KASK Kayak Fest 2022 at Hahei on the East Coromandel Coast Thu 10th to Sun 13th Feb

Registration has gone live for KASK members only and will be open to all paddlers from Tue 8th June 2021. Registration will be limited to a hundred paddlers.

Early bird discounts are only available to KASK members, so there is no better time to [join](#) and reap the benefits if you are not an individual member!



International Kayakers Week (IKW) 2022 - Sun 13th to Fri 19th Feb 2022

IKW in 2022 will be organised by the Te Henga Caving Club (THCC) and will take place from a basecamp on the north eastern coast of the Coromandel Peninsula.

The campsite will be accessible by vehicle and paddlers will have to be self-sufficient and self cater.

The week will be ideally suited for intermediate paddlers and above who enjoy being amongst rocks, happy to surf and play in dynamic water.

Further details will be released in August.

Please make a note of the dates, as it will be an event not to miss!

New Zealand Sea Kayaker Magazine

Edition 211 is planned for mid June with submission cut-off for articles and photographs being Fri 28th May - the end of the week.

If you have any material, articles, reviews, humour and any stunning 'portrait' photographs that should be on the cover, please send to Jacquie@kask.co.nz

Help us grow KASK

If you have paddling friends who would like to join KASK as a member, please forward this link below to join online: <https://kask.co.nz/join/> or as an Affiliated Club, please click on the link below: <https://kask.co.nz/kask-home/clubs/>



Stay Safe on the Water and match your Skills to the Conditions

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