

President's Blog – November 2023



I seem to have spent the last little while doing almost anything other than actually kayaking, it's easy to blame the weather but in reality, on the few occasions I have got out I've always thought "I must make sure I do this more regularly".

At the recent Safer Boating Forum AGM, I had good discussions with a range of people including Bill Dawes who was the founder of New Zealand Stand Up Paddling (NZSUP) the national governing body for paddleboarding in New Zealand. Bill has recently released a series of three books on how to stay safe on your standup paddleboard. Bill contends that there are four cornerstones to staying safe while paddleboarding and the same four cornerstones apply equally to all small paddle craft, including sea kayaking.

The four cornerstones are:

- Planning and preparation.
- Understanding the Environment you are operating in.
- Knowing what to do when things go wrong, and
- Understanding your safety equipment.

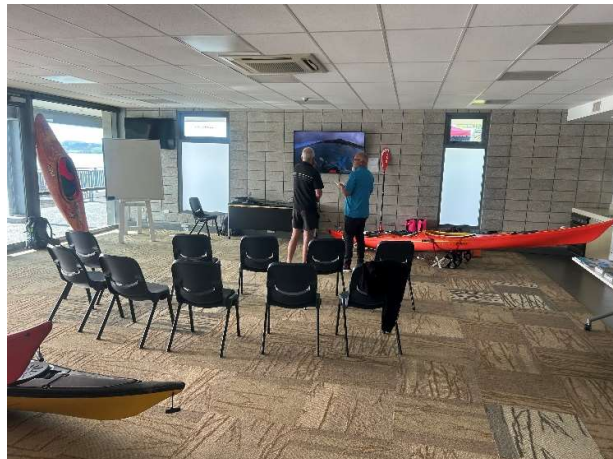
You need knowledge about each of these elements and his books set out about providing that knowledge for paddleboarding. Book one covers SUP safety equipment, book two the environment and book three preparation, planning and problem solving.

I got a copy of Bill's second book "Understanding the Environment" to review and decide for myself if this was truly equally applicable to sea kayaking. I intend to provide my verdict in a book review in the next magazine.

KayakSafe Workshops

So apart from a couple of short actual paddling trips and my Monday evening sessions at the local pool rolling and generally messing about I've been down to Karapiro to run the first of this year's kayaksafe workshops.

It was a great venue and a fun weekend with military displays, BMX jump competition riders and various other water based things going on. Sadly we only got four people show up for the workshop (seven had registered) so I was grateful that Allen, Aidan, Caitlin, Phil and Peter who turned up to assist made a good rent a crowd so Mark Steve and I didn't talk to an



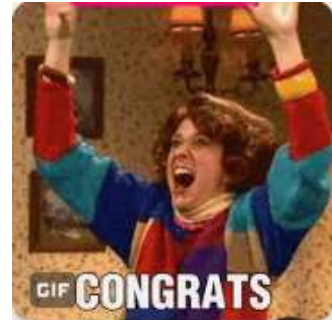
empty room! On a positive note, the four who did attend did get what they had hoped for out of the workshop. (Two of them were actually stand up paddleboarders so maybe Bill has a point....).

The next workshop I'm leading is at Bucklands Beach Yacht Club next Thursday and we have 26 registered for that one so hopefully will have a good turnout. Lucas is running the Wellington event this weekend and has about 20 registered and Ian has more than 30 registered for the Christchurch workshop next Wednesday.

Magazine



The committee have decided that with each issue of the magazine we will provide one lucky contributor, chosen at random, an extension of their membership to 12 months from the date of the magazine. (Or if you aren't currently a member we will provide you a years membership.



The date for submissions for the next magazine was set as 25th November but don't worry if you're running slightly late, I'm sure Jacquie will accept your material through the following week as well so you won't miss out on the chance to win!!!!

Let's hope we can all get out and enjoy our paddling over the next few months...

Steve