

# President's Blog – January 2024

So another year already well into the first month and resolutions stretched if not technically broken yet. It's great to see people finally getting back out on the water and having a great time, there seems to be plenty of wildlife out there as well. Many of you will have seen this photo by Gerard from Auckland Canoe Club.



Note Gerard saw the Orca with her two calves some distance away and stopped paddling to watch, they came to him to investigate so he wasn't guilty of chasing them down. One of the calves even offered to share a snack with him



Sadly I've been grounded since mid-December but I'm hoping to be allowed back on the water by the upcoming IKW week at Matauri Bay, I'll definitely get up there with my trusty campervan, it won't be pretty if I don't have a boat with me.....

My last on-water action was a short session at Okahu Baay looking at rescues and stuff with people from the Auckland KayakSafe session we ran at the end of November. I think most people that attended got plenty out of it. Talking to Dallas who has coordinated the whole programme this year as well as running the workshops in Nelson Bay of Islands and Whangarei. The programme seems to be hitting the mark, we had over 250 registered across the nine workshops with a solid actual attendance rate. I'm looking forward to Dallas' report that I hope will make it into the next magazine.

If you haven't seen the stuff we do on KayakSafe then I would encourage you to take a look at the videos we created as part of the overall programme, they're available on our website at <https://kask.co.nz/kayaksafenvideos/>.

## KASK Members AGM

It's coming to that time of the year again, as there is no Kayak Fest this year we will be having the AGM online I will set a date for sometime in March giving me time to get the financial report for 2023 completed and sent out to you 1 month ahead of the meeting. In the meantime we are looking for any nominations for:

- KASK Committee Membership, nominate yourself if you want to get involved or someone else if they agree and want to get involved
- Graham Egarr Memorial Paddle trophy for outstanding contribution to New Zealand Sea Kayaking. Invited from members, nominations are considered by the committee of the New Zealand Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (KASK)
- KASK "Bugger of the Year Award" to be presented to the paddler or paddlers that had an unfortunate ("bugger") kayaking experience. Invited from members, nominations are considered by the committee of the New Zealand Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (KASK)

## Magazine



Last blog I announced that we would be providing one lucky contributor to each magazine, 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). I'm pleased to say for Magazine number 226 was Chris Henshaw for his article about putting your owner contact information on your kayak.

The date for submissions for the next magazine was set as 25<sup>th</sup> January 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... (and that I see you on the water)

Steve