



Presidents report to 5 April 2014 Annual General Meeting (to be held at Anakiwa Forum)

I might now qualify as an advanced novice in KASK business, this being my third forum and 18 months as president.

Committee members here at the forum are Paul Caffyn, Conrad Edwards, Shawn Walsh, Tim Muhundan and Sandy Ferguson. Absent from the AGM is Doug Aitken who is at home patiently awaiting the birth of he and Paula's second baby.

Tim joined the committee at last year's forum at Raglan, Shawn having volunteered shortly before that. Thank you to the committee for their persistence this year and for also taking on the forum organising. The Forum is not an automatic responsibility of the committee. Thanks also to Lois Cowan who has been forum treasurer.

Karen Grant has done a wonderful job as administrator with the accounts and with email/face book communication to members

Sandy Winterton has continued to represent KASK to some of the Water Safety NZ forums

What has your committee done this year?

Paul has published seven issues of the "New Zealand Sea Canoeist", encouraged, coerced and collated input from 5 authors of the various chapters for the revised 5th Edition of "A Manual for Sea Kayaking in New Zealand", and has promises from another 3 contributors.

A new brochure has been printed and distributed, the purpose of which is to make KASK known to those who might benefit from the joining us. Our purpose is (to paraphrase our constitution): to promote and encourage sea kayaking with minimum impact on the environment and to do this with the highest standards of safety, use of appropriate equipment and through the production of instructional material.

Internet

We have this year moved the web site to an updated behind the scenes system.

Face book has 244 members & is quietly growing – those that don't know what it is are missing out on news, videos, tips and opinions.

Our email data base provides for more frequent targeted emails, on-line membership application/ renewal and enabled electronic forum registration

Liaison with WSNZ & MNZ

I waved the KASK flag at the Water Safety NZ Annual General Meeting held in October.

There have been substantial changes in the way WSNZ will operate and a significant move to link to the various members of the incorporated society. I attended by audio conference the March special meeting to elect new board members and this month attended part of a Christchurch forum to develop a sector plan to reduce drowning.

Maritime New Zealand runs regular National Pleasure Boat Safety Forums. The October forum timed to coincide with the WSNZ AGM, interestingly the two events only avoided an overlap due weather delays. This forum represents a broad range of maritime participants and included speakers from US Coastguard and UK National Lifeboat Institute.

Both WSNZ and MNZ have position papers on the wearing of life jackets and it was most interesting for the Nat Pleasure Boat safety forum (of which WSNZ is a member) to take a strong position to guide WSNZ.

What more could we do?

Liaise directly with shops (the Warehouse, Smith City etc rather than kayak shops) that sell kayaks and sit on tops to promote the provision of safety information to buyers, or perhaps push this with Maritime NZ.

I said this last year and we have not yet moved on it, but there is potential to introduce some form of structure to describe skill levels across the networks, possibly a warrant of fitness for those leading trips so that they can do so with greater confidence and if anyone requires funding for skills assessment or safety training, then we could coordinate applications to the likes of Water Safety NZ.

Ian McKenzie