

President's Blog – May 2024

Well, it's been meetings and meetings with no paddling for me lately. Just looking on enviously at all the posts about what seems to have been a very successful Waihi Surf Camp organised by Shaun. It's great to know that this is now intended to be an annual event at Waihi with the excellent venue already booked for Wednesday 23rd April to Sunday 27th 2025.

KASK Members AGM

So as mentioned in my last blog we had the KASK AGM on 4th April and just managed to get a quorum so we now have a committee of 9 paddlers with Mark Aspinall, Chris Henshaw and Lucas Waterworth joining Steve Flack, Dallas Veitch, Shaun Maclaren, Ian McKenzie, Caitlin Gillespie and myself.

Annual Awards



At the AGM we announced the Annual awards to:

- Scott Dunavan for the Graham Egarr Memorial Paddle trophy for outstanding contribution to New Zealand Sea Kayaking (Scott was not at the AGM).
- Paul Caffyn for the Graham Egarr Memorial Paddle trophy for outstanding contribution(s) to the KASK newsletter (Paul was not at the AGM).
- John Gumbley for the Bugger! of the Year You guessed it John was not at the AGM...

Committee Meeting

With the AGM sorted we had our first committee meeting with the new committee to make sure we are all focused on the projects we hope to undertake this coming year. One thing we decided was that we should put renewed effort into getting the network of Paddler Representatives better known and focused. Mark has taken on the role as the committee member who will coordinate our network of paddler reps and make sure they have the support they need from KASK to deliver what the paddlers in their area need. Steve Flack and I will support Mark with this initiative.

Paddling Guidelines

Something we have been intending to get in place for some time now is a paddler logbook and guidelines for paddlers to use to assess where they are at in their paddling development journey. The idea is to get some consistency or common understanding of what being a beginner, strong beginner, intermediate or advanced paddler actually means in terms of your competencies. Steve Flack, Chris Henshaw Mark and I are running a working group to try to get this long overdue piece of work across the line... We have, of course, had our first meeting. I also met Graham Oberlin-Brown

of Canoe Racing NZ as we may look at collaborating with Canoe racing on this initiative and others. Our second (online) get together for the KASK working group is planned for Wednesday 15th evening.

KayakSafe NZ Workshops

Dallas is once again going to coordinate our series of KayakSafe NZ workshops, funding application process has just been announced with a warning message that funding is more constrained this year. Of course, we've had our first meeting to determine the strategy for this year's set of workshops...

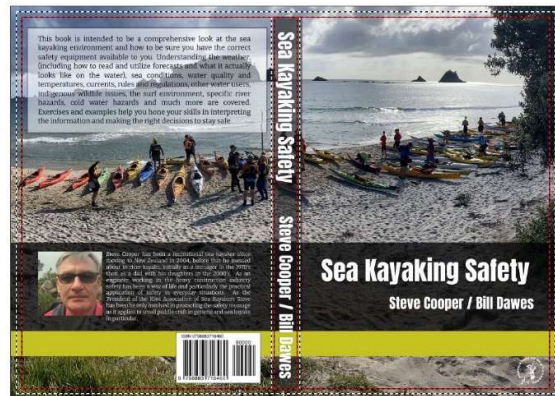
Safer Boating Forum Meeting



The next Safer Boating Forum Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 15th May in Wellington, I will be attending the meeting with Chris and hopefully we will be able to keep our various initiatives well understood and appreciated by the members of this important forum.

Sea Kayaking Safety Book

I have used my time off the water to put the finishing touches to a book about Sea Kayaking Safety and I'm pleased to say that, after review by Stuart Trueman, Deb Volturno and John Kirk-Anderson it has now been published. The book is intended to be a comprehensive look at the sea kayaking environment and how to be sure you have the correct safety equipment available to you. It follows the KayakSafe NZ workshop message and provides a more detailed discussion than is possible in a single day workshop. The book is available as a paperback or an electronic Kindle version from Amazon at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Once I have copies in New Zealand it will be made available from the KASK website for those in New Zealand avoiding the shipping costs from the US or Europe.



And Finally...

Let us know what you're up to (in the kayaking world mainly!), submit an article for the magazine or provide a safety tip via the website <https://kask.co.nz/contact-us/>. We can only provide the support you want if we know what that is... Enjoy your paddling and make sure you adjust your gear to suit the changing seasons as it starts to cool off here in NZ.

Steve