

President's Blog – July 2024



Another couple of months with not enough paddling for me though I have managed to get out a few times including a few training days and practice sessions for rescues and such like, even in July in Auckland being on/in the water with like minded kayakers is so much better than not being out on the water. (I guess it's getting me ready for paddling in September hopefully off the Northumberland coast!).

Paddling Guidelines

The work to produce the paddling guidelines is ongoing and good progress is being made.

Discussing the idea with paddlers from BASK and Auckland Canoe Club I'm sure that there are enough paddlers in New Zealand that see this as a positive thing to make the project worthwhile.

We are currently assessing the various IT options that will enable us to deliver the guidelines and this is proving to be every bit as challenging as expected given that we don't have a limitless budget!



KayakSafe NZ Workshops

The funding application that I mentioned in my last blog has now been submitted and we have, this year, been asked for a couple of clarifications regarding how we will be collaborating with other bodies and other paddle craft users. I take this to be a sign of the tightening purse strings in the current environment but I'm also confident that our application makes a solid case for a proven programme that delivers results. The decision on funding applications is expected at the beginning of August.

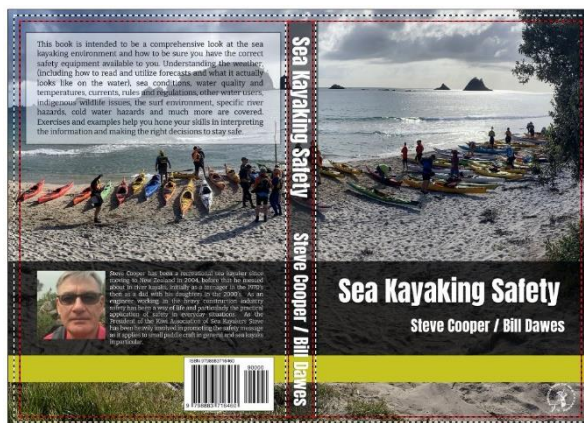
Safer Boating Forum Meeting



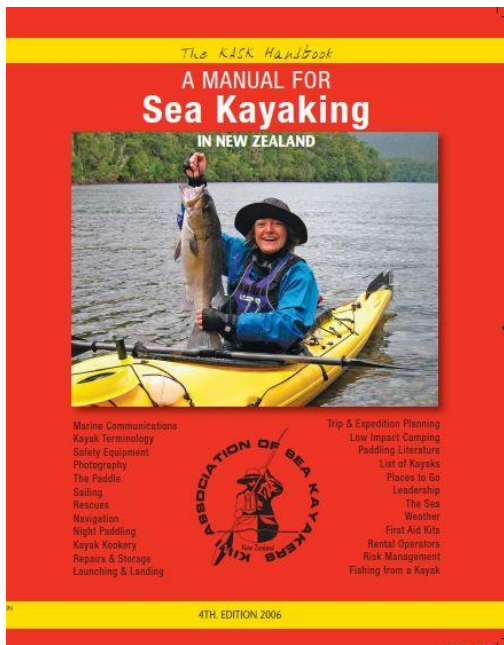
As I Mentioned in my last blog The next Safer Boating Forum met in Wellington in Mid-May, for an update on that check out the last New Zealand Sea Kayaker magazine.

Sea Kayaking Safety Book

The book is available as a paperback or an electronic Kindle version from Amazon at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Copies that I got in New Zealand have sold quickly and I have re-stocked a couple of times already. You can order a copy from the [KASK website](https://www.kask.org.nz) for \$27 plus local postage (\$9 for non-RD addresses).



KASK Handbook



Whilst visiting clubs and talking to paddlers I came to realise how the KASK Handbook ("Little Red Book" 4th Edition) was still in demand from many paddlers despite it being out of print for quite some time. Using the knowledge gained by publishing the safety book, I realised that it would be possible to make a print version available via Amazon Australia at a reasonable price point. So I set about creating a paperback version from the pdf available on the [website](https://www.kask.org.nz).

I'm pleased to say that for under \$20(plus p&p) you can be the proud owner of your very own A4 204 page paperback copy direct from Amazon [here](https://www.amazon.com).

Please be aware this is the 4th Edition from 2008 without any subsequent updates, a lot of the material is in need of a serious update to take account of developments over the intervening 16 years (yes it's 16 years ...!!!!) of equipment and techniques.

As mentioned on the website, the KASK Committee have taken the difficult decision to discontinue developing the handbook in it's current form and aims to progressively update the information in electronic form taking advantage of the current video and image technology, exactly how this will be presented is still an ongoing work, the possibility of a printed version given the on demand printing

model now available does mean that a printed copy could be contemplated but we have not discussed that as a Committee at this time.

If you think you would like to update any of the sections of the handbook then please get in touch.

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/> . Also, we can only provide the support you want if we know what that is, so let us know... Enjoy your paddling.

Steve