ISSN 2815-9888

NEW ZEALAND SEA KAYAKER



The Journal of the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (NZ) Inc - KASK

April - May 2025

No. 235

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A beach on Tahoramaurea Island Browns Island, Kapiti Coast
By Chris Henshaw

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President's Report
By Steve Cooper

Again, the magazine is getting to you a bit later than we would choose it seems that the deadline for contributions just sneaks up on us all just that bit too fast so feel free to send in your articles just as soon as you can, no need to wait for the deadline to pass and then be asked directly…
From the content of this magazine, it's good to see that plenty of you have been getting out paddling now. For my part I seem to have been in meetings and in the local stores or fiddling with bits and bobs struggling to get the time when I can get out on the water and acceptable weather to line up…

Burnsco have run a few Expos in a number of their stores recently and they asked us if we could provide a stand to offer advice on kayaking issues for people so I spent a couple of Saturdays, one at their Westhaven store and one in Manukau chatting with customers about what they need to be aware of to enjoy their time on the water safely. It's fair to say the days were quieter than everyone had hoped they would be and I did think "I'm glad I'm not relying on this to fund my kayaking never mind put food on the table".

I also attended a Canoe and Kayak hosted evening about Trip Planning and Kayak Safety on the North Shore, the message there is the same, times are hard for retailers. The message is clear, if we want a thriving kayaking community with the ability to easily find the gear you want then we need to support our local retailers as well as the manufacturers and clubs.

To try to make it easier for you all to provide us feedback I've created a specific link you can use to send in any comments, photos or articles etc either about current or past articles or new stuff. I've included the link at the end of a couple of the articles in this issue at the end of the articles so when you've read an article and think to reply you can click the link then and there, all you need to do is tell us who you are and your email address, write your comment and optionally tell us which article you're talking about and click the send button. what could be easier!
(Here's the link: https://kask.co.nz/magazine-feedback/)

Submissions for magazine #236
25th July 2025

Past to present committee bios

Name: Steve Cooper
Live: Auckland
Occupation: Retired engineer



To make a long story short: I started kayaking back in the mid 70's when I undertook a 50 mile river journey over three days with a couple of my mates for the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze award expedition. Kayaking took a back seat for a number of years and then on arrival in New Zealand, 20 years ago, I took to Sea Kayaking.
Once I retired, I would like to say my wife encouraged me to retire and commit more time to sea kayaking, but she might just read this and suggest a slightly different truth. Eventually in 2019 I took on the re-development of the KASK website, getting the WebGuys to give the site a makeover including overhauling the membership system. I took on the role of President of KASK in 2022.
I have also published a book, Sea Kayaking Safety, intended to provide paddlers with the information they need to keep themselves safe on the water.
If I'm not doing kayaking related stuff I avoid work around the house and garden by playing with the big train set at MOTAT.



Name: Chris Henshaw
Live: Kapiti
My kayak: Delta 16
My paddle: Greenland, which I made myself
Occupation: Senior Search and Rescue Officer, Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand.

To make a long story short: I first discovered kayaking when I was a youngster when we would visit the family farm on Banks Peninsula. Step forward quite a number of years, I regained the interest of dipping a paddle through hiring kayaks in my lunch break and paddling around the inner Wellington Harbour.
Since then I have gone on to develop (and still developing) my skills, technique, competence and knowledge of this activity which we undertake and of the environment on which we sit in our boats. It's now a life-long journey of learning.
The camaraderie ship of paddling with others, discovery of new coastlines when paddling both solo and with other like-minded people is always enjoyable. Solo paddling in my local "patch" is my time to de-stress, to relax.
My give back to the community is now I help and enjoy delivering paddling and kayaking safety sessions so that others can be knowledgeable about good safety practices when they get on the water. This is also my second year on the committee representing NZ paddlers. Please get in touch if you have any kayaking aspect you would to discuss or raised to or considered by the committee that represents you.

Name: Ian McKenzie
Live: Christchurch
My kayak/s: Skua (plastic) and Boreal Epsilon (fiberglass)
My paddle/s: Werner Shuna

Occupation: Project Management
To make a long story short: My kayaking started with a Wanganui River trip with a scout group in a canvas-covered wooden frame kayak I built with my father (last century). After that trip we built a dingy, I did a bit of yachting & some water skiing, but didn't reconnect with kayaks until a trip in the Marlborough sounds with my teenage sons. I connected with the Canterbury Sea Kayak Network 17 years ago and have paddled regularly since then. I've assisted with Network training, the summer paddling programme, been a member of the KASK committee since 2012 in various roles including president & I've presented the KayakSafe programme since it commenced in 2020.





Name: Lucas Waterworth
Live: Hutt Valley
My kayak/s: QK Tasman Express, QK Southern Skua, Tahe Marine Wind 585, Mission kayaks Eco Bezhig 540, Sisson Kayaks Southern Light tandem, and a Polomania Vampire Wave Sport Y Eskimo Salto

To make a long story short: I've been kayaking for over 10 years, starting with a trip to Abel Tasman with my mother in a rented tandem. Since then, I've enjoyed paddling all around New Zealand, with a focus on multi day trips. Highlights include Tauranga to Gisborne around East Cape, a two-week trip around Doubtful sound, and a crossing of Cook Strait. My local sea kayak club is the Wellington Sea kayak network. In addition to sea kayaking,

I also play canoe polo and paddle whitewater, with experience up to grade 3 rivers. My focus within the club has been on education and safety, in particular the Kayak Safe events, which I think are a great way to get basic safety lessons out to a wide audience. I look forward to seeing you either on the water, or at one of the many events around the country.



Name: Dallas Veitch
Live: Mammoth Lakes, California, USA and Whangarei, NZ
My kayak: P&H Virgo (one in each continent!)
My paddle: Celtic Omega 600
Occupation: Alzheimer's disease researcher

To make a long story short: I strangely fell in love with kayaking on the high mountain lakes of California and quickly progressed to the dynamic but chilly waters of the San Francisco area. When Covid sent me back to New Zealand for a time, I revelled in the delights of Northland's WARM water and the lack of a need for a drysuit. Here, I discovered KASK and the Northland kayaking community. Now I split my time between Mammoth Lakes and New Zealand. When here over the summer months, I can be found noodling around rocks, enjoying the surf, and working to build a larger and more skilled paddling community up north.



Caitlin Gillespie who will be talking at the WOW-SK June 29 meeting and helping coach at the Raglan development weekends.

Wāhine on Water - Sea Kayakers (WOW- SK)

Following on from the success of the Wāhine on Water initiative at KASK Fest in February, Rose and Dallas have made exciting progress connecting with women paddlers in Aotearoa NZ and beyond, setting up the network, and rolling out a programme of activities.

The initial first survey sent out to the New Zealand Women's Sea Kayaking Network Facebook group told us that the priorities were:

1. Connection to other women paddlers
2. Opportunities for skills development and education
3. Women-led trips
4. A voice at the national level

Conceptualising these wishes and brainstorming how to achieve them resulted in a roadmap for building a vibrant women's sea kayaking community focused on education, connection…and having fun! We've been working on the following priorities:

1) Communication
To complement the Facebook page (New Zealand Women's Sea Kayak Network), we've built a WhatsApp Community group for communication including trip reports, photos, announcements of opportunities for skills improvement and events. With a current membership of around 62, we have representation from Aotearoa NZ, Australia, Canada, and the US. Subgroups have already formed so that local communities can contact each other easily, and trip planning is already underway for adventures around the country and in international destinations.

2) Training weekends
We've set up dates at locations in the North and South Islands for spring and summer weekend meet-ups, with the aim of improving the skills, confidence, and leadership potential of women sea kayakers. The first 2025 meet-up is in Raglan over the weekend of 17-19 October, Mārahau from 21 -23 November, and Dunedin on 27 February-1 March 2026.

We are hugely excited to have the talented Kiley Dyke to lead the coaching and development across the three weekends. She is returning to Dunedin from her kayak training in the US where she is currently being assessed as an ACA Level 4 instructor. She will bring a tonne of enthusiasm, stoke, and fresh ideas to these weekends. Kiley will be supported by a vibrant group of assistants and hosts to ensure that newcomers and experienced paddlers alike will be able to develop and share skills and knowledge in a safe and welcoming environment.

3) Monthly On-line Series
We're running a monthly online series with inspiring speakers and skills-focussed webinars. The idea is to provide a platform for inspiration, knowledge and connection for women around NZ and for our international friends and colleagues alike.

Speakers have included local adventurer Whitney Frame, currently paddling the Inside Passage from Canada to Alaska with three other women; and Northland sea-kayak legend - Lynnis Burson - sharing her epic paddle from North to East Capes on the NZ coastline.

Upcoming speakers include experienced local outdoor instructor, Caitlin Gillespie talking about awareness on the water at 4pm on 30th June. She is followed by US legend Deb Volturno (American Canoe Association Level 5: Advanced Open Water Coastal Kayaking Instructor Trainer Educator and Level 4: Performance Surf Kayaking Instructor Trainer Educator), who will be speaking about sea kayaking leadership at 9am on 26th July. Our Training Weekend Coach Extraordinaire, Kiley Dike, will be introducing herself to the group, and teaching us about tides and currents on 31st August at 4pm. And this is just the start…we have a range of other equally inspiring talks and sessions to continue the series well into the new year. We'll keep you posted!

If you are a woman sea-kayaker who is interested in joining the WoW SK community or attending events, please get in touch. Either contact Rose at rose@kask.co.nz or Dallas at dallas@kask.co.nz - we'd love to hear from you.

Rose Campbell and Dallas Veitch - KASK Committee members

KASK Members Contact List

By Steve Cooper

The Wāhine on Water – Sea Kayakers (WoW-SK) association discussed the idea of having a contact list for paddlers to enable people to find people in their area, or an area they were visiting, that they could get in contact with. Dallas brought this to the KASK Committee and after a bit of thought we agreed this would be a useful resource for all KASK members.

One concern we had with such a list is our members rights to privacy if that's what they choose and also to avoid the possibility of the list getting used by spammers, an irritation that makes the old tea time marketing phone calls seem quite benign these days…

Given we already have our membership system in electronic form via the website we decided to set up a KASK Members Contact List as an option for people to join with their membership.

We realise lists like this aren't everybody's cup of tea so we have made the system optional to participate in but we hope most of you will choose to participate. We also decided that if you want to receive the list of contact details then you, reasonably, should be prepared to share your contact details. Here's a quick run down on how it works. Also check out our Members Page for more detail https://kask.co.nz/contactlist

If you want to get a copy of the KASK Members Contact List then first of all you need to opt in to share your Contact Information. To do this you simply login to your account (https://KASK.co.nz/account), tick the box "Include my Details in the Contact Directory", fill your details in and you're all set.

Selecting this tick box "Include my Details in the Contact Directory" will mean that you will be eligible to receive a copy of the contact list.

You need to include a contact phone number, preferably in the format shown of +cc (0)xx xxx xxxx where cc is the Country code (64 for New Zealand). Using this format will make the contact list easier for people to read.
The information included in the Contact list is:

- Name
- Email Address
- Phone number
- Region of Residence
- Regions of Interest



The Region of Residence aligns with the NZ councils and they are listed in alphabetic order North Island followed by the South Island with a final option of "NOT New Zealand" for our overseas members. HINT: typing the first letter when on the drop down list should jump you to the first entry starting with that letter, it's a long list".

The Regions of Interest align with the NZ Government Regions and our split of Paddler Representatives. There is an additional "Region" "Women Paddlers" this is for those women in KASK who are part of the New Zealand Women Paddlers network. Please only select those regions where you paddle regularly or have a good knowledge of paddling in that area, don't simply select all regions as you're interested in paddling everywhere, that will de-value the contact list.

Once you have opted in you can request a copy of the contact list and you'll get a pdf in last name order as well as an excel sheet that you can sort and filter to easily find fellow paddlers.

You have to opt into the system, the default is that the tickbox is blank, currently about 50 members have opted in. Help make this a useful resource for KASK members and opt in now, don't worry you can change your decision easily by unticking the box later and your details won't be on future lists and you! Let us know your thoughts use this link (https://kask.co.nz/magazine-feedback/)

Growing Up on Browns Island – Carol's Island Years

By Richard Harri a.k.a. richardthekayaker

Having kayaked from St Heliers to Browns Island over 300 times I was approached by a friend on Facebook to inform me that she knew of a lady who had actually lived on the island. I was fascinated and asked for this friend to tee up a meeting, if it was possible, so I could learn more about what it was like to live there in the early 1940's!

So yesterday, I met with Carol Hewison, who is the daughter of the caretaker that lived on Brown's Island. Carol lived on the island from 1942 to 1956 in a house located around the area of the current DOC sheds. Initially they had one house and a bach on the island and they built 2 additional baches later. Carol was one of three children, and she lived there from the age of two to the age of 14. Carol is deaf and as such it was a requirement for her to go to boarding school in Titirangi. During the Summer months she would return to the island every two weeks but during the Winter the frequency was extended to six weeks. Carol recalls that she used to cry because she really missed the island and missed seeing her parents
.

Life on the island was rugged by today's standards. As there wasn't any electricity it meant to have a bath would be a real luxury and in order to do so they would have to heat the water in the copper to make a bath. Every night at bedtime, they would have to wash their feet in a basin, and if their feet were clean, then that was good enough. In terms of lighting, they would use old fashioned lamps that burned kerosene. Carol called it a primus, and she recalled that the house had two bedrooms and a large sitting room. It was common for strangers to join in the event they were stranded taking refuge on the island due to the weather on the Hauraki Gulf. Quite often people would send gifts to her dad to thank him for his hospitality upon their return to the mainland.

Carol loved the island. She'd go swimming every day. Around their house, they had a lot of trees. Initially







Carols Sister Swimming the Horse

Carols Mother with her Tomatoes on Browns Island

Carol Playing with her Brother and her Cousin on Browns Island











they used milk powder until they got a cow for milk, they had chickens, and they'd sell their eggs in St. Helier's. The eggs were an orangey brown colour. It is thought this colour was a result of the sea lice they ate as they free ranged on the beach.

In terms of trees, Carol's family had 3 Fig trees, and 2 exceptionally large Peach trees. There were a number of other trees producing fruit, and they would preserve the fruit, Tomatoes, Beetroot and Beans. This was a hobby of her mums, so there was a lot of fruit and vegetable preservation happening during the day.

Carol had an older sister who had a large horse that she used to swim, and that was a thing back in the '40s and '50s. She would swim her horse at various places on the island. One time, the sister swam the horse all the way from their house on Brown's Island, across the water, to Karaka Bay on the other side of the peninsula near Glendowie! This is a decent 3km and the horse was so tired when it got to the other side her sister had to hold its head up so it wouldn't drown in the water.

Carol told me some remarkably interesting stories. One was about three boys that had borrowed the father's yacht, and they sailed it out only to capsize and one of the boys couldn't swim and he drowned. The other two made it to the island, where they gave them shelter and got them back to their family a couple of days later due to harsh weather.

Another story involved buried treasure! Carol's sister had been out horse riding where it got its foot stuck between some rocks. The sister couldn't release the horse by herself, so she had to call out to get her dad to assist. To free the horse, they peeled back the rocks and much to everyone's surprise they found some jewellery, some hidden treasure! In reflection the thinking at the time was that this had been hid during the war and one day someone may be coming back to get it! What an exciting situation!

In the final time on the island Carol's Dad and her older brother had gone to the mainland in 1956 to look for property and they bought a house and 12 acres of land in Henderson. Mum and Dad helped to pay the deposit, and they decided to move as a family from Browns Island. They had a launch, so they went back to load up their belongings. On their final journey from the island to the mainland some of their belongings fell off the boat for example they lost their dinner set which must have gone overboard. They were in such a rush to move to their new beginning and for their son to start in his new job he had secured in Henderson.

Carol looks back on the island with fond memories and she absolutely loved the time that she spent there. Carol returned to the island back in the mid 1990's and was shocked to see there was nothing remaining from her childhood memories. There was nothing. No houses, none of the baches, and even the fruit trees were gone. I think that was quite emotional for her to go back and see those memories had been erased, so it was an incredibly special opportunity for me to meet with Carol. She's one of the last people alive who had actually lived on Brown's Island. I gave her a small picture, which is the same one that I have on the front of my website at www.nzprints.co.nz of Brown's Island and I'm sure that'll bring back a lot of memories of the beautiful island she once lived upon.

About Richard the Kayaker:
About Richard Harri: Richard Harri is an avid kayaker and photographer based in Auckland, New Zealand. His passion for exploring Auckland's coastal waters has led to a collection of stunning photographs that capture the natural beauty of the region. Through his partnerships with local charities including the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust, Rotary International and Cure Kids, Richard continues to share his love for adventure and photography whilst supporting his local community.

Update from Safer Boating Forum

By Chris Henshaw

I had the opportunity to represent KASK at the Safer Boating Forum (SBF) at the end of May. The forum is a collection of organisations led by Maritime New Zealand and is a formal network of national and regional government agencies, local body groups, organisations and the marine industry, involved in promoting and coordinating recreational safe boating activities in New Zealand.

The purpose of the Forum is for the members to work together to develop and implement a common safety recreational boating strategy for New Zealand and to support agreed boating safety policy, communications, education, compliance and regulation.

This year's Forum, with attendees from 29 different organisations, covered a number of subjects from; a report on close to shore fatalities, close to shore weather; understanding Rāhui's; life jacket legislation; an update on the Recreational Craft Strategy; Preventing harm via sector collaboration with ACC and a presentation on Trust and the importance of it in collaborative leadership in Aotearoa New Zealand's Not-for-Profit Sector.

I also caught up with representatives from Coastguard NZ to discuss the Coastguard Kayaking course and had an interesting chat over lunch with the representative from Jet Boating NZ over the sharing of the water environment between jet boats and paddlers.

The Forum finished up with a practical workshop on "Exploring Dinghy Harm and Possible Interventions" where the collective minds of everyone came up with a number of possible solutions to reduce harm from those people using dinghy's. Overall, it was an excellent and informative day.

More information will be presented in the next edition of the newsletter. For those interested, here is a link to the May edition of the SBF newsletter - https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/media/uzzlmpie/sbf-newsletter-may-2025.pdf

Page 3, KASK is acknowledged in supporting ACC and MaritimeNZ in helping to deliver kayaking safety messages.
Page 14, Please note the safety information on a lifejacket product safety recall.

BASKing in the waters of Whangamata

Bay Association of Sea Kayakers (BASK) King's Birthday paddling weekend at Whangamata

By Allen Snowsill

Paddlers: Aidan, Andrea, Allen, Bridget, Cameron, Dennis, John, Jovan, Lois, Shona, Tracey

Friday 30 May: paddle to the nearby islands

I arrived at Esplanade Drive car park at 12.15pm for the scheduled on the water time of 12.30pm to find Aidan already out the back of the surf break waiting for the next suitable wave and Jovan with his kayak on the beach ready to launch.

Shortly after 12.30pm the three of us headed out to and behind Hauturu (Clark) Island in a fresh off shore wind and following sea. We made our way across to Whenuakura (Donut) Island and paddled to the entrance that leads into the lagoon. A small swell was sending the odd set through the entrance tunnel so I remained in the tunnel whilst Aidan and Jovan paddled through to the lagoon (two's company three's a crowd in those conditions) and I back paddled to the entrance and awaited their return. We then headed back to our vehicles into a very fresh head wind and choppy sea.

After loading our kayaks we headed to the campground to book in, wash our gear and have a shower where we met Shona and Cam Fisher.

Tracey and Dennis arrived soon after so we decided to venture out for dinner with Tracey suggesting the Turkish Kebab shop which proved to be a great choice.

Lois and Andrea arrived later in the evening with their accommodation in tow (caravan).

Saturday 31 May: paddle to Pokohino Beach north of Onemana

We gathered at the wharf car park where we were joined by John and Bridget.

We were on the water just before 9.30am and headed out from the wharf across the harbour entrance and followed the coastline north towards Onemana.

As forecast, we were in the lee of the land and therefore sheltered from the west to south west offshore wind and meandered along following the coast in benign sea conditions.

After a short break just south of Onemana we continued north past Onemana beach where we were exposed to strong blustery conditions due to the lack of shelter from the offshore wind.

We gathered at the northern end of the beach to discuss whether we should turn back or continue on to Pokohino Bay.

Aidan ventured around the next point and returned to inform us that the sheltered bay of Pokohino was just around the next point and he recommended we should continue on, which we did.
Upon our arrival we were relieved to find a very tranquil, warm and sunny beach for our lunch break.

As anticipated the kilometre stretch of exposed beach off Onemana proved to be a challenging paddle as we returned south in blustery head winds and choppy seas however once we were in the lee of the cliffs at the southern end of the beach it was virtually plain sailing all the way back to the wharf.

We arrived back at the campground around 3.45pm where we rinsed our gear, showered and prepared ourselves to catch up with Ruth's group at the RSA for drinks and dinner.

Slot north of Sailors Grave





Pokohino beach





Above: Lois, Shona and Cam

Left John and Lois

Sunday 1 June: paddle south to Whiritoa and beyond

We gathered at Island View Reserve where we launched and paddled south along this interesting coastline in warm, calm and mostly sunny conditions, which allowed everyone to check out all the nooks and crannies.

We had a short break near Waimama Bay before heading further south to the Whiritoa Caves and blowhole.

A few ventured into the cave and some paddled through the narrow slot and into the lagoon.

After mooching around there for a while Aidan led us to a paddle through at Otonga Point located at the northern end of Mataora Bay and from there we made our way back to a little beach next to Waimama Bay for lunch.

After lunch we made our way back up the coast towards Whangamata with our next destination being Whenakura (Donut) Island. It was flat calm in the lagoon which was a bit different to what we experienced on Friday afternoon.

Once everyone had checked out the lagoon we tackled the last leg of the trip, with its head wind, back to the beach at Island View Reserve.

We arrived at the campground around 4.00pm, except for Aidan who was back on the water with his fishing rod this time.

Aidan (our go-to hunter/gatherer) caught a number of Kahawai which enabled each of us, being eleven in total, to have two good sized pieces of fish each.

Under Aidan's instructions, John and I took the fish to a local fish shop to be cooked and eventually returned with fish and chips to feed the hungry crew back at the campground kitchen.

Monday 2 June: Otahu River paddle and Sailors Grave to Boat Harbour paddle

A number of paddlers had departed which left Tracey and Bridget, who elected to paddle up the Otahu River with the incoming tide which they both enjoyed.

Aidan, Dennis, John and myself drove up to Sailor's Grave (north of Tairua) and paddled along the coast up to Boat Harbour in very calm and settled conditions, as was forecast.

We finished off a great weekend with a delicious lunch and coffee at Tairua.

Special Thanks: to Aidan who caught and filleted the fish for the Sunday evening meal.

Also, to Dennis, John and Aidan who kept a watchful eye on the group and assisting as necessary.

And last but not least, to all those paddlers whose attendance made this a very special and enjoyable weekend.

Footnote: A number of us use the phone App "SwellMap Surf" which proved to be a very accurate and reliable source of weather information for the weekend.



Inspecting carvings

Donut Island



First stop north of Whiritoa





Caged Carvings







Kerikeri Striders Kayak overnight trip at the Cavelli Islands

By Matt Sutcliffe



The Bay of Islands has some of the best sea kayaking areas in the Southern Hemisphere (your scribe is studying for a Ph.D. in the obvious! - haha).

There are 144 islands in often protected water and wonderful beaches, caves, wildlife, etc. Remarkably, the majority of the beaches are empty for 10 months of the year.

Kerikeri Multisport Striders group (an active cycling, running, walking, and kayaking club) are fortunate to have this on our doorstep.

As a group we enjoy our kayaking and often pull up at beaches, have a brew - swim – hike, etc.
At Kings' Birthday weekend recently, our kayaking group set off from Matauri Bay for a two-day trip to Motukawanui Island and the surrounding Cavalli Islands.

We stayed overnight at the DOC hut on the island, which is a basic but comfortable hut. After a paddle over to the hut we relaxed and then for dinner we enjoyed good food including fresh fish (fortunately one of our kayakers is an expert spear fisherwoman) and wine. We slept peacefully whilst being serenaded by the kiwis which live on the island.

On the second day we circumnavigated the island and several other islands, exploring caves, enjoying various wildlife including an inquisitive seal. It was a perfect day before paddling back over to Matauri Bay. We nicknamed ourselves 'Team Jumblies' after Edward Lear's Jumblies poem: They went to sea in a Sieve, they did, In a Sieve they went to sea: In spite of all their friends could say, on a winter's morn, on a stormy day, In a Sieve they went to sea. Fortunately, our kayaks don't leak!

For more information about the Kerikeri Striders Multisports Club's kayaking group, visit striders.co.nz/kayaking









The Yasawa Islands, Fiji, June 2025

By Michelle Loretz





The Yasawas is a chain of islands to the north west of the mainland of Fiji.
My partner and I don't do many organized tours – in fact, this is only my 2nd ever organized tour, both of them kayaking trips – there are a lot of logistical issues with getting our own gear overseas. We normally organize our own adventures. But we couldn't get our boats to Fiji, so we went with Southern Sea Ventures.



It was a good decision. SSV took care of everything, providing boats, accommodation, food, etc.

The double kayaks were very stable fiberglass sea bears. The singles were plastic penguins and skuas. Good boats, considering they weren't our own.

The staff went above and beyond to make the trip memorable and enjoyable. Food was great, connection with local people was respectful. SSV have a long history in the area, know the locals well, and do all they can to share the benefit of the tours.

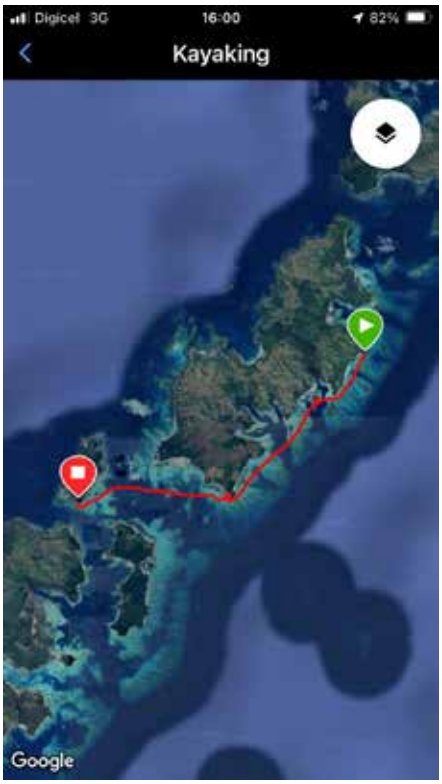


We went paddling with SSV for 6 days, staying at their base camp on Tavewa Island, and then the village of Navotua on Nacula Island.

The scenery was beautiful, the snorkeling amazing, with coral and fish abounding.

The 3 main paddles we did, below:



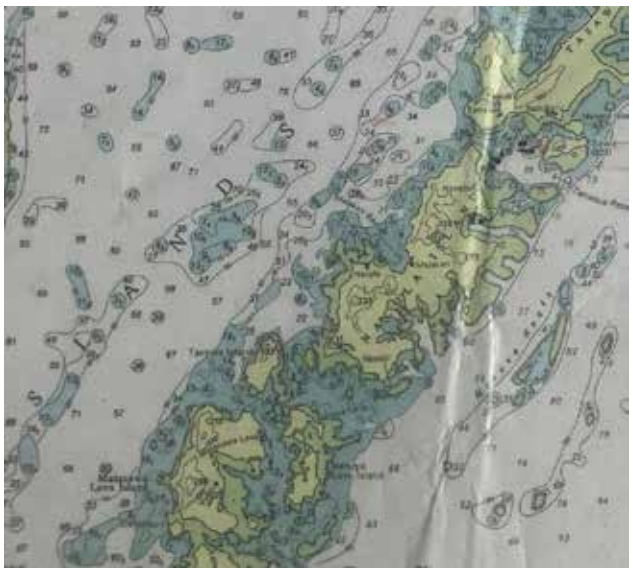


We had very calm weather, which is apparently unusual. The Yasawas are known for being windy. That said, I suspect the ocean rarely gets as lumpy as the New Zealand or Australian exposed coasts. The Yasawas are surrounded by an outer ring of reef, which protects from the oceanic swells of the Pacific. You get wind waves rather than ocean swells. Not sure what happens in cyclones!



The group we were in had limited sea kayaking experience, so the paddling was pretty tame. No great challenges. Still, we all managed a couple of 20 km trips around the coast of Nacula Island. Some of the surf diehards among us (well, one of us!) wanted to surf the numerous surf zones where the sea reared up over coral reefs, but the trip leader strongly discouraged this – as he said, he really wanted to be sure no paddlers got their faces grated off on the coral! Some of us were keen to avoid those surf on coral zones – and this was easy to achieve with the excellent local knowledge of the local guides.

If you wanted a more challenging trip, I would recommend you organize a group of your paddle buddies with similar skills to go together. SSV will adjust the risk level to suit the skills of the paddlers in the group.











Clockwise:

Yasawa Islands
Seto, local guide
Dan, guide leader
Guide leading
Break time

Getting Your Kayak to the Water

By Steve Cooper and Matthew Binney McCambridge

In New Zealand many kayakers first question about a kayak is how heavy is it. Whilst the weight of a kayak is worth considering it really shouldn't be top of the list of things to consider, whilst a light kayak may be easier to handle off the water it's quite possible it wont handle quite as well on the water particularly when the wind and swell picks up. Having said that getting our kayaks from where we store them and onto the water at the start of our trip and back from the water to their storage spot at the end can be one of the more challenging parts of the trip, it can even become a barrier for some people.

Whilst browsing through Facebook kayaking channels I came across a post that caught my eye from a resourceful paddler (aren't we all!) who has taken the kayak transport issue to heart and has developed (and like most of us is continuing to refine) a neat solution to transport his kayak to and from the put in/get out. After chatting with him here's a summary of where he's got to so far and he's promised to provide a follow up with a future article:

Matthew has designed and made a means of towing his kayak with a pedal cycle. Basically, he imported photos into a CAD package to get the basic geometry sorted then put something together and started testing.



From our discussions it seems the key thing is the connection to the bike seat post. Matthew does this by lashing rather than a fixed yoke thereby allowing turning and leaning, the kayak is pulled by the rope/ webbing strap and under braking is stopped by the solid rod against the seat post. Leaning is also enabled by the two-piece boom joined by a sliding fit, one tube inside the other.

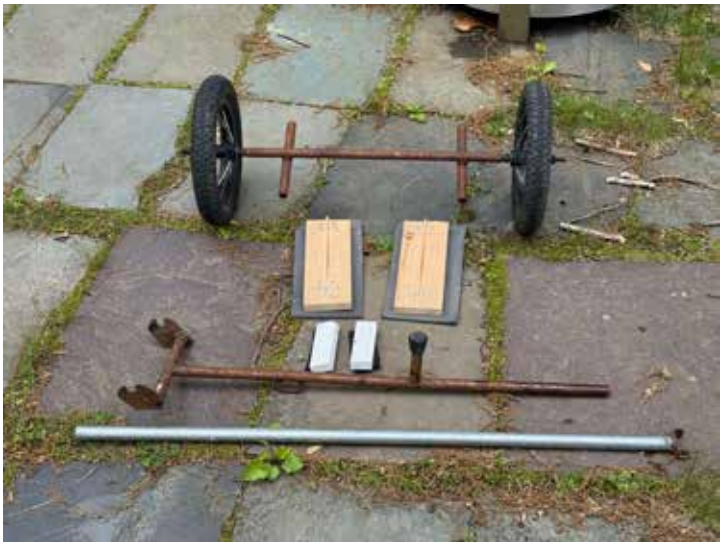


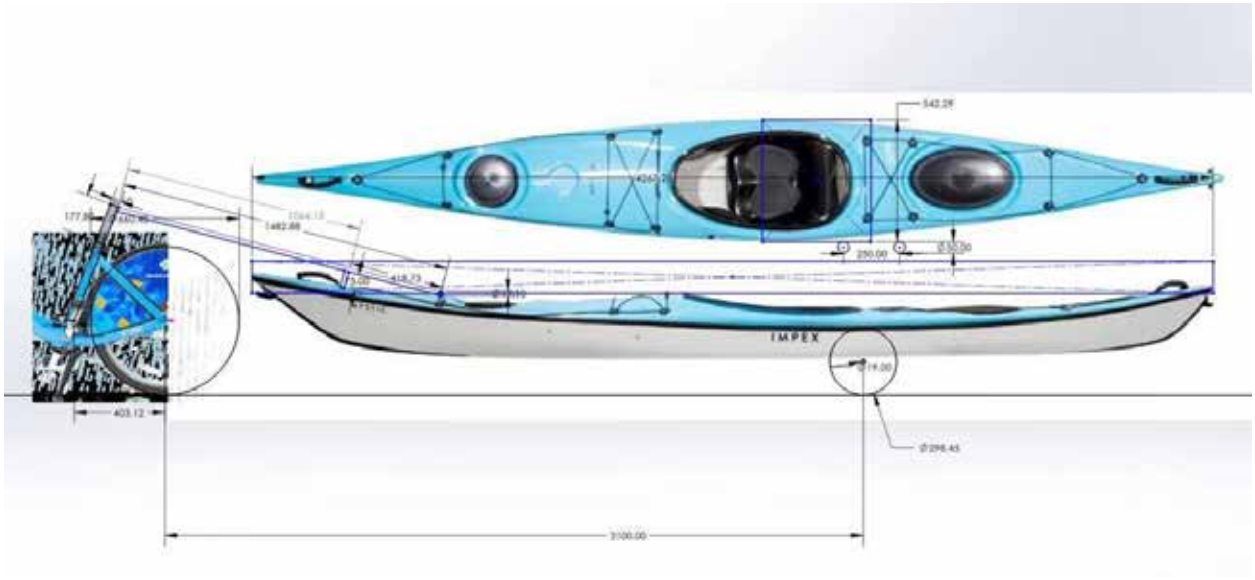
There is apparently no noticeable issues with the take up of the system not being solidly attached to the bike.

Following this system does require the user to take care with decent ropes and knots (although as with the prototype here I guess cam buckle straps would also work ok).



All parts of the kit can be dismantled and stored in the kayak whilst on the water then reassembled onto another bike at the end of the trip. So, with rental bikes being relatively widespread, a solo one-way trip in the Boston Harbour becomes quite a practical proposition.







Some modifications allow the system to be used on a different kayak. A key consideration is ensuring no harm to the hull or deck of the kayak.

Matthew has noted “Making a trailer which works with any bicycle my hope was to avoid the need to carry a bicycle with me, this part worked well, however traveling on land with a 17'10" / 543cm kayak was surprisingly difficult, many parts of the man-made and natural world do not accommodate something so long, it definitely made me interested to build a folding / sectional Kayak ...”.

Of course, there are other alternatives to putting a kayak on the roof of your car but maybe they compromise the kayaks performance more than I’m prepared to accept: Michael cut a recreational kayak shorter to fit it inside his Prius (thinking about reducing fuel consumption) and then took the modified kayak on a 20 mile open coast lap of Cape Ann completing the Blackburn challenge kayak race just within the time before they kick you off the course and in his words “*it was a pretty miserable experience and I don’t think I’ve even sat in it since*.” Maybe the Prius used less fuel but perhaps not the paddler!







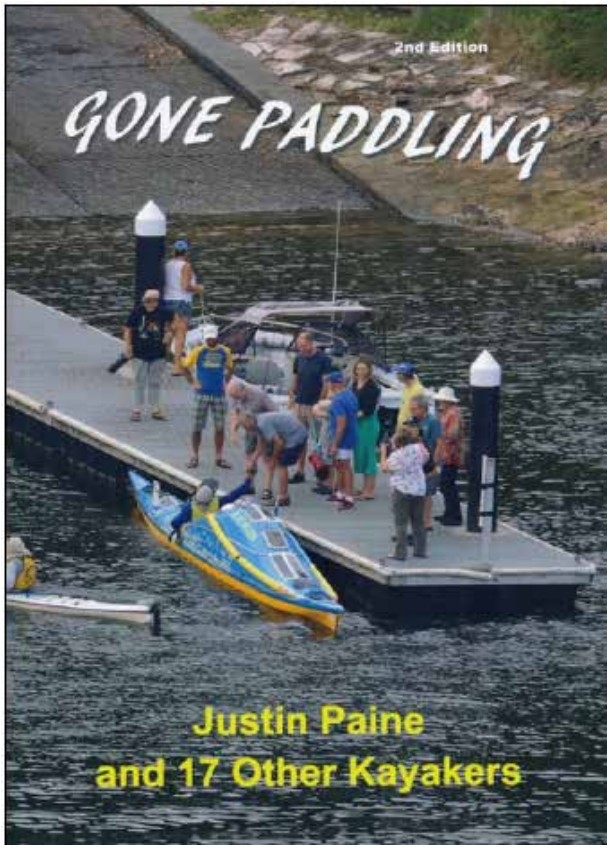


I’m looking forward to a follow up discussion and more details from Matthew as things develop “watch this space”.

If you have comments or questions about this article (or any other) then please follow this link (https://kask.co.nz/magazine-feedback/)to send them in to us.

Book Review By Paul Caffyn

Title: Gone Paddling 2nd Edition
Subtitle: The History of Lane Cove River Kayakers and its Adventurous Members
Author: Justin Paine and 17 Other Kayakers
Published: 2024
Publisher: author
Contents: 271 pp, maps, colour images
Cover: softcover
Size: 210 x 148 mm
Price A$26
Availability: see review
Review: Paul Caffyn



There are very few kayaking anthologies (paddling story collections) published in Australasia, and bugger all for the rest of the world. Back in 2011, Ian Beasley-self-published a delightful, well researched *'collection of words and images*' in Kayak, with chapters assigned to broad esoteric groupings: Living, Seeking, Challenging, Competing, Defending, wrapped up with a comprehensive bibliography. Very short, one to three page chapters with excellent illustrations, delving into the full gamut of paddling from historical with the Arctic Inuit and Rob Roy kayaks to competitive racing, with the defensive section including the folboat operations Jaywick (Singapore) and Frankton (Gironde Estuary). For a thumbnail evocative insight into the history and various aspects of world paddling, it is a wee treasure.

Ian Beasley set a very high benchmark in terms of his research, writing and selected images, but they were mostly short (superb) stories, drawn from historical archives, books and websites.

In 2019, NSW paddler Justin Paine published the first of his three anthologies. T*he Spirit of Kayaking (2019), Gone Paddling (2020)* and a 2nd edition with his delightful delve into what drives Aussie paddlers was published in 2024.

Justin's delightful anthologies are focussed mainly on Australian paddlers, especially members of the Lane Cove River Kayak Club delving into what Australian paddlers have achieved in Oz and those who have ventured outside Aussie waters.

In his first 2019 anthology *Spirit of Kayaking*, Justin Paine wrote:
'How do you define this abstract quality? For me, it starts with the simple joy of being out on the water in a small self-propelled boat, up close to nature. From there you can go in an almost infinite number of directions, and it is how you go about this that defines the spirit in you. It can take you in a continuing voyage of exploration and discovery – discovery of yourself and of people and places. It can be as contradictory as the camaraderie of being in a team or the solitude of paddling alone. As the competitiveness of racing or the tranquillity of a meandering paddle on a small stream. As demanding as expeditions taking years to complete or as relaxing as slipping away for half an hour at lunchtime.'

If I was asked to explain why I go kayaking, 'tis a rather good explanation for me.

Although all three books include much about that four letter word which I don't like with respect to sea kayaking, I was still drawn into the stories of 'race' motivation and enthusiasm for racing; in South

Africa, Britain, NZ and Canada/Alaska. Justin nicely balances epic overnight races, pain and tiredness, sweat, insects and overtiredness with stories from the those wonderful folk who support the racers, both physically with food, fluid and shoulder massages, and the essential moral support.

Justin's first edition of *Gone Paddling* assembled 33 stories, with much from his home club members on racing but a delightful mix of short stories ranging from the Antarctic to the Arctic.

This new 2nd edition kicks off with Richard Barnes crossing of the Tasman Sea from initial concept, to building his superlong kayak, the first launch from Sydney and rescue via a yacht for a tow into Port Stephens, then a second attempt launching from Hobart and arriving at Riverton on the South Island of NZ after 65 days on 18 February 2023. A well written account with good illustrations and photos, marred only by the misspelling of Andrew McAuley's surname.

This is followed by the first edition stories and yarns, which are a delight to delve into, from paddling in Antarctica to racing on the Yukon River, concluding with five fascinating technical chapters, delving into kayak weight versus speed, rudders and how to use them and 'Why paddling in shallow waters sucks'.

Justin Paine has assembled a superb mix of very readable paddling stories, highlighting how much the Lane Cove River Kayak Club members have achieved paddling in Australasia and overseas. In some ways, when these stories are combined with those in The Spirit of Kayaking, the books provide a brief history of racing and sea kayaking in Australia. The books are well illustrated throughout, mostly colour throughout with a thumbnail pics of each chapter author.

Gone Paddling can be ordered by emailing your name + postal address to gonepaddling@lcrk.org.au - you will be provided details for an EFT payment (in Australia) or Paypal payment (overseas)
Postage cost: Aust. $13 for NZ orders and Aust. $15 for UK orders.

Submissions for magazine #236 25th July 2025

KASK, the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (N.Z.) Inc., a network of New Zealand sea kayakers, has the objectives of:

1. promoting and encouraging the sport of sea kayaking
2. promoting safety standards
3. developing techniques & equipment
4. dealing with issues of coastal access and protection
5. organizing a bi-annual Sea Kayak Fest
6. publishing a bimonthly magazine.

***New Zealand Sea Kayaker* is published bimonthly as the official magazine of the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (NZ) Inc.**

Articles, trip reports, book reviews, equipment reviews, new techniques, letters to the editor.
Send to Jacquie James at: **Jacquie@kask.co.nz**

KASK Annual Sub
Membership is $40 for individual and overseas renewals.

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Change of Address, you can now update your membership details including address and payment method by logging on to the website (https://kask.co.nz/account/).
If you prefer you can still contact: admin@kask.co.nz

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Website: https://Aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz/
Facebook: https://Www.Facebook.Com/Groups/1493987844116617

Bay Association Of Sea Kayakers (BASK)
Website: https://Www.sporty.co.nz/Bayseakayak/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/866695656761343

Hawke's Bay Canoe Club (HBCC)
Website: https://www.hbcc.org.nz/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/\groups/250185461675006

The Nelson Kayak Club
Website: https://www.nelsonkayakers.co.nz/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/people/Nelson-Canoe-Club/100063537822194/

Canterbury Sea Kayak Network (CSKNet)
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