KASK · WHĀINGAROA / RAGLAN

KayakFest 2027

Event programme · Thursday to Sunday

18–21 February 2027 | Sea kayaking · Skills · Surf · Journeys

At a glance

Raglan · 18–21 February

Thursday 18 February
ARRIVAL & WELCOME

11:00–18:00	**Registration & arrival**	Papahua campground
17:30–18:30	**Buy, sell & swap / meet the coaches**	Camp communal area
19:00–20:00	**Official welcome & programme briefing**	Camp communal room

Friday 19 February
DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS

08:30–08:50	**Morning briefing**	Papahua campground
09:00–12:00	**Morning paddling sessions**	See the session programme
12:00–13:00	**Lunch**	Camp / session venues
13:00–16:00	**Afternoon paddling sessions**	See the session programme
18:00–19:00	**Dinner**	Camp communal area
19:30–20:30	**Guest speaker**	Camp communal room



Saturday 20 February
PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

08:30–08:50	**Morning briefing**	Papahua campground
09:00–12:00	**Morning paddling sessions + full-day trips**	See the session programme
12:00–13:00	**Lunch**	Camp / session venues
13:00–16:00	**Afternoon paddling sessions + full-day trips**	See the session programme
16:30–16:45	**Waihi Surf Fest talk**	Camp communal room
16:45–17:45	**KASK AGM**	Camp communal room
17:45–19:30	**Silent auction bidding opens until the end of dinner**	Camp communal area
18:30–19:30	**Dinner**	Camp communal area
19:30–20:00	**Silent auction results & photo awards**	Camp communal room
20:00–20:30	**Keynote speaker (TBC)**	Camp communal room

Sunday 21 February
INFORMAL PADDLING · NO ORGANISED SESSIONS

Morning	**Informal paddling with fellow participants**	Self-organised — no scheduled coaching sessions

Sunday: No organised coaching sessions are scheduled. You're welcome to arrange an informal paddle with other participants.

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Friday sessions

Develop your skills · Friday 19 February

18–21 February 2027 | Sea kayaking · Skills · Surf · Journeys

Morning 09:00–12:00

Efficient forward paddling
L1–2 — 8 MAX
Nick Howard
Papahua harbour

Wind, trim & control
L2 — 8 MAX
Dan O'Connor
Inner harbour

Capsize confidence & assisted re-entry
L1–2 — 8 MAX
Deb Volturno
Papahua harbour

Edging & linked strokes
L2 — 8 MAX
Amber Champion
Inner harbour

Surf: first steps
L2–3 SURF — 6 MAX
Ben Brown
Ngarunui Beach

Surf progression
L3–4 SURF — 6 MAX
Jamie Sharp
Ngarunui Beach

Group leadership & decisions
L3 — 6 MAX
Caoimhin Arden
Inner harbour

Precision boat control
L1–2 — 8 MAX
Caoimhe O'Connor
Inner harbour

Rolling: foundations
L1–2 — 8 MAX
Rachel Kehoe
Papahua harbour

Boat confidence: relaxed handling
L1–2 — 8 MAX
Barry Shaw
Papahua / sheltered inner harbour

Afternoon 13:00–16:00

Support strokes & bracing confidence
L1–2 — 8 MAX
Nick Howard
Inner harbour

Paddling in wind & chop
L2 — 8 MAX
Dan O'Connor
Inner harbour

Introduction to gentle surf
L2 SURF — 8 MAX
Deb Volturno
Ngarunui Beach

Rescue workshop: from swim to safety
L2 — 8 MAX
Amber Champion
Papahua / inner harbour

Te Akau limestone rock skills
L2–3 — 6 MAX
Ben Brown
Te Akau limestone coast

Surf tactics & wave selection
L3–4 SURF — 6 MAX
Jamie Sharp
Ngarunui Beach

Towing & incident scenarios
L3 — 6 MAX
Caoimhin Arden
Inner harbour (deep water)

Greenland strokes discovery
L1–3 — 8 MAX
Caoimhe O'Connor
Inner harbour

Rolling progression & confidence
L2–3 — 6 MAX
Rachel Kehoe
Papahua harbour

Forward paddling: comfort & efficiency
L1–2 — 8 MAX
Barry Shaw
Inner harbour (deep-water site)

Surf sessions take place at **Ngarunui Beach** when conditions permit. All session locations and maximum group sizes are subject to the event's safety plan.

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Friday session guide

KayakFest 2027 | 18–21 February 2027

SESSION / INSTRUCTOR	WHAT YOU'LL DO	LEVEL
MORNING		09:00–12:00
Efficient forward paddling Nick Howard	Discover how small improvements to your technique can make paddling more comfortable, efficient and less tiring over longer distances.	L1–2
Wind, trim & control Dan O'Connor	Learn how wind affects your kayak and explore practical techniques for maintaining control and paddling in the direction you want to go.	L2
Capsize confidence & assisted re-entry Deb Volturno	Build confidence in the water and practise safe, effective ways to help yourself and others get back into a kayak after a capsize.	L1–2
Edging & linked strokes Amber Champion	Develop smoother, more precise kayak handling by combining edging with different strokes to turn and manoeuvre your kayak effectively.	L2
Surf: first steps Ben Brown	An introduction to kayak surfing, covering wave selection, launching, landing and catching waves while developing control and confidence.	L2–3
Surf progression Jamie Sharp	Take your surfing further by refining wave selection, positioning, manoeuvres and boat control in more challenging surf conditions.	L3–4
Group leadership & decisions Caoimhin Arden	Explore how to make good decisions, manage different abilities and keep a group safe and moving effectively on the water.	L3
Precision boat control Caoimhe O'Connor	Improve your ability to manoeuvre your kayak accurately through fun exercises that develop edging, balance and effective stroke combinations.	L1–2
Rolling: foundations Rachel Kehoe	Learn the building blocks of an effective kayak roll, including body position, technique and supported practice in a relaxed environment.	L1–2
Boat confidence: relaxed handling Barry Shaw	A supportive session to build confidence and develop essential boat-handling skills at a comfortable pace.	L1–2
AFTERNOON		13:00–16:00
Support strokes & bracing confidence Nick Howard	Develop reliable support strokes and bracing techniques to improve your balance, stability and confidence when your kayak feels unstable.	L1–2
Paddling in wind & chop Dan O'Connor	Put your boat-handling skills into practice in wind and small waves, developing techniques to maintain control and paddle comfortably.	L2
Introduction to gentle surf Deb Volturno	Experience the fun of surfing small waves in a supportive environment, learning basic wave-catching techniques and safe launching and landing.	L2
Rescue workshop: from swim to safety Amber Champion	Practise a range of assisted rescues, focusing on getting a swimmer safely back into their kayak in realistic situations.	L2
Te Akau limestone rock skills Ben Brown	Weather permitting, head outside Raglan Harbour for rock skills and precise boat control; otherwise, practise these techniques at suitable locations inside the harbour.	L2–3
Surf tactics & wave selection Jamie Sharp	Improve your ability to read waves, choose the best opportunities and position your kayak for more controlled and successful surfing.	L3–4
Towing & incident scenarios Caoimhin Arden	Develop practical towing skills and work through realistic scenarios involving group management, communication and problem-solving on the water.	L3
Greenland strokes discovery Caoimhe O'Connor	Explore traditional Greenland paddling techniques and discover how different strokes can improve balance, control and efficient movement.	L1–3
Rolling progression & confidence Rachel Kehoe	Build on your existing rolling skills with individual coaching to improve technique, consistency and confidence.	L2–3
Forward paddling: comfort & efficiency Barry Shaw	Refine your forward paddling technique to reduce fatigue, improve comfort and make your time on the water more enjoyable.	L1–2

Session content and locations may change with weather, tides and sea conditions.

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Saturday sessions

Put it into practice · Saturday 20 February

18–21 February 2027 | Sea kayaking · Skills · Surf · Journeys

Full-day adventures

09:00–16:00 · One booking covers both morning and afternoon

Harbour journey
L1–2 — 12 MAX
Nick Howard
Papahua / inner harbour

Advanced surf safari
L3–4 SURF — 6 MAX
Jamie Sharp
Ngarunui Beach

Navigation-led coastal journey
L2–3 — 6 MAX
Caoimhin Arden
Te Akau harbour coastline

Morning

09:00–12:00

Tide, weather & route options
L2–3 — 6 MAX
Dan O'Connor
Harbour / shore

Women on the water
L1–2 — 8 MAX
Deb Volturno
Inner harbour

Greenland paddling & balance
L1–3 — 8 MAX
Amber Champion
Papahua / inner harbour

Limestone & moving-water strokes
L3 — 6 MAX
Ben Brown
Te Akau limestone coast

Step-up harbour journey
L2 — 12 MAX
Caoimhe O'Connor
Inner harbour / Te Akau

Rolling confidence clinic
L1–3 — 8 MAX
Rachel Kehoe
Papahua harbour

Relaxed harbour journey: the next step
L1–2 — 12 MAX
Barry Shaw
Inner harbour / Te Akau (route TBC)

Afternoon

13:00–16:00

Group incident management
L3 — 6 MAX
Dan O'Connor
Inner harbour

Introductory surf repeat
L2 SURF — 8 MAX
Deb Volturno
Ngarunui Beach

Rescue toolkit
L2–3 — 6 MAX
Amber Champion
Inner harbour

Surf launches & rescue decisions
L3 SURF — 6 MAX
Ben Brown
Ngarunui Beach

Precision kayak games
L1–2 — 8 MAX
Caoimhe O'Connor
Inner harbour

Rolling progressions & rescues
L2–3 — 6 MAX
Rachel Kehoe
Papahua harbour

Rescues at your own pace
L1–2 — 8 MAX
Barry Shaw
Inner harbour (deep-water site)

Surf sessions take place at **Ngarunui Beach** when conditions permit. Full-day journeys and surf safari also count towards the group limits in both half-day blocks.

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Saturday session guide

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SESSION / INSTRUCTOR	WHAT YOU'LL DO	LEVEL
FULL-DAY ADVENTURES		09:00–16:00
Harbour journey Nick Howard	Enjoy a full day exploring Raglan Harbour, practising group paddling skills and developing confidence on a relaxed, supported journey.	L1–2
Advanced surf safari Jamie Sharp	Spend the day developing your surfing in suitable conditions, exploring wave selection, positioning, manoeuvres and advanced boat control.	L3–4
Navigation-led coastal journey Caoimhin Arden	Plan and navigate a coastal journey as a group, putting route planning, leadership and decision-making skills into practice.	L2–3
MORNING		09:00–12:00
Tide, weather & route options Dan O'Connor	Learn how to interpret tides and weather forecasts, assess different routes and make informed decisions when planning sea kayaking trips.	L2–3
Women on the water Deb Volturno	A supportive women-only session focused on developing paddling skills, building confidence and learning together in a relaxed environment.	L1–2
Greenland paddling & balance Amber Champion	Explore traditional Greenland paddling techniques, with a focus on balance, body movement and developing a closer connection with your kayak.	L1–3
Limestone & moving-water strokes Ben Brown	Develop precise strokes and boat control while learning to use moving water and natural coastal features to your advantage.	L3
Step-up harbour journey Caoimhe O'Connor	Take your paddling a little further on a supported journey, developing confidence, practical skills and experience beyond sheltered water.	L2
Rolling confidence clinic Rachel Kehoe	Work on your individual rolling goals with supportive coaching, whether you're learning your first roll or improving an existing one.	L1–3
Relaxed harbour journey: the next step Barry Shaw	Enjoy an unhurried harbour journey with plenty of support and opportunities to build confidence in your paddling and group skills.	L1–2
AFTERNOON		13:00–16:00
Group incident management Dan O'Connor	Work through practical scenarios involving unexpected problems on the water, developing communication, leadership and effective incident-management skills.	L3
Introductory surf repeat Deb Volturno	Another opportunity to experience kayak surfing in smaller waves, learning basic wave-catching techniques and safe launching and landing.	L2
Rescue toolkit Amber Champion	Expand your range of rescue techniques and learn how to adapt your approach to different situations, paddlers and conditions.	L2–3
Surf launches & rescue decisions Ben Brown	Develop more confident surf launches and landings while exploring how to manage incidents and make safe decisions in the surf zone.	L3
Precision kayak games Caoimhe O'Connor	Improve your edging, balance and boat control through fun challenges and games that put your paddling skills to the test.	L1–2
Rolling progressions & rescues Rachel Kehoe	Develop your rolling skills further and explore how rolling and rescue techniques can work together when things don't go to plan.	L2–3
Rescues at your own pace Barry Shaw	Build confidence in assisted rescues through relaxed, supportive practice, with plenty of opportunities to develop your technique.	L1–2

Session content and locations may change with weather, tides and sea conditions.