

AGM

Chairperson Report

I am filling in for the outgoing Chairperson as Russell has the only excuse that would be acceptable to miss the AGM, he is paddling in Norway.

So, I will do my best to give you all an overview of what the last year has held.

History

The Yakity Yak Kayak Club was started around 1989 so has now been going for nearly 30 years and during that time it has had approximately 10000 members.

The club's operation has always been made possible only through the tireless efforts of the leaders and Club Captains putting in the effort and direction at a local level to allow members to head out adventuring.

The clubs pre-enrolment course for new members has stood the club in good stead as it has reduced the incidents of lack of skill or knowledge causing sticky situations on trips. When these situations happen, they suck the energy from organisers as they continuously deal with yet another tow or must turn back as a new member is incapable of meeting the objective of the planned trip.

An integral part of our safety is the Safety Management System run by the club. Well trained Leaders and members using this system and culminating in the use of a Trip Management Plan reduces the chance of incidents and accidents. If one does happen the system and the training gives the team the best chance of dealing with it so there is a happy ending for all.

In the last year, the club has had many trips reaching all corners of New Zealand and the world. Many of these are becoming regular trips that are looked forward to each year by the members.

Some of the challenges the club have met over the last year are communications, staffing (the Managers role), having enough time to instigate plans and probably above all a continuing degradation of the waterways we use through pollution and urbanisation of coastal land and camp sites.

This last area I believe is one that KASK, Sea Kayaking Clubs of New Zealand and the Yakity Yak Club needs to take a leaf out of Rivers NZ and the White Water Clubs who for years have fought for the protection of rivers from damming and restricted access through the courts with great success.

It would be fair to say the Board had great plans for last year and while they have been able to keep the WAKA moving forward there are many initiatives that they have not had the time or resources to get them going to the level wished for.

This will be the challenge for the next board to pick up some of these things, discard some and come up with some new plans and then try to ensure as many of the plans can be completed.

Club Captains and members will be an integral part of this process with their ideas and efforts to ensure that the agreed plan is a winner and makes the difference at all levels of the club that we all want.

So a huge thank you to all the Leaders for getting out there and giving so many great opportunities for members to explore the great paddling our little islands and the planet have to offer.

Massive thanks also, to the club captains for their efforts administering the system and encouraging the members and leaders to be as active as they can be.

And finally, a big thanks to our fellow board members for their efforts over the year. Special thanks to departing Board Members Ruth, Lorraine and Shaun for their efforts over their term and to Russell for steering us as Chairman.

To the new Board coming in, thanks for putting your name in the ring to help, as it is only through the efforts of the Board, Club Captains and Leaders that the club will continue to grow and give so many great opportunities to all of our members.

Cheers Peter Townend

Standing in for the Chairman