

Hawkesbury River Kayaks - Briefing Notes

- **Features of Kayaks and Paddles, inc on board safety kit**
Single or double plastic kayak, storage fore and aft. Built in buoyancy so kayak cannot sink if capsized. Foot operated rudder. Tough plastic but avoid rocks and oyster shells.
- **PFD Fitment**
To be worn at all times on the water. Slip on like a waistcoat and zip/buckle tight
- **Rudder Use**
Adjust foot pedals before launching. Lower rudder once kayak has reached deeper water by pulling chord on right hand of cockpit. Raise rudder before landing. To turn right, press right foot pedal, left with left foot pedal. Rudder will assist with turning but turning circle is wide.
- **Map and Locality limits, suggested places to visit, suggested times**
Map is provided with each boat, do not roam beyond areas shown on map. Dead Horse Bay (10 mins), Sandy Bay (20 mins), Dangar Island (20 mins), The Tanks (30 mins), Gunya Beach (45 mins) are nearest beaches/walking areas. Further afield, suggested areas are:..... (all times approx., depending on tide, wind etc)
- **Weather, tide – BOM app, website etc**
Today's forecast is..... BOM website is www.bom.gov.au, select Sydney weather or Central Coast. Today's high tide is low tide is..... Tides at www.tides.willyweather.com.au select Hawkesbury River Dangar Island
- **Clothing**
Even on a cloudy day sunburn can occur, especially on the river. Always wear a hat and use sunscreen. Wear clothes suitable for the expected weather.
- **Phone numbers on Map**
HRK – 0448 847784
Police - 9476 9799
Marine Rescue - **9450 2468 or 000**
- **Procedures for assistance**
In first instance, beckon nearest boat/kayak for assistance. HRK has a motor boat but will take at least 30 mins to launch from notification

- **Procedures for grounding**
Some areas can be above river level at low tide. If water is shallow, turn around and head to deeper water.
- **Procedures for capsizing**
Don't panic. Kayak will not sink and life jacket will keep you afloat. If close to shore, swim with kayak to beach/land. If in deeper water, use fellow kayaker to tow you and capsized kayak to shore. It is possible to upturn a capsized kayak and bail with hands and sponge. You can use fellow kayaker as raft.
- **Procedures for anticipated late return**
Call HRK and advise of likely return time, and if possible your current location on map.
- **Expected time of return**
Advise your likely trip itinerary and expected return time.
- **Waiver form, deposit and payment terms**
Deposit \$100 per boat, payable in advance. All hire costs payable in advance.