

## 🌊 Surf Sirenz 2026 🌞

- What:** Waihi Kayak Surf Fest - Including 🌊 Surf Sirenz women's surf training and other co-ed training.
- Where:** Waihi Surf Lifesaving Club, Waihi Beach
- When:** 22-26 April 2026 - 🌊 Surf Sirenz training 22-24 April
- Why:** Develop kayaking surf skills, increase knowledge, and build community.

### **About the Training:**

Intro to Surf Zone: Negotiating the surf zone from beginner and beyond.

Individualized training developing kayaking surf zone skills, knowledge, and safety.

**\*\*Meeting Weds at 4pm, all day training on Thurs, Surf Mentoring on Fri morning.**

Intro to Rock Gardening: \*\*If there is interest and conditions allow on Fri Morning TBD

### **Cost:**

🌊 Surf Training: \$190; paid in advance to NZ Bank Acct.

🌊 Intro to Rock Gardening: \$100

**Waihi Kayak Surf Fest:** The *Waihi Surf Fest* that has been held and evolving over several years. It's always fun! Shaun Maclaren is the organizer and adds to the program every year. It's always focused on surf skills development and building community. This year a kayak surf contest is being added. The dates are 22 - 26 April Wednesday to Sunday, and based at the Waihi Surf Club(!).

**About 🌊 Surf Sirens:** 🌊 Surf Sirens was launched in Washington, USA in 2016 to introduce more women to the surf zone, develop solid skills in the surf, build confidence, and grow community. Whether the goal is to negotiate the surf safely, or develop skills to surf and play in the surf, 🌊 Surf Sirens is the place to start for a lot of women. The supportive culture has grown over the years, and participants have become an integral part of taking ownership of the "gathering of the tribe" each year. Each September there is a gathering of 🌊 Surf Sirens in the Pacific Northwest, USA to connect, train, and to share the stoke. Founding member Deb Volturno, who introduced 🌊 Surf Sirens to NZ in 2024 will be leading the event again in NZ in April 2026 at Waihi Beach along with an awesome team of women instructors.

🌊 **Vision:** The 🌊 Surf Sirenz instructional team will collaborate to bring top instruction to WOWSK to introduce and develop surf zone kayak skills and safety, build a supportive culture around confidence in dynamic water - and of course, have FUN in the process. The intention is meant to be inclusive and to build community.

🌊 **Training Numbers:** 20 🌊 Students - 2 Groups of 10; 2 Lead Instructors; 2 Assisting Instructors; 2 or more "safety officers". Rock Gardening training, *if offered*, will be limited to 10 students and 2 instructors and assistants.

### 🌊 **Instructional Crew:**

(Bios included in Waihi Surf Fest website and WOWSK website.)

~~Lead instructors: Deb Volturno and Kiley Dyke

~~Assisting Instructors: Caitlin Gillespie and Louisa Müller

~~Safety Safety Support: TBD

**Other Surf Training:** There will be another co-ed surf training offered during the same time by Caoimhin Ardren from Australia, and his assistant.

 **Training Outcomes:** Students will be introduced to the surf zone, develop surf zone kayaking skills, progress as ability allows and aligned with personal goals.

 **Training Overview:**  Instructors will be coaching an 'Introduction to Surf Zone' and beyond. Individualized instruction will be based on the participant's skill level, and their desired goals in the surf. The training will inherently be embedded with safety, awareness, reading the water, decision-making processes - and having as much fun as possible, because that's why we do it.

Most participants will be in a variety of sea kayaks, but hoping for some short kayaks as well. We should have a couple of SOT surf specific Kaos kayaks available, and whitewater kayaks are encouraged.

 **Prerequisites:**

(While this training is suitable for beginners the following prerequisites are essential.)

*\*Paddle kayak in a straight line forward and backward; \*Wet-Exit experience; \*Self and Assisted Rescue experience; \*Physical endurance for about 4-5 hours of active training, with intermittent beach discussions - and with breaks, of course :)*

 **Gear:** PFD, HELMET (bike helmet ok), Kayak, Paddle, Skirt (if not a SOT), SOT only with \*thigh straps - required\*, Footwear that won't come off in the surf, High energy snacks and hydrating liquid IF there is an Intro to Rock Garden training: ADD - Spare paddle, Short tow-line, Paddle Float, Pump, and covering for arms and legs.

**Seriously consider:** extra warm clothing, tights, wind-breaker jacket/paddle jacket, warm hat, sunscreen, sunglasses w/restraining device, gloves for sun protection.

 **Lunch:** Bring lunch, hydrating liquid, high energy snacks (like dark chocolate!)

**\*\*Note:** Most limiting factor in Surf Training at Waihi is Hypothermia because of wind. Hypothermia is easy to prevent by having extra warm **wind-resistant clothing** available. Also a plastic sheet or tarp to wrap in on the beach is invaluable.

If you have any questions please contact Deb: [tortugatrek@gmail.com](mailto:tortugatrek@gmail.com)

Hope to see you at  Surf Sirenz 2026!