

New Zealand Canoeing

Summer 1997

Editorial

Welcome to the new New Zealand Canoeing, the official newsletter of the NZRCA. Who's that you may ask? Well, there's been a few changes in the national kayaking scene over the last few years; as well as more and more people taking up the sport, and as well as recreational paddlers pushing the limits on more and more challenging rivers, the national associations to represent kayakers interests' have been reorganising.

One outcome of all the changes is that the New Zealand Canoe Association no longer exists, and a successor organisation (the New Zealand Recreational Canoe Association) has been formed. Following the final NZCA AGM, the NZRCA Executive got together for a strategic planning session and formulated the NZRCA purpose as follows *"Our purpose is to preserve New Zealand's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely."*

We hope that recreational kayakers throughout New Zealand will endorse the mission of the NZRCA and support the new organisation. The association is there to represent you, whether it's through liaison with DoC, the Water Safety Council, Regional Councils or ECNZ. If you have ideas about what needs to be done, or (even better) if you are able to participate and make things happen, please get in touch.

In the meantime, enjoy the newsletter, and have a great summer on the water. May all your dreams be wet!

— Jonathan



1997 Canoeist of the Year Graham Charles, surfing in the Buller Rodeo. Full story, p3.
Photo: Jonathan Hunt.

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About NZ Canoeing

New Zealand Canoeing is the official newsletter of the New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association. NZ Canoeing is published quarterly and distributed free to over 1,000 members of the NZRCA throughout New Zealand/Aotearoa.

The views expressed in Canoeing New Zealand are those of the individual authors. They do not necessarily represent those of the Executive of the New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association Inc.

NZ Canoeing welcomes advertising from commercial organisations associated with recreational canoeing. Please contact us for our advertising rates, and find out how to show your products and services to kayakers around NZ.

Contributions of articles, trip reports, classified advertisements, and letters for publication are gratefully received.

Please send items to:
The Editor
New Zealand Canoeing
2 Kruse Place
Christchurch 5
Ph/Fax: 03 352 5786
kayaks@extra.co.nz

or

Jonathan Hunt
jonhunt@extra.co.nz

The deadline for material for the next newsletter is 1 March 1998.

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Executive & Officers of the NZRCA

as at 27 November 1997

Patron

Hugh Canard

President

Paul Macey
Flat 1 / 328 Bealey Avenue
Christchurch
Ph: 03 379 2276 (hm),
03 379 5117 (wk)
childhealth@extra.co.nz
(Subject: "Paul")

Vice-President

Colin Leitch
162 Hospital Road
Blenheim
Ph: 03 578 2732

Conservation

Maree Baker
52 Irvine Road
The Cove, R.D. 2
Dunedin
Ph: 03 454 3249
muzzieb@hotmail.com

While Muzz is shredding the slopes in the USA, Andy Hollings and Adrienne Jones will coordinate the conservation portfolio in the North Island and South Island respectively:

Conservation (North)

Andy Hollings
Kupe Canoe Club
c/- 23 Moir Street
Mt Victoria
Wellington
Ph: 04 385 2609
andyholl@extra.co.nz

Conservation (South)

Adrienne Jones
9 Mayfield Avenue
Dunedin
Ph: 03 476 7595
Fax: 03 477 6050
adrienne.jones@clear.net.nz

Access

Mike Savory
17 Zetland Street
Highbury
Wellington
Ph: 04 475 9702 (hm),
04 802 9022 (wk)
Fax: 04 384 9326
msavory@actrix.gen.nz

Safety

Robin Baumann
285 Fitzgerald Avenue
Christchurch
Ph: 03 374 5242 (hm),
03 355 9189 (wk)
Fax: 03 355 9123

Education

Janette Kear
2 Kruse Place
Christchurch 5
Ph/Fax: 03 352 5786
kayaks@extra.co.nz

Treasurer

Fiona Mackay
124 Main South Road
Christchurch 4
Ph/Fax: 03 348 3440

Communications

Jonathan Hunt
PO Box 1062
Christchurch 8015
Ph: 03 353 3466
Fax: 03 365 5299
jonhunt@extra.co.nz

Administration

Janette Kear (see above)

Wanted...

The NZRCA needs a new Safety Officer. This volunteer role involves setting safety policy and distributing safety information. If you're keen to be involved, please contact the NZRCA!

New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association Inc.

Our purpose is to preserve New Zealand's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

Conservation

preserve NZ's rivers and lakes

- Maintain national river database
- Monitor threats to resources
- Provide information on river conservation
- Technical advice to local groups
- Work with government agencies, iwi and other river users
- Initiate or support legal action

Access

ensure public access

- Ensure public access to whitewater rivers
- Preserve rights of public passage on waterways
- Negotiate recreational releases with dam operators
- Collect data on river usage
- Support local access initiative

Safety

promote safe, enjoyable canoeing

- Facilitate the provision of independent advice
- Maintain incident database
- Maintain uniform national grading system
- Publish and promote safety code
- Maintain kayak river safety and competency syllabi and approve course providers

Education

foster the kayaking community

- Publish information on rivers, safety, techniques and equipment through a regular newsletter and web site
- Provide information on and liaison with clubs and education providers
- Preserve NZ's canoeing heritage
- Award canoeist of the year
- Fundraising
- Kayak tests
- River racing certificate

Logo competition!

The NZRCA needs a logo; one that represents whitewater kayaking in New Zealand / Aotearoa. The logo will become the property of the NZRCA, and needs to be limited to black, white and blue colours. Send your entries to the NZRCA by 1 February 1998. The logos will be judged by the NZRCA Executive. Every entry will win a mystery prize (limit - one prize per person), so don't forget your name and address!

News

NZCA becomes NZRCA

At the August Annual General Meeting for the NZCA the name change to New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association was approved. It was felt that the new name would better represent the focus of the new organisation now that the NZ Canoe Federation and associations for other canoe disciplines are established.

The President's report to the AGM is on page 9.

1997 Canoeist of the Year

Graham Charles, author of an outstanding guide to New Zealand's best whitewater rivers, has been voted the 1997 Canoeist of the Year. The award was made at the AGM of the New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association in Christchurch on 23 August 1997.

Graham, who is regarded as something of a role model by many New Zealand canoeists, has had a long involvement with canoesport, including representing New Zealand in slalom, and competing to a high level in the Coast-to-Coast. He has also been involved for years in promoting safety and conservation issues, as well as being one of the top kayak instructors in New Zealand.

Paul Macey, the association President, said "Graham inspires people to get out and paddle rivers in a safe and responsible manner, which is the essence of the message of the new recreational association."

[On behalf of NZ Canoeing I'd like to congratulate Graham on his award and a copy of this newsletter will be winging its way to him soon. Hope the summer on Ice is going well dude! —Ed.]

Kiwis impress at Ottawa rodeo

Thirteen keen kiwi paddlers attended the Fourth World Whitewater Rodeo Champs on the Ottawa river in Canada recently. Over the three days of the competition the New Zealanders excelled under the intense competitive pressures and came up with some solid world-class performances. Kiwi Ken Mutton came third behind Ken Whiting from Canada and 1993 world champion Eric Jackson from the USA. Boy-wonder Mike Abbott came 16th and Richard ("inflatable") Sage came in at 22nd. Nikki Kelly scored 8th in the Women's final. Other kiwis to compete included Mark Eames (27th), Donald Calder (32nd), Donald Johnstone (36th), Blair Bowker (39th), Simon Stevens (50th), Andrew O'Connell (67th), Phil McIntyre (69th) in the Men's K1, Maria Noakes (22nd) in the Women's K1 and Paul Eames (12th) in Men's C1.

Thanks to Don Calder for the update.

Paddling magazine launched

Auckland paddler Richard Nu'u was frustrated by the lack of public information regarding the overall canoe and kayak scene and has started his own magazine. Issue one of "NZ Paddler" hit the newsstands this Spring, and issue two is due out soon. The colourful magazine covers all types of paddlesport, and includes a Dave Nelson article about an epic trip on the Mangorewa river. Contact NZ Paddler Magazine at PO Box 90286, Auckland Mail Centre, Auckland or fax Richard on 09 527 8956.

Tekapo / Pukaki dates agreed

The Canterbury Regional Council, ECNZ Southern Generation and the New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association have agreed the release dates and flows for the Pukaki and Tekapo rivers for next summer. Refer to the Calendar on page 10 for details.

Huka Falls to feature in race

In a dramatic sign of the 'progress' in NZ kayaking, race organiser Andy Uhl has revealed that an extreme whitewater race series will involve the Wairoa, Kaituna and Waikato rivers. The Waikato section will be over the mighty Huka Falls on 26 January 1998. The plan is for ECNZ to maintain a 50cu flow for the duration of the event. Between 10 and 20 kayakers are expected to participate - good luck people, and keep those cameras rolling!

(Excerpted from Sunday Star-Times, November 30, 1997.)

NZ to host champs

In a major coup, New Zealand has been selected to host the 1999 World Whitewater Rodeo Championships. They will be held at Ngaawaparua in December 1999. More details will follow in the next NZ Canoeing.

Tekapo Whitewater Trust Report to NZCA/NZRCA AGM

Ian Russell, August 1997

NZRCA Trustee

Tekapo White Water Trust

The Tekapo White Water Trust was formed in March 1992 to manage the funds received by the NZCA from Electricorp pursuant to an agreement in relation to water rights made in 1990 between ECNZ and NZCA. The Trust is responsible for the planning, design and construction of facilities in the Tekapo river bed in order to upgrade that river to provide whitewater recreation for touring, downriver racing, and slalom by increasing the grade and diversity of white water features.

In the last five years progress has been slow but steady. We have seen three project managers come and go but I am very happy to report that the Trust has reached provisional agreement with a major contractor for the construction of the course.

After construction planning details are completed, we hope to start construction on site in October 1997 with the first flow tests likely to be in November/December 1997.*

Attached to this report is this season's flow dates of the Tekapo and Pukaki rivers as agreed between NZCA and ECNZ. (Refer Calendar on page 10)

The Tekapo White Water Trust may wish to modify the release flows in the Tekapo river in November /December 1997 to test and commission the new dam, weir and slalom course. This may include flows exceeding 60 cumecs but such modifications will be subject to NZRCA and ECNZ approval and will be requested closer to the time. ECNZ may also approve additional flows for testing the new structures.

Some history

The Trust commissioned Proper Channels Ltd., England to provide a feasibility study for different options in October 1993. They concluded that a world class artificial slalom course could be constructed on the Tekapo and be a major attraction to the region. They further concluded that a high quality course would be difficult to envisage within the bed of the existing horseshoe bend rapid and that the cheapest and most technically viable option was to excavate a new channel 680m long joining the two ends of the horseshoe. This would give an average gradient of 1:68 and with a flow of 60 cumecs, and has the potential of being the finest in the world.

In November 1993 the Trust considered six options for development as detailed by the project manager and chose option B2 which excavates a new channel along an old river channel as the preferred option.

The original option from Proper Channels was costed out to be far beyond our budget and would involve excavating 190,000 cubic metres of material. Option B2 involves excavation of only 18,000 cubic metres of material with an estimated length of 450 metres, and head of 7 metres giving an average gradient of 1:64.

In December 1993 Royds Garden Consulting Engineers were asked to quote for a feasibility study and design using option B2 and were asked to commence work in January 1994.

In late January 1994 a Royds pre-feasibility study estimated the total costs to be around \$600,000 which was clearly well beyond our budget and they were asked to provide a much reduced option. After further work from Jens, Eric and Royds, a new estimate of \$415,500 was reached in February 1994. This estimate allowed for a 650m long

course with an average gradient of 1:76 and 8.5 metre head.

The trust felt that this estimate was still above the desired result and Royds was asked to redesign for something that cost less. After much design and redesign, options were considered (especially for the weir and intake structures) and the final design was agreed in September 1996. This design was put out for tender but the best price was still \$44,000 short of the funds available. By August 1997 the shortfall had significantly reduced to \$10,000 which we hope soon to cover with further funding.

Basic course information

- 450m Slalom Course
- Intake Structure and Play Wave
- Max 60 cumec course design flow
- Flip Gate Weir Structure

Finally I would like to welcome all paddlers to the Tekapo river and to be actively involved in making the Tekapo White Water Canoe Course *the* place to be.

A Location Plan and Course Plan for the proposed site are displayed on Pages 6 and 7 over the page.

[*Ian tells me that in the light of the Opuha dam collapse, Royds have chosen to review their costs for the Tekapo Slalom site. At this time we are still awaiting a response from ECNZ regarding the funding of the project.— Ed.]

For sale

"White Water Nepal"

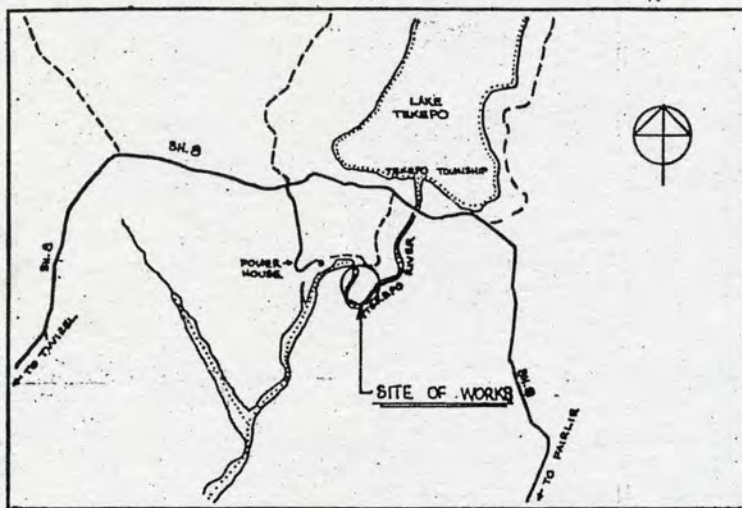
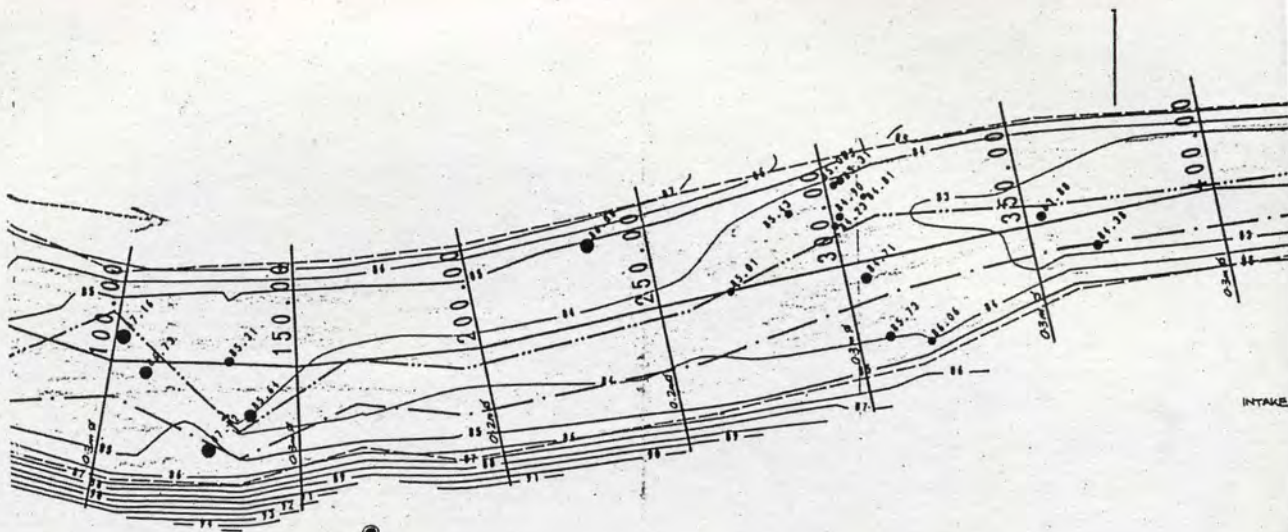
"Authoritative and inspiring - a fascinating guidebook that opens the doors to the exhilarating world of Himalayan River Running".

"A rivers guidebook for rafting and kayaking by Peter Knowles and Dave Allardice. \$32 including postage. Paper back, b&w piccys, 280 pages of information on multi-day river trips, over 2000km of river descriptions, 60 maps, river profiles and hydrographs", plus helpful advice for first-time travellers to Nepal. "Half the trips in this book are easy with over 800km of grade 1 to 3"... the rest... @#\$!." Warm water and white beaches, semi-tropical climate, wilderness float trips, spectacular mountain scenery, world-class whitewater..."

Cheques for \$32 (plus your name and address) to Tracey Wemyss, 27 The Crescent, Roseneath, Wellington or phone 04 382 8574 (hm).

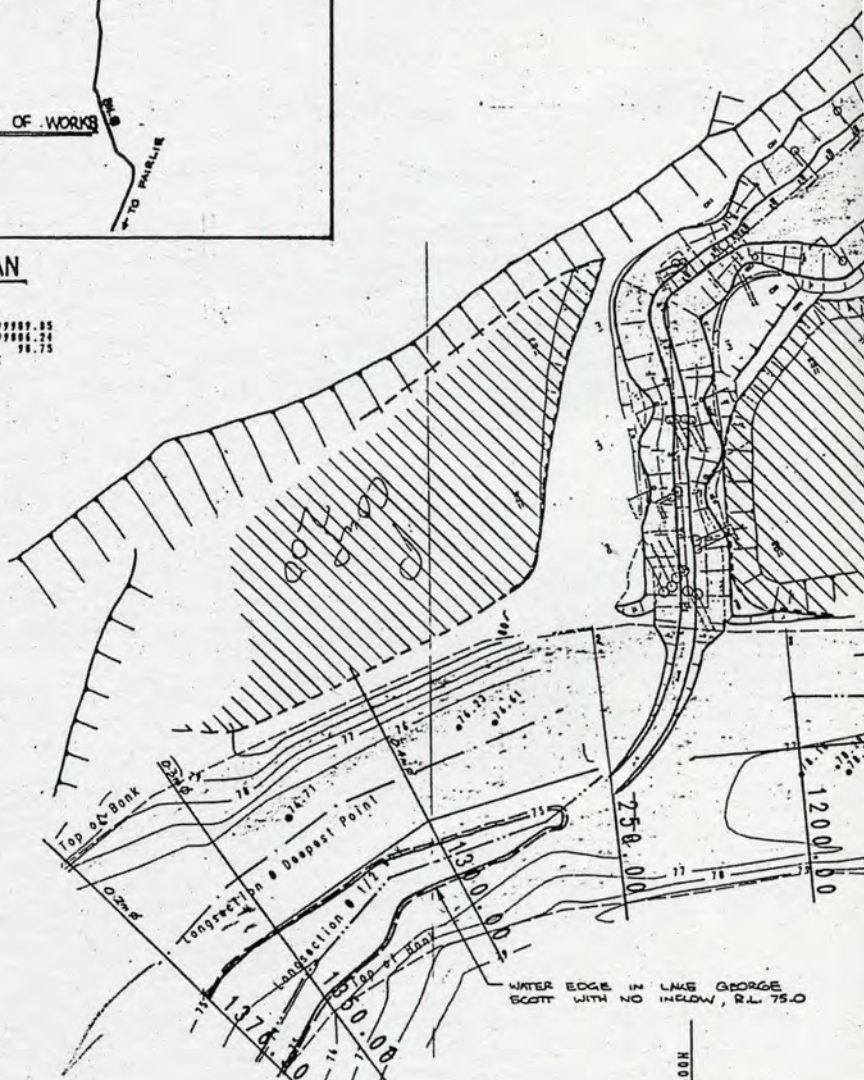
Free Classified Ads

NZRCA members are welcome to place free classified-style advertisements in NZ Canoeing. Want to buy or sell gear? Send ads to the Editor.

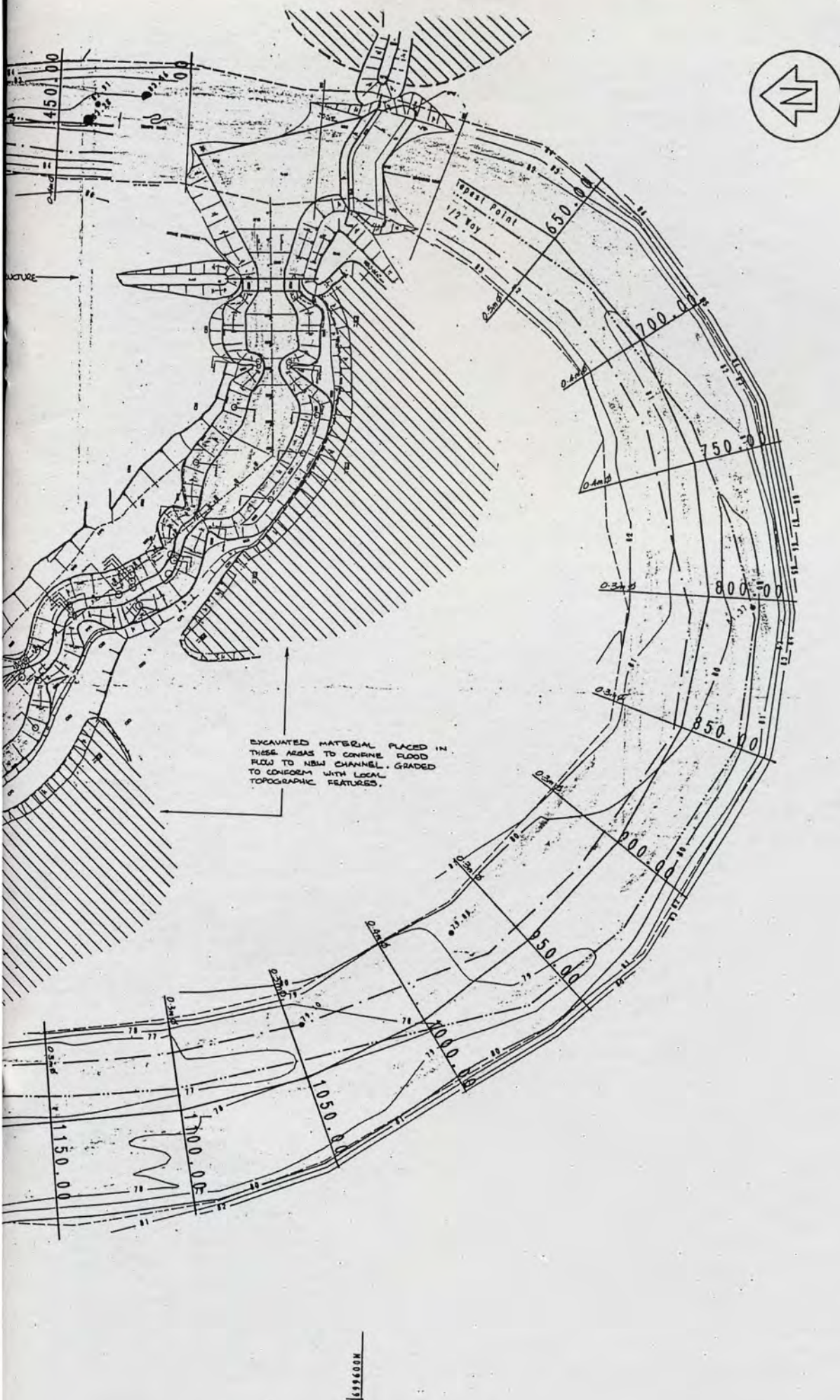


LOCATION PLAN
SCALE 1:63,540

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WATER EDGE IN LAKE GEORGE
SCOTT WITH NO INFLOW, R.L. 75.0



Conservation

Maree Baker

Clarence and Hurunui

Our main focus at the moment are still the potential threats to the Clarence and Hurunui Rivers. Due to the actions of Geoff Price and myself we now know a little more. Neither Regional Councils have been informed of any applications for resource consents over either river, and both power companies have confirmed that their investigations are at very preliminary stages. This means that we have a decent amount of time to start reacting to these threats. This will involve ensuring that the Regional Plans adequately reflect the very high recreational value that these rivers have, and if the opportunity and need arises, initiating or helping initiate an application for a Water Conservation Order.

If you are interested in more information or have any suggestions please get in contact either with Adrienne Jones, email: adrienne.jones@clear.net.nz or Geoff Price, WhiteWater Canoe Club, PO Box 4476, Christchurch, email: geoff.price@xtra.co.nz

The Conservation Officer is disappearing for a while

I thought it was time I did some serious research into how best to conserve rivers. Yes, no more fooling around researching in law libraries. I'm off to where the world leaders are. I'm off to America! And of course, my prime motivation in going is to learn all about how the American Whitewater Association go about conserving all their rivers... honestly. Oh yes I may get a bit of skiing and boating done while I'm there but seriously, my intentions are most honourable.

No seriously folks, I'm out of the country for the next 8 months or so, working, playing and hopefully learning heaps of tricks to bring back to NZ! I have been lucky enough to

find two keen volunteers to fill my position while I am gone.

Andy Hollings will take of things in the North Island, and Adrienne Jones will take care of the South. Please feel free to direct any inquiries or warnings re conservation issues to them at the addresses on page 2.

So, please don't let the lovely conservation network die out while I'm away. Our strength lies in communication and helping each other out. Fortunately I will not be totally out of touch while I'm gone. I intend to work on some guiding NZRCA policy statements on issues affecting rivers, that should complement the work I have started below. So anyone who would like to brainstorm with me on where NZRCA should stand in relation to issues affecting rivers, I'll be at: muzzieb@hotmail.com

How to make a submission - stopping the dams before they happen

Here is my version of how to start conserving rivers in your district. It's sort of a "how to", with a few bits that you can cut and paste into your own submissions. Basically my aim in writing this is to demystify the legal/planning jargon that goes on in the Regional and District Plan worlds.

If you do not even know what Plans are all about, please get hold of the older newsletters from this year, either through your club or NZRCA, as they explain what they're all about and why its important for us to have our say. This article builds on what I've written previously, and will continue to be built on in subsequent newsletters, and should hopefully make conserving a whole lot easier for all of us!

A lot of the following material I obtained from the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society's "Stop the Bulldozers before they happen". All credit to Forest and Bird— thank you for access to this information.

Councils need to know that local people care about their environment. Despite some appearances to the contrary, they like to listen to the local people they represent. In contrast, they sometimes resent being told what to do by "suits from Wellington." Councils need to be encouraged to protect the environment by their local ratepayers, environment and community groups, as well as national organisations like DoC and Forest and Bird.

The first step - ensuring you are notified

In order for kayakers to have a say with what happens to New Zealand's rivers we first need to ensure we are fully informed as to what other people are planning to do to them. According to the lingo of the Resource Management Act this means that we are an interested or affected party and that we wish to be notified of any resource consent applications or regional and district plan changes that affect our playground.

Section 93 of the Resource Management Act assumes that in most cases parties interested in the effects of modification of the environment will be notified. s.94, however, has the potential to be misused and allows parties and councils to get away without notifying interested parties. The intention of this section originally was to provide councils with sufficient flexibility to not notify when notifying is clearly inappropriate. In practice council staff, under pressure from applicants, are using this flexibility to avoid notification as much as possible. As a result interested groups and individuals are regularly prevented from being involved in consent applications through non-notification. Section 94 was never intended to undermine public consultation in this way. The bottom line is, if the council is not notifying applications, they are limiting democracy.

So, to ensure that such misuse does not occur in each region we must make submissions on the Regional

and District Plans. Otherwise many activities that are detrimental to our kayaking resources may be underway before we are aware they are being undertaken, by which time it is too late to stop them.

Step One

Work out which activities you are prepared to let the council control without general public scrutiny. In respect of activities affecting rivers and access to rivers there are likely to be very few activities that kayakers feel OK allowing to go ahead without any input.

Step Two

Go to your local District and Regional Councils for a copy of the District and Regional Plans. These plans should spell out in detail the situations in which an application will be not be notified publicly. Where applications are not notified the criteria for deciding who will be notified as an "affected person" must be spelled out.

Step Three

Assess the policy outlined in the Plan. Does it state that certain activities that you consider impact upon rivers do not require notification? If so it is time for you to write a submission. In your submission indicate which sections you do not agree with, why it is important that they change them and how they should change them.

Here is an example of what Forest and Bird considers to be a good notification policy. Compare this to the one in your plan. You may wish to include this policy in your submission as the policy you suggest the council should adopt.

Possible policies for public notification:

"Public notification: All consent applications for discretionary and non-complying activities will be publicly notified, unless:

1. the Council is satisfied that the effects of the proposed activity will be minor; and
2. the written approval of all persons or organisations who, in the opinion of Council, may be adversely affected by the proposal, has been obtained.

For the purposes of 1. above, effects will generally not be considered minor if they are likely to involve:

- the clearance or harvesting of any area of naturally occurring native vegetation, for any purpose; or
- the discharge of any contaminant; or
- appreciable change in stormwater runoff or quality; or
- loss or modification of soil structure at any site; or
- appreciable change to any widely visible landscape; or
- appreciable change in natural, urban or rural character; or
- the use of any plant or animal species in a manner that might lead to that species becoming a pest; or
- appreciable change in pedestrian or vehicular traffic patterns; or modification of any historic site; or
- restriction of public access to any public track or road, notable landform, native forest or wetland, park or reserve, or natural waterbody.
- appreciable change in the quality and/or quantity of the water flowing down rivers.

For the purposes of 2. above, affected persons or organisations include adjoining landowners and local representatives of:

- The Department of Conservation, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and Fish and Game Council, where the proposed activity relates to an area of indigenous vegetation.
- Tangata Whenua, where a pro-

posed activity may affect their interests.

- The Historic Places Trust, where a proposed activity may affect an historic building or site.
- Any relevant designating authority.
- Local canoeing clubs and the New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association where the proposed activity may affect access to rivers and the quality and quantity of water in rivers."

Once you have made a submission to this effect the council has no excuse not to notify your club and the NZRCA when considering any activity that may affect rivers.

President's report to the New Zealand Canoeing Association Inc. AGM

Paul Macey

For the NZCA, the 1996-1997 year has been characterised by two aspects: the ongoing work in the areas of recreational canoeing and whitewater competition, and continuing administration changes.

On the conservation front, there are ongoing court cases in the North Island with both the Ngaawaparua and Kioreweku cases. Both of these have had favourable results for canoeists, but neither issue has been finalised. The Buller conservation order has not yet been gazetted, but on a positive note, the Kawareu conservation order came into effect on the 18th of April 1997. The NZCA has also contacted all regional councils and various other bodies, expressing interest in matters regarding canoeists.

In terms of other aspects of recreational canoeing, the Water Safety Council has provided funding for

projects looking at the current NZCA instruction scheme, and creating a national incidents database. As soon as suitable people to take on these projects are found, they will be started.

The administration of the NZCA has required much attention over the last twelve months. The position of Treasurer was not filled at the 96/97 AGM, and currently a replacement is working part-time to complete the last two years' accounts. As of May 1997, the New Zealand Sports' Assembly no longer performs the administration for the NZCA, and a part-time person now has that role.

For the coming year, the NZCA is focusing on communicating with clubs. At present, there is still a lot of support for a national recreational canoeing association, but clubs are unclear on exactly what the NZCA currently does, and what they get in return for their capitation fees. An Autumn newsletter was sent out earlier this year, and the aim is to send out four newsletters a year which are of interest to all club members. Another aim is to receive input as to the form of an association that is solely focussed on recreational canoeing. By June 1998, the intention is that clubs perceive the NZCA as functioning effectively and providing good value for money.

At the AGM, the most significant issues to be discussed involve changing the NZCA to the New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association — changing the constitution to reflect a recreational organisation. At present, whitewater competition is applying to become incorporated, and by 1998 they should be functioning effectively. The NZCA will still support competition in terms of affiliating to the NZ Canoeing Federation for national and international events until 1998, but after the 1998 AGM the intention is to relinquish all responsibilities regarding competition. Therefore, the way is free for recreational paddlers to have a national recrea-

tional body representing their interests, as was the case in 1957 when the NZCA was first formed.

The executive has proposed both a club and personal membership fee for 1997-1998, reflecting the possible change towards encouraging individual members. This raises issues regarding voting and membership rights: do all members get posted newsletters, minutes of meetings, and should all members have voting rights? Do we need to move to a postal voting system? Encouraging personal members means that we have to look at what the NZCA (or NZRCA) provides for them, a question that has been asked over and over by many clubs.

There have been two newsletters so far this year, and the current aim is to continue to have quarterly newsletters. It has also been proposed to publish a yearly canoeing magazine, an idea which is used by organisations such as the NZ Alpine Club. It appears critical to have direct contact with club members so that people who are paying fees get something tangible for their money.

From this 1997 AGM, we can build an association to specifically represent the interests of recreational kayakers in New Zealand. I look forward to seeing you there, or hearing your concerns or suggestions beforehand.

Calendar

Saturday 13 December 1997

Tekapo: 30 cumecs from 11:00 to 13:00, 40 cumecs from 13:00 to 17:00

Sunday 14 December 1997

Tekapo: 30 cus from 10:00 to 12:00, 60 cumecs from 12:00 to 16:00

Sunday 28 December 1997

Wairoa release

Saturday 3 January 1998

Tekapo: 30 cumecs from 11:00 to 13:00, 40 cumecs from 13:00 to 17:00

Sunday 4 January 1998

Tekapo: 30 cumecs from 10:00 to 12:00, 60 cumecs from 12:00 to 16:00

Wairoa release

Sunday 11 January 1998

Wairoa release

Saturday 17 January 1998

Rangitikei: Pop up Rodeo (national ranking event)

Tekapo: 30 cumecs from 11:00 to 13:00, 40 cumecs from 13:00 to 17:00

Sunday 18 January 1998

Rangitikei: Pop up Rodeo (national ranking event)

Tekapo: 30 cumecs from 10:00 to 12:00, 60 cumecs from 12:00 to 16:00

Wairoa release

Sunday 25 January 1998

Wairoa release

Sunday 1 February 1998

Wairoa release

Sunday 8 February 1998

Wairoa release

Sunday 15 February 1998

Wairoa release

Saturday 21 February 1998

Tekapo: 30 cumecs from 11:00 to 13:00, 60 cumecs from 13:00 to 16:00, 90 cumecs from 16:00 to 17:00.

Sunday 22 February 1998

Pukaki: 140 cumecs from 9:30 to 14:00, 200 cumecs from 14:00 to 16:30

The Wairoa continues to be released for Sundays throughout March, and on April 5 and 19.

Watch out for the Mangahao on Saturday 21 March 1998.

The Deepdale rediscovered

Tony Ward-Holmes

The Deepdale is a good moderate day out when you're looking for something a little different. Despite being in the heart of the Buller district it is rarely visited due to the lack of road access. The river equates to a longer, gorgier, more remote version of the Mangles.

The first descent was by local paddlers a couple of years ago via helicopter. The second descent was from Glengarry Rd, walking in with Sage inflatables. Permission must be obtained from the owners, Tony or Mike Peacock. It took two-and-a-half hours walking over a prominent shoulder of Mt Brown, via a blazed trail through open beech forest. The resulting run took about four hours to the Earthquake put-in. The mountain bike shuttle took another two hours by an aspiring Longest Day trainee (astute observers would equate this to a 35 hour Coast-to-Coast!)

The shortest line from the end of Glengarry Rd to the river would take about one-and-a-half hours and a shorter paddle. If there is a trail (unknown) this could be worthwhile with normal kayaks for moderate paddlers looking for a bit of adventure.

CLASS:	II-III
LEVEL:	More the merrier
GAUGE:	visual
LENGTH:	12 km (Mt Brown put-in to Buller confluence)
GRADIENT:	10m/km
TIME:	various
PUT IN:	various
TAKE OUT:	Buller Earthquake put in, or layby on Buller Highway 8 opposite confluence
SHUTTLE:	30km (Glengarry Rd)
MAPS:	(260) M29 Inangahua
CHARACTER:	Untouched, scenic gorge

Safety

Robin Baumann

Be safe this summer!

The predicted *El Nino* weather pattern is likely to bring flooding to a number of rivers this summer. Last year we got by without any fatalities on rivers— this year we might not be so lucky.

All flooded rivers are dangerous, even ones we know well. Everything happens much faster at flood levels, trees may get washed down, new rapids created, get outs missed and swimmers are harder to rescue. Some of us also blur the boundaries between encouragement and coercion. We owe it to the friends we paddle with to respect their fears and abilities. Let's decide what to paddle for ourselves and what to leave till next time and let others do the same.

Accidents & Incidents

The Maritime Safety Authority is responsible for managing the safe use of inland waterways in conjunction with the appropriate Regional Councils. If we have difficulties enjoying the safe use of our waterways due to the actions of another person we can ask either the NZRCA, the MSA or the Regional Council for assistance.

Regional Councils are responsible for the enforcement of the Resource Management Act which covers things like fences that may span rivers, pollution in rivers, commercial use of rivers, speed restrictions on rivers, etc. They are the people to talk to about ongoing concerns regarding the ways rivers are used and abused.

The Maritime Safety Authority is responsible for the investigation of accidents and incidents at sea and on inland waterways. They are however much better at dealing with oil tankers than with things involving small craft.

I am sure many of us were shocked at the death, earlier this year, of a kayaker in Porirua Harbour following a collision with a jet ski. More recently a couple of incidents involving commercial jet boats passing close to groups of kayakers at high speeds has prompted the NZRCA to discuss with the MSA how to deal with this kind of danger. The result has been that the MSA have assured us that they view these types of incidents seriously and would like to log such occurrences and investigate them when they have enough details.

It's a fact of life that we are having to share our playgrounds with more and more people which is increasing some of the dangers we face. Let's all try and be as courteous as possible to all river users and set high standards for others to follow.

The next page is an adapted version of the MSA Accident and Incident Report Form and by copying it and using it to advise the MSA of all events that involve powered craft endangering our safety we can make our rivers, lakes and estuaries safer for everyone.

Thanks for reading NZ Canoeing.

Have a safe summer, and don't forget to send in your stories about what you did in your holidays...!

ACCIDENT & INCIDENT REPORT

FOR EVENTS INVOLVING KAYAKS/CANOES AND POWERED CRAFT
(NZRCA approved simplified version of MSA 12307)

Date of accident: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Type of accident: ☐ Collision ☐ Capsize ☐ Flooding/Swamping
 ☐ Grounding ☐ Sinking ☐ Near Collision
 ☐ Other

Type of Powered Craft: _____ Commercial/Private (circle)

Name/Description of Powered Craft: _____

Name/Address of owner of Powered Craft (if known): _____

No. of kayaks/canoes involved: _____ Grade of River: _____

Details of injuries : (if any)
-give names of injured

Full description of Accident: (continue overleaf if required)

Name of reporting person: _____ Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please make two copies of this report. Keep one for your records and send one to NZRCA, 2 Kruse Place, CHRISTCHURCH 5 and send **ORIGINAL** to

Maritime Safety Authority of NZ
P.O. Box 27-006, WELLINGTON
Ph 04-473 0111