



New Zealand Canoeing

99.2

NZRCA Annual General Meeting

The NZRCA has a new Administration Officer! At the Annual General Meeting in Wellington, the NZRCA executive were delighted to welcome Lynne Fuggle (Christchurch) into her new role. Lynne will be the first port of call for new members, and has bravely taken on the role of managing the membership database. Little does she know... The NZRCA would also like to welcome to the Executive Chris Sinclair (Wellington) as incoming Membership Officer and Ian Logie (Timaru) as incoming Safety Officer.

The NZRCA took the opportunity at the AGM to make key changes to the constitution. The constitution now more accurately reflects the purpose, systems and activities of the association. If you would like details of these changes contact Lynne on admin@rivers.org.nz.

Non-Canoeist of the Year

Rather than offer a "Canoeist of the Year Award" this year, it seemed more appropriate to recognise the impressive contributions of non-canoeists to white water kayaking. At the 1999 AGM in Wellington, the NZRCA elected Stephen Quinn and Grant Webby the 1999 Non-Canoeists of the Year.

Stephen and Grant were part of the team involved in negotiations with Tranz Rail over extracting boulders from the Clarence River. Their energy and valuable expertise made it possible for the NZRCA to successfully negotiate with Tranz Rail for a kayaker-friendly solution.



Most of the NZRCA Executive at the Mangahao release earlier this year. Photo: Tom Rutter.

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See the NZRCA on line at

www.rivers.org.nz

About NZ Canoeing

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

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

NZ Canoeing welcomes advertising from 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.

Thanks to Maree Baker, Hugh Canard, Timon Walkley, Kate Downer, John Snook, Robin Rutter-Baumann, Ian Ruthven, Ian Logie, Jonathan Hunt and the myriad of email correspondents for their contributions to this issue of NZ Canoeing. May the rivers flow for you!

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

Please send items to:
The Editor
New Zealand Canoeing
PO Box 284
Wellington
Ph: 03 684 0874
nzrca@rivers.org.nz

The deadline for material for the Summer newsletter is October 15 1999.

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NZRCA Executive & Officers

as elected at the 1999 NZRCA AGM

Patron

Hugh Canard
biddy.hugh@xtra.co.nz

President

Sarah McRae
Wellington
Ph: 04 386 4774
president@rivers.org.nz

Vice-President

Robin Rutter-Baumann
Christchurch
Ph: 03 355 9189
vice-president@rivers.org.nz

Membership

Chris Sinclair
Wellington
Ph: 04 386 4210
membership@rivers.org.nz

Treasurer

Fiona Mackay
Christchurch
Ph: 03 337 6016
treasurer@rivers.org.nz

Education & Administration

Janette Kear
Christchurch
Ph/fax: 03 352 5786
education@rivers.org.nz

Conservation

Maree Baker
Wanganui
Ph: 06 344 8385
conservation@rivers.org.nz

Access

Colin Leitch
Auckland
Ph: 09 833 4002
access@rivers.org.nz

Safety

Ian Logie
Timaru
Ph: 03 688 5966
safety@rivers.org.nz

Webmaster

Jon Hunt
Christchurch
Ph: 03 353 3466
webeditor@rivers.org.nz

Administration

Lynne Fuggle
Christchurch
Ph: 03 384 9301
admin@rivers.org.nz

Communications

Polly Miller
Timaru
Ph: 03 684 0874
communications@rivers.org.nz

NZ Canoeing Advertising Rates: Deadline 8 October.

Size	Approx. Dimensions	Price
Full A4 Page	266 mm x 3 col (180mm)	\$300
Half-page	130mm x 3 col (180mm)	\$225
Quarter-page	130mm x 1.5 col (90mm)	\$120
Third-page	86mm x 3 col (horz)	\$150
	266mm x 1 col (vert)	\$150
One-ninth page	86mm x 1 col (58mm)	\$75

Plus 20% discount for advertisers in consecutive issues of NZ Canoeing
These prices apply to "print ready" copy only - additional charges may apply for developing text, art work etc.

Please contact Robin Rutter-Baumann, Vice-President of the NZRCA
Ph: 03 374-5242 - Fax: 03 355-9123 - Email: advertising@rivers.org.nz

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

Been on an awesome trip lately?

Got some great photos?

Write it up and send it in!

Deadline for Summer edition

15 October 1999

New Boats

With the World Rodeo Champs only months away there is bound to be a huge influx of new boats into the country – already there are five new players on the scene.

Donald at Sunspots reports that Prijon's new river runner / play boat the Samurai has been well received and is selling in good numbers. This boat has all the hull features of modern rodeo boats but with increased volume for comfort and safety. Contact Donald or Heike (see Sunspots Ad page 9) to find out more about the Samurai.

New from Perception is Mr Clean a park and play rodeo boat that promises to deliver even more than the older but still available 3D.

The Dagger Medieval the boat that reputedly performed 55 ends in 90 seconds is here now and its smaller sibling the Vengeance is due mid September. Both are serious rodeo boats.

Topline Agencies have just taken delivery of a new and a revamped oldie. River runners who have coveted a Kendo for the last few years will be pleased to see the updated model with flatter bottom and increased footroom amongst the new features. Also on offer is the Zwo a radical, light weight, hole hog. Contact Andi (see the Topline Ad page 5) to find out more.

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Events

Selection Rodeos 1999 at Fulljames Rapid, Waikato River

September 18-19

October 9-10

the whitewater event of 1999...

Rodeo World Championships at Fulljames Rapid, Waikato River

December 1-5

For more info see the NZ Freestyle Kayak Committee Inc. website:

<http://home.clear.net.nz/pages/nzfkci/>

Classifieds

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Perception Pirouette Supersport
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These notebooks are ideal for instructors, assessors, assessees, navigators, anyone working in damp or wet conditions and don't want their notes to go soggy! 32 leaves, spiral bound, 180 x 120 mm \$10.75 each
contact: Brett - Earth Touch Adventures, 8 Gilbert Rd, Paroa, Greymouth 7801
Ph/fax 03 762 6000, Mobile 025 572 285
email: earthtouchadventures@clear.net.nz

Conservation Confluence

Maree Baker, Conservation Officer, conservation@rivers.org.nz

Keen and/or talented river conservationists...

The conservation and preservation of New Zealand's quality rivers is one of the NZRCA's main aims. The battle with Tranz Rail over the Clarence is a very recent example of the tasks we face in this regard.

I would love to "pool" the resources the NZRCA has available to it from its members by creating an informal network of anyone who is interested in helping with river conservation - or merely wants to stay informed and have the chance to have a say. This will hopefully enable us to face challenges such as the Clarence more effectively.

If you are one or more of the following and are interested please contact me:

- interested in the state of NZ's rivers
- full of opinions on how NZ's rivers should be protected
- experienced with the Resource Management Act or Planning law
- knowledgeable of hydrology, engineering and any other sciences that have relevance to the workings of rivers

I believe that with the convergence of all these skills, and the brainstorming amongst ourselves about issues the NZRCA faces, we will be better able to protect NZ rivers.

I would prefer to have this network set up through email, so if you don't have an email address yet pop down to your local public library where they will probably have the Internet and will be able to hook you up. Of course if this isn't possible standard mail will definitely do.

I look forward to hearing from you all. Please don't be shy and please don't think you have nothing to contribute - we need your input!

Paddle on!



Erik Bradshaw on the Karangarua. Photo: Jonathan Hunt.

Conclusion to the Clarence

Maree Baker

The continuing saga is pretty much at a happy end.

So what did we achieve, what was all the fuss about? You will recall that Tranz Rail was granted a resource consent to extract boulders from a section of the Clarence river, giving no thought to the effect of that activity on recreational kayakers' interests or safety. So what we have achieved by this consent order is as near as possible to a guarantee that our interests and safety will not be at risk.

Trans Rail will now be compelled to carry by the conditions negotiated by us) that and other craft navigating down the

By including strict and comprehensive measures and post extraction channel design reconstructed channel will replicate the river channel and its whitewater charac-

If you are a glutton for punishment (as you are welcome to look at the final Draft signed it. Of course then the Environment please contact me if you are curious or

Tranz Rail will now be compelled to reconstruct the channel to replicate the character and whitewater characteristics of the present river.

out their activity in a manner (specified will provide very low risk to kayakers Clarence.

conditions on pre-extraction measure- and reconstruction the aim is that the character and durability of the present teristics.

Sarah, Doug, Geoff and myself were) Consent Order once all the parties have ment Court has to approve as well... So would like to know more details.

We learnt many valuable lessons from this exercise, as I hope Tranz Rail did. The big lessons were:

- Lawyers and technical experts are vital for a "battle" such as this. They know the ins and outs and what's possible... with hindsight we may have gotten people like this involved sooner in the project.
- The semi multi-disciplinary voluntary team approach was the best way to go, even if it was tough on our time and personal resources, it was well worth it (yay team!)
- Negotiation not confrontation was also the best approach with a well earned outcome.

Once the war weary have recovered I'm sure we'll miss those endorphin rushes that we experienced each time a reply was received and we'll be looking around for a new cause to take over our lives (Ha - joke?)

But seriously folks - what next? Any ideas?

Thanks to Whitewater Canoe Club Christchurch for their \$500.00 donation to the Clarence negotiations.

Got a kayak or equipment for sale?
Looking for some gear?

Place a free Classified advertisement
in NZ Canoeing or online at <http://www.rivers.org/buysell/>

Gear for Paddlers

Palm has been designing and developing technically advanced equipment for the whitewater paddler for many years. The Palm Dry Tops can be used for all season paddling, working together with a layering system to keep you warm and dry even on the coldest and most severe river expedition.



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Wellington	Bivouac Outdoor	16 The Terrace
Nelson	Aquatic Sports	227 Hardy St.
Christchurch	Bivouac Outdoor Canoe & Outdoor World	79 Brisbane St. 7 Pilgrim Pl.
Dunedin	R&R Sport	70 Stuart St.

For more information and a complete list of retail outlets write to:
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Mangahao Release

Timon Walkley

It started out on Saturday morning and turned out to be an all weekend affair. This is how it was.

Saturday morning was all good with the sun shining and a cool breeze in the air. The five of us on the trip met at the slalom course below the tailrace of the Mangore stream, and made our way up to the put in. There were a few easy rapids to get warmed up on. What we didn't know was it was going to be the longest one-day trip we have ever done. We did the compulsory scout of the almighty 'Tree Rapid' just to remind ourselves and show the newcomers what was in store. We saw rafts flip as well as kayakers taking a visit to the green room. However this rapid was done without a hiccup and we were soon deep into the heart of the gorge section. Time flew by and we were nearly at the lunch spot. The lunch spot was a welcome sight for empty stomachs and cramped up legs. It also provided some entertainment with rodeo paddlers showing off their skills in the play hole.

After lunch we were nearly out of the gorge with only two or three big rapids to go, when the unthinkable happened. I was sitting in an eddy, misjudged the line and took a chute that was too shallow. I ended up getting vertically pinned (stuck nose first) between two rocks and the bottom. The boat that I was in was a 3D from Perception©, which if you're familiar with, will know how short they are. It wasn't as bad as it perhaps could have been. I had plenty of air and the nose was only about two feet under the water, so I didn't really feel in any immediate danger. At first I tried to simply stay in my boat and push myself forward and free, but it quickly became obvious that this wasn't working. So I popped my spray deck and managed to climb out of my boat and straight onto one of the rocks that it was pinned between. It was relatively easy to get out because the water pressure on top of me wasn't that great. Having a keyhole sized cockpit was definitely what made it easier to escape because I was able to pull my legs up and stand on the cockpit rim, which had it been any smaller would have been a much harder task. I then tried to free the boat by pushing it forwards, but it would only move sideways. By then a small crowd had gathered and was more than willing to help.

A throw line was attached to the tail, and also the nose, which wasn't that hard to reach at first. But pulling it from all directions still didn't help, in fact it was now stuck deeper than before. The more we tried to get it out, the deeper it sank. Just as we were flagging away all attempts to retrieve the boat another group of rescuers joined the operation. These guys were extremely well prepared for situations like this, and were willing to try out their rescuing skills. With pulleys and miles of rope they managed to setup a z-drag combined with a tension pull which was designed to pull the boat straight upstream, the way it had gone in. The pull on the boat was enormous, but with water

pressure holding the boat it would not budge.

Getting out meant I swam, got towed, walked, ran, and rock climbed my way to the finish over 8 km of river, cliffs, stony banks, and farmlands to the get out point where my parents were waiting.

Timon successfully retrieved his boat with little damage later in the weekend. He would like to thank the NZRCA team who tried their hand at boat extraction, even if they were unsuccessful.



Robin Rutter-Baumann and Mike Savory attempt boat extraction on the Mangahao. Photo: Tom Rutter.

Paddling Flooded Rivers

Hugh Canard - who has had some of the worst moments of his life on flooded rivers. Also some of his best.

What are the risks of paddling flooded rivers and is it worth it?

The essential ingredient is knowledge. Of yourself, of your companions, and the river. No one got drowned in a portage, or even driving the shuttle, for that matter. Save the bravado and tall tales for after the trip not before.

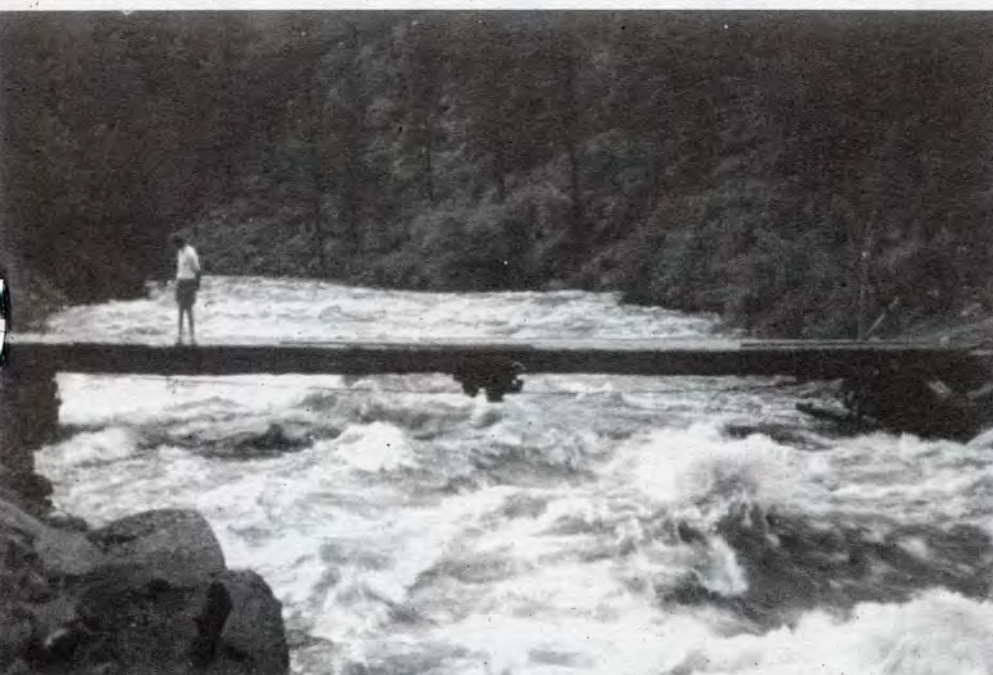
Know the River

Pool drop rivers turn into continuous swift water with river wide hydraulics at narrows. Braided rivers spread out bank to bank flowing into strainers and the big rivers develop deceptively dangerous power. Flow patterns which are not apparent at normal flows, start to make their presence felt. Familiar resting places transform into "forever eddies".

The type of catchment affects the rate at which falling rain ends up in the river. A river catchment with bare hills, hard underlying rock layers and steep creeks will rise suddenly and have a peak flood which is many times higher than the normal flow. A river with native forest, lakes and pumice soil will rise slowly, with only a percentage increase over the normal flow. It will also fall slowly.

Flooded rivers contain quite a lot of stuff that isn't water, such as mud, stones, boulders, trees and branches. Flooded rivers are colder, dirtier, faster and are much harder to get out of if you're swimming.

Urban rivers present a special set of dangers. Nasty bits of steel stick out from bridges, and there are weirs, fences, trees and even park benches that can become deathtraps once you add water. Kayakers are the only people who think floods are fun. Remember that when you paddle in urban floods.



High water hazard on the Little Salmon, Idaho, USA. Photo: Jonathan Hunt.

Know Your Companions (and their rescue skills)

You need companions who are up to the task of getting you back in your boat in the same conditions that caused you to go for a swim. Can they rescue you? Have they got the gear? Can you rescue them? The principal cause of death for kayakers/rafters in high volume or flooded rivers is "came out of boat, went for long swim, companions/guides unable to effect rescue".

Know Yourself

When you get to the put in, ask yourself one more time, "Who's bullshitting who?"

5 Point River Checklist

1. **Rescue.** Have we all got the skills and the right gear to look after one another?
2. **I.** Am I up to this? Who am I paddling with? Have I seen them under stress?
3. **Volume.** What's this rain doing to this river? Rising or falling? By how much?
4. **Escape.** Where from and where to?
5. **River.** Where are the crunch spots going to be?

A longer version of this article can be found on the NZRCA website at <http://www.rivers.org.nz/safety/>

NZRCA Safety Subsidy

Ian Logie, NZRCA Safety Officer

The NZRCA offers a safety subsidy to its members through Water Safety New Zealand. This subsidy is one third of the cost of the course, up to \$40 per person.

River Safety courses cover the basics of rescue gear, boat based rescues, throw bags and rope work. River Safety courses are essential for people who are starting to run their own trips, as refreshers for more experienced paddlers – and even victims need training!

To claim the subsidy, keep your course receipt and apply to Ian Logie, the NZRCA Safety Officer. If you want to do a River Safety course, call your local club to see if they are planning to run one. Alternately, contact Ian for a commercial course near you.

Sample river rescue course syllabi and a list of training providers is available at - <http://www.rivers.org.nz/education/>

Assessment Blues

Ian Ruthven, Director of Wilderness Adventures and NZOIA Assessor

An Assessor's point of view

A lot has been discussed about how NZOIA assessments impact on Assesseees and how an assessment can be a negative experience for the Assessee. About four years ago I was asked at the Assessor Training weekend held in Wellington, to try and find out why the above was so.

It was first thought that maybe it was the Assessors being too hard, or that the process was not quite right. I think that this may have been the case in a very few instances and yes the process that NZOIA uses has still got a long way to go. However a lot of effort goes into trying to make these assessments fair and equitable.

Training or the lack of it seemed to be the main cause for disappointment; indicated by comments like "I thought I could

wing it," and "I really didn't know where I was at." Many professionals seek professional coaching. These people who seek out training and coaching realise the value of the training and consider it an

investment rather than just an extra cost to an assessment or exam.

Negative experiences affect the assessee and the assessor. The last two kayak assessments that I have been involved in (Kayak 2 and Kayak 1) were definitely not positive experiences for me. Those that

had spent time and money on training did well; those that did not seek training were disappointed.

A list of NZOIA assessors that provide training is available from the NZOIA Training and Assessment coordinator, <http://www.nzoia.org.nz>.

"Those that had spent time and money on training did well; those that did not seek training were disappointed."

Safety Courses – Skills Courses – Instructor Training Courses – Guided Trips

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Pukaki Release

Kate Downer

Boats tied on, the car's going, good mates, compulsory stop at the Geraldine Bakery, and we're off to the infamous Pukaki release. What's it like? What's it like? One wonders as they head off to a new river. Cold I imagined. A glacier fed lake in the Mount Cook region, it's got to be cold. Something about "lots of water, large waves and holes to avoid. Other than that, it's a piece of cake" wise words of wisdom from someone when I had been doing a small amount of investigation over the previous couple of days to find out what I was in for this weekend. The only problem - they ALWAYS say that, about ALL the rivers I ask about. So I didn't feel that convinced that I was that much more the wiser.

But to tell you the truth. This once, and I stress for "this once only" the wise words of wisdom were about right.

Arriving at Pukaki, the first thing you meet is an amazing array of colours as brightly coloured boats, trendy coloured spray jackets and 'look at me' helmets all congregate at the top car park. Even the river is unusually colourful, being milky blue from local glacier debris. People everywhere, people to meet, people to catch up with, a feeling that this is going to be a fun day (especially since it is sunny) is immediately present.

Isn't it strange that you can never judge the size of a rapid standing on the side of the bank. In fact it's not until one is right in the middle of it all that the true picture of just how fast this water and 'actually these waves are quite big' dawns on you.

The Pukaki is fun! Lots of large friendly waves, lots of safe havens on the side, a few tricky holes for those that dare and it's all over.

Leaving lots of time to fit in a few more runs, catch up with friends or finish that book you happened to throw in the car, while the other members of the team are off doing 'just one more run'. For a fun day, once a year, it is a must for those that have a white water roll and are happy paddling big fast water.

I have to confess there is one strange thing about the Pukaki. Despite heaps of effort, and despite things not looking that hard, you just never seem to be able to get to where you want to go. "Man, am I unfit or what?" However a few honest discussions with friends afterwards, reveals that everybody is in the same boat, and those that looked like they were 'making the moves' are actually making readjusted moves after missing the initial intended move. "Whew". It is easy to be deceived by the swiftness of the release of 340 cumecs of friendly blue looking water.



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River Flow Dates

WAIKARETAHEKE FLOW DATES 1999

These dates are provisional, contact the Hawkes Bay Canoe Club for further details. The Whakamarino is a release from the lake, a really great narrow technical run.

Piripaua	18 July	34cumeecs
Piripaua	11 September	No Flow, Working Bee
	12 September	34cumeecs
Whakamarino	2 October	17cumeecs
	3 October	17cumeecs
Piripaua	6 November	No Flow, Working Bee
	7 November	34cumeecs
Piripaua	4 December	28cumeecs
	5 December	34cumeecs

MANGAHAO RIVER SPRING FLOW DATE

The spring release will be on Saturday 30 October 1999, subject to confirmation by the Mangahao Power Station.

WAIROA RIVER FLOW DATES 1999/2000

September	12, 26
October	10, 24
November	14, 27/28
December	12, 26
January	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
February	6, 13, 20, 27
March	5, 12, 19, 26
April	9, 23
May	14, 28

TEKAPO RIVER FLOW DATES 1999/2000

The following dates for releases of the Tekapo were provided by Meridian Energy and are yet to be confirmed by the Tekapo Whitewater Trust and the Canterbury Regional Council.

Labour Weekend

Sat 23 Oct 99	11.00am - 12.00	10 cumeecs
	12.00pm - 1.00pm	20 cumeecs
	1.00pm - 2.00pm	30 cumeecs
	2.00pm - 3.00pm	40 cumeecs
	3.00pm - 4.00pm	50 cumeecs
	4.00pm - 5.00pm	60 cumeecs
Sun 24 Oct 99	10.00am - 5.00pm	30 cumeecs
Mon 25 Oct 99	10.00am - 4.00pm	50 cumeecs

The Tekapo will flow on the following weekends;

6-7 Nov, 20-21 Nov, 4-5 Dec, 11-12 Dec 1999, 8-9 Jan, 15-16 Jan, 22-23 Jan 2000

Saturdays	11.00am - 5.00pm	30 cumeecs
Sundays	10.00am - 11.00am	30 cumeecs
	11.00am - 4.00pm	50 cumeecs

TEKAPO AND PUKAKI COMBINED RELEASE 19-20 FEB 2000

TEKAPO

Saturday 19/2	11.00am 1.00pm	30 cumeecs
	1.00pm 4.00pm	60 cumeecs
	4.00pm 5.00pm	90 cumeecs

PUKAKI

Sunday 20/2	10.30am - 1.30pm	140 cumeecs
	1.30pm - 3.00pm	200 cumeecs
	3.00pm - 4.30pm	267 cumeecs

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Wilderness Adventures is operated by the founder, Ian Ruthven. Ian has been instructing and guiding people in the outdoors for many years. Ian holds the highest qualifications and Awards for outdoor guiding and instruction.





NZRCA Individual Membership

New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association, Inc.
PO Box 284, Wellington
Phone: 03 384 9301
Email: nzrca@rivers.org.nz
Web site: www.rivers.org.nz

A Name and Address

The following information will be used for all correspondence with the NZRCA.

Name			
Address			
Phone (day)		Phone (a/h)	
Phone (mobile)		Fax	
Email			

B NZRCA Subscription

Individual Membership is for one year from the date when we receive your application. Please make cheques out to the NZRCA.

Membership for one year	\$30 (incl. GST)
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C Information

Occupation		(for the Incorporated Societies Act).
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If you are a member of a club, please state which club:

I am a member of		club
-------------------------	--	-------------

D Donation

If you wish to provide additional support for our work in Conservation, Access, Safety and Education, we gratefully accept any donation you are able to make. Please make cheques out to "NZRCA".

Donation amount	\$
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E Please mail this form to the NZRCA, PO Box 284, Wellington. Welcome!

For NZRCA use

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Member ID	Receipt #	Response Date	Deposited				

New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association Inc.

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

PO Box 284, Wellington • Ph 03 348 9301 • nzrca@rivers.org.nz • www.rivers.org.nz