



New Zealand Canoeing

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Welcome to the autumn issue of New Zealand

Canoeing. This summer has been a challenging one for paddlers and for kayaking generally. Articles in the newsletter address some of the issues surrounding the drowning of three paddlers this summer, with words of wisdom from Mick Hopkinson and others. There is a huge amount of text in this issue but it seemed important to publish as many as possible of the stories and e-mails received.

From the Executive

The NZRCA has been busy with a number of projects this summer. On the conservation front, investigations into hydro schemes for the Rangitata and the Arnold rivers have kept us on our toes. We have been involved in wider issues such as consultation on the Resource Management Act and national water conservation.

There have been some new benefits the NZRCA offers its members. Members now get a 20% discount off the second edition of Graham Charles' *New*

Zealand WhiteWater (limit one copy per member).

The NZRCA is looking at a new way of communicating with clubs by appointing a contact person per club. Contact people will be on the phone to club committee members to chat about local issues, the benefits of NZRCA membership, possible input for the newsletter... and paddling!

For more on the information NZRCA check the website on www.rivers.org.nz.

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Photo of the NZRCA Executive on the way home from the Rangitata. Photo: Polly Miller

About NZ Canoeing

New Zealand Canoeing is the official newsletter of the New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association (NZRCA) Inc. *NZ Canoeing* is published three times per year and distributed free to club and individual members of the NZRCA throughout New Zealand/Aotearoa.

The views expressed in *NZ 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 Sarah McRae, Bill Thomson, Tony Ward-Holmes, Jonathan Hunt, Lynne Fuggle, Chris Emerick, Chris Sinclair, Robin Rutter-Baumann, Mick Hopkinson, Janette Kear 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:

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The deadline material for the Spring issue is August 1 2000.

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as elected at the 1999 NZRCA AGM

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Been on an awesome trip lately?

Got some great photos?

Write it up and send it in!

Deadline for Spring issue

1 August 2000

Tasman Council River Works

Sarah McRae, President

Special thanks to Nelson Canoe Club (NCC) for continuing to monitor the health and safety of the Motueka and Buller catchments. The club's vigilance has identified that Tasman District Council (TDC) river engineering works along the Motueka River present safety issues for kayakers and other river users.

The NZRCA accepts that river bank protection and flood control works can be important to protect existing property. However they should not be delivered at the expense of paddlers' safety and enjoyment. In the longer term, valuable property should be located away from flood hazard areas.

I joined Nelson paddlers Grant Jones (NCC President) and Ron Wastney in a meeting with senior TDC rivers staff including Richard Pearson and Eric Verstappen. We described which sections of the local rivers were important for canoeing, and the effect of the Council's operations on our safety and enjoyment. Of particular concern was gravel removal and new erosion control structures, willow control, and exposed cables and wiring from collapsed erosion control structures. Finally we talked about how to make the Council engineering department's practices more 'kayaker friendly'.

At the meeting we learned of the TDC convened Motueka Rivercare Group. However we were disappointed to hear that only adjoining landowners have been invited to join.

TDC currently rely on an existing resource consent to authorise their current work, and at present, are not required to consult with paddlers before undertaking these works. As a result of the meeting,

the Council staff have agreed to consult with the Nelson Canoe Club annually before finalising their operational plans. Input at the resource consent stage would probably make the job a lot easier, and impose a legal requirement on the Council to consider the effect on kayakers. TDC was kindly advised that the NCC and NZRCA look forward to participating in the renewal of their consent in 2-3 years time.

Managing regional council river engineering works – some solutions:

On the water:

- Watch where you are going, and avoid wire, cable, felled willows, and other alien river debris.
- Get good photos of any areas of concern (add the date and grid reference).

Off the water:

- Work with your club to complete a file of photos, levels of kayaking use and incident reports.
- Advertise the presence of known debris hazards, particularly new ones, in the club newsletter, website, etc.
- Be proactive - arrange a meeting with Regional Council river engineering and consents staff to discuss your concerns about existing and/or possible future practices (with photos). Offer to attend a site visit if necessary.
- Ask the regional council staff to recognise the club as an 'affected party' (see section 94 of the Resource Management Act 1991). Say you'd like to be consulted over proposed river engineering works.
- Build a good relationship with the council - provide them with a stable contact name for the Canoe Club.

- Support regional council initiatives, such as rivercare groups, and offer your club's involvement.
- Watch out for advertised resource consent applications and regional plans - write a submission if the proposed river works are going to affect paddling safety and/or enjoyment. Think of ways of doing it better.
- Contact the NZRCA Conservation officer for further information and support.

News Splash...

That sometimes run, sometimes swum rapid, Nevis Bluff, on the Kawarau River, has been run at double previous flows in a Bliss Stick FJ1 by Bill Thomson of Wellington. Bill, working as part of the "Lord of the Rings" film crew in Queenstown, paddled the river during the floods last November while the lake level was half way up the shopping street and the gauge registered 620cm/s! He executed a few rodeo moves and two rolls in his unphotographed descent of the monster run. Bill, team photographer on the first partial descent of Nevis by Chris Moody in 1980, has no more grey hairs than one might expect from someone of his age.

Got a kayak or equipment for sale?

Looking for some gear?

Place a free Classified Ad in NZ Canoeing or online at www.rivers.org.nz

To boat and not to be

Mick Hopkinson

Well, I guess the season of 99/2000 will be remembered for things other than the millenium. The words of H.M. Queen spring to mind .. an "annus horribilis." First we had the tragic death of Niamh Tomkins which largely overshadowed the World Rodeo championships and left it a poor sideshow to the cretinous remarks of the Taupo harbour master, whose sole purpose seemed to be to add insult to injury. The general public were left with the vague impression that Niamh had kayaked/swum Huka Falls without a lifejacket. Why is it that as soon as anybody mentions the word kayak within 50 miles of Taupo the media trot out the harbour master again.

It is time to record that Huka falls is not the hardest water in the country. It was first run in fibreglass boats, it has been run for twenty years and has absolutely nothing to do with a pompous idiot responsible for licensing water taxis and counting fishing boats on the flat "navigable waters of Lake Taupo." [Editors note: the NZRCA is following up the Harbour Master's comments with the Taupo District Council].

Sadly, Niamh lost her life almost casually on a river that she was very familiar with and probably as aware of the dangers as anyone. Her death is very reminiscent of similar tragic accidents at the Mike Jones Rally in Britain, where deaths have occurred in the midst of large groups of kayakers despite the organisers' best efforts.

Then in early 2000, in two seperate incidents, overseas paddlers Gunther Schuppan and Robin Dodd died in rock sieves on the Nevis River and Upper Hokitika respectively. Gunther was on the Nevis at what was arguably too high a flow for that run. But the group were leaving the country in two days! By contrast Robin died because the Hokitika was probably a bit too low. In the same time frame there were four other potentially serious accidents on West Coast rivers...two shoulder injuries, a back injury and a broken foot.

The one common thread between all three deaths and the various accidents was in each case a small lack of focus. Edward Whymper, whose first successful ascent of the Matterhorn was subsequently marred by the deaths of three of his party on the descent, said "Remember that a moments inattention can ruin the happiness of a lifetime."

A further factor in the deaths of Robin and Gunther was that they were paddling rodeo boats. Gunther was in a Gliss; the rest of his team were in larger "creek" boats. Robin was in a Redline. Gunther missed a line, pulled out into what he thought was an eddy, waved to his friends before doing an involuntary tail stand and being sucked into a powerful sieve at the bottom of the eddy. Robin hit a small hole that marginally slowed him down as he ran a not very hard drop. He subbed out on the seam line below and never re-surfaced.

At the end of this article is an e-mail from Chris Emerick who was on the Hokitika trip. I asked his opinion about boats although I knew he already had made up his mind. We had paddled the Hokitika together before Christmas. Our whole team were in creek boats. He was in a "Y" and I had a "Phat". I would like to bring your attention to one particular line: "It is a judgement call for all travellers to New Zealand to bring either a playboat or a creekboat". I guess it was certainly a judgement call for Gunther and Robin.

But is it a judgement call for New Zealanders? The assumption here is that New Zealanders ...locals... Us.. don't have the problem of bringing two boats on an unsympathetic airline from some other part of the world. No, the assumption is that here on our own turf we go out into the back shed and before every trip we look at our rack of boats and select a boat appropriate for the particular river we are about to paddle. Sadly this isn't even close to the truth. Even after the two deaths I have seen numerous people pushing their grades, their experience and their luck in totally inappropriate boats.

Lets spell it out...Super Sports, RPMs, Kendos, Medievals, Centrifuges, FJs, Ina Zones, Xs, Zs etc are all PLAY boats. They have no place on the West Coast for the average New Zealand "weekend warrior." Even if you are some young stud running everything on testosterone and the "Full on" music playing in your head spare a thought for your parents and friends, they like to think you know what you are doing!) Just get it straight... playboats are designed to do all the manouvres that you absolutely

runs at the edge of your comfort/ life zone. They have sharp edges and minimum bouyancy and pointy ends that fit neatly into the cracks between boulders. A Mr Clean on the Rangitikei? And he only broke his leg. Does he deserve our sympathy? Absolutely not, but his parents sure do! Darwin was right!

Those of you who have Graham Charles' new guidebook turn to page 146. Place your left thumb over the kayaker running the waterfall on the left of the bottom photo and focus your attention on what turned out to be a stunning cross section of the Hokitika river. It should be immediately apparent that the whole river bed is simply a huge jumble of boulders, a collection of sieves and caves and rock crevasses!! This is typical of almost all the Hokitika river bed (and a lot of other West coast rivers as well) including the "easy" grade four run that is becoming everyones' first helicopter run.

Ironically its only in the latter half of the various gorges that that the riverbed probably becomes bed-rock. To paraphrase Dave Ritchie, who found Gunthers body in the Nevis River "its like paddling through a load of old cars with their windows open". Now seriously assess your boat. Is it a "surface boat"? Has it got enough buoyancy to keep you on top of the aerated water when are paddling over this series of man/ woman traps. If not what are you doing in it? Are you stupid? Blindly optimistic? Or worse, just cheap! If you can afford the helicopter trip then start prioritising. How much is your life worth? I've seen trips where the better boaters have bought bigger, more modern creek boats but the rest of the rank and file are

in play boats on what for them are the hardest runs they have ever done. I repeat "How much is your life worth?"

On helicopter trips to the coast my worst expectations are that I make a mistake that ends up with me upside down. I take my punishment: facial cuts, bruises, smashed elbows, bruised shoulders, cut knuckles. If I swim then up goes the ante; bruised knees, ankles, possible broken bones, certainly exhaustion and possible drowning if my friends aren't quick to rescue me. But I always expect to have the boat re-surface after every drop. I expect the chance to make that first crucial roll. I don't expect to get pinned underwater because my boat is too small!

Subsequent to the approached to join Team. Do I think no. It's a good idea of current kayakers West Coast because rescue team is less situations it's not it's a bad idea

"it's like paddling through a load of old cars with their windows open"

my most basic tenets. You are already paddling with your rescue team! You always have been! It behoves every kayaker to be good at CPR, first aid and boat recovery. You can't hold your breath long enough for the team to be called out. Witness the fuss about the three New Zealand snowboarders in Japan. The media never got to the bottom line. There were six snowboarders. Three survived the initial avalanche. The ONLY chance the victims had was if the whole team were wearing avalanche transceivers and the three survivors were carrying shovels.

deaths I've been a West Coast Rescue it's a good idea? Yes and if the team is composed who are boating on the it means that the Alpine likely to get itself into trained to handle. But because it breaks one of

So, a few points about going to the West Coast and other steep rivers:-

1. Paddle a creek boat first time there and only if you are really bored go back in a rodeo boat.
2. Sharpen up your paddling before you go. (In other sports its called training!)
3. Buy a new throwbag that won't break when you try to unpin a boat!
4. Carry a split.
5. Wear good portaging shoes and practise portaging. Remember the basic rule, the minute the kayak comes off your shoulder then the job gets harder and slower.
6. But above all go with a good team which can look after all its members. Deck carries on rodeo boats in hard water are almost impossible. Paddling in an all-rodeo-boat team is an enormous statement about your personal ability and your lack of need for a rescue.
7. Don't just run the Glenroy (or the Wairoa!) once and think you have passed the magic test. Go do it on a rainy day. If you are going well it takes 25 minutes! Now go and run it another 10 or eleven times consecutively and see when you start to make mistakes! Five or six hours paddling would be AVERAGE for most harder runs.

More information on page eight.

Chris Emerick on the Upper Hokitika

In an e-mail to Mick Hopkinson, Chris Emerick agreed 100% about the importance of a creek boat on technical water. Chris wrote:

"Everyone on the [Upper Hokitika] trip was paddling creekboats except for Mark and Robin. Robin was in a Redline when he drowned. It is a judgement call for all travellers to NZ to bring either a playboat or creekboat. Like you said when you paddle a playboat on a creek you must have a good day everyday. I paddled with Robin on the Waitaha and Upper Whitecombe and he seldom missed a line. He was a very good paddler. Unfortunately he was slightly off line on the Hokitika and it cost him his life. I can't say that if he had been in a Gradient [a creek boat] that he would still be alive. I can say that his chance of survival would be a lot higher.

The sieve where Robin was trapped was very powerful and almost unrecognisable. We all scouted the rapid and no one expected it to be particularly dangerous. When Robin disappeared underwater we had maybe a minute to help him out before he drowned.

A rescue team is a positive step that could be made but will not keep kayakers from drowning on remote rivers. Spreading the word on the dangers of the rivers (such as proper safety precautions) is the best method. Chris commented that low water is crucial to successfully padding the Upper Upper Hokitika run, however it was possibly too low on the day that Robin died.

Chris Emerick chrisem@ibm.net

Swiftwater Rescue on the Nevis River

This article summarises a report written by the coordinator of the Queenstown Swiftwater Rescue team in response to the drowning of Guenter Shuppan on the Nevis River on January 5th. The Queenstown Swiftwater Rescue Team was called out to assist the Police in retrieving his body. This team was set up as an initiative by local Police and Raft guides to deal with situations involving rivers and provide expert backup to traditional rescue services. Presently it consists of raft guides, three of whom are Rescue 3 instructors and the rest trained to Rescue 3 level 2 standard. The team is also equipped with a substantial rescue kit. The Nevis is a very steep Alpine-style river with several portages or must-make moves around rocks or sieves. In this case the paddler had been attempting to paddle around a large rock into a chute. When he hit the cushion and was pushed backwards into a whirlpool sieve. It appears that his kayak stood on end and he was pulled out the back and under the rock. The Rescue team took three days to locate and retrieve the body, requiring detonation of boulders and help from the Police Dive Squad.

The conclusions reached by the Rescue team were:

1. These operations are very time consuming and labour intensive.
2. This was probably the first time a group such as ours has been used. We have done the whitewater community a lot of good, and surprised the Police and particularly the Dive team with our expertise and EQUIPMENT. If you plan to make yourself available for this type of work you MUST have a dedicated set of rescue equipment and team training. A collection of river gear isn't going to do it. I am not trying to push the Rescue 3 barrow but this is a good illustration of how specific team rescue training and equipment differs from simple raft guide/kayak rescue.
3. It proved very hard to make accurate predictions on the effect of removing certain rocks and diverting flow. The approach of a bit at a time seems best.
4. Don't assume the riverbank is a safe place. We had a very near miss walking on what looked like a stable gravel bank.
5. Provide safety equipment for others likely to be on the scene and insist they use it no matter who they are. Take control.
6. Remember even highly trained people don't know the river environment. One of the divers was considering entering the sieve from the kayaker's entry point. Most likely he would not have been able to get back out.

Unfortunately it is likely we will see more of this type of accident. Both kayaks and paddlers are getting better and more people are looking for greater challenges. Perhaps it is fair comment that the kayak used was not really the best for this river, but the paddler was one of the world's best. The actual move, although pushy, was probably not too hard. When on a river such as this there is little room for error. This report has been written in the hope it is of interest to water people and people involved in rescue. It is also written in the hope that people will recognize there are people trained to handle these conditions and that they will contact them. If you wish to comment on any points raised email me at luggagenk@yahoo.com

Upper Otaki Gorge

Chris Sinclair

The forecast looked good, rain, rain and more rain. I phoned the river gauge and it confirmed what I was thinking - the rivers were rising. Several phone calls later and we had enough money together to call Brendon at Kapiti Aero Club and arrange for him to pick us up at the Otaki Forks first thing in the morning.

The section we were going to run was from Waitewaewae Hut down to the confluence with the Waiotauru River. It is approximately 18km long and is considered class III - IV depending upon flows. On this day the flow was considerably higher than normal with the flow phone reading 2.7. The first few kilometres provided a good warm up for what was to come. At lower flows this would be nice boulder garden type rapids, however at this flow it turned into a myriad of holes and stoppers which required us to pay constant attention.

By the time we reached Lemmings Falls, a 2.5 metre waterfall and the crux rapid, the river was rising steadily. As it turned out we eventually portaged the drop, as it was a chunderous mess of uncontrolled whitewater, pushing directly into a huge rock. At lower flows I would imagine that this drop would certainly be runnable and would provide capable paddlers with enough adrenalin to justify the cost of the helicopter trip.

The drop immediately following Lemmings Falls also provided us with a few moments of urgency as I casually cut out of the eddy above it and was swiftly spun on the eddy line and dropped sideways over the horizon line and into an awaiting hole, which fortunately for me let me escape out the side but not before putting me through a complete spin

cycle. The others meanwhile were waiting patiently in the top eddy for me to provide them with an indication of what was below. Due to the high flow and the gradient drop there didn't appear to be any 'clean' line through so they ran it one at a time as best they could.

From here on down the gradient slowly decreased but this was more then countered for by the steady increase in the rivers volume. We managed to successfully boat scout all but one of the remaining rapids and upon closer inspection noticed a previously unseen hole going halfway across the river and recirculating back upon itself from a good few feet downstream. This provided us with a final challenge and the decision was made to eddy hop down river right and run a corkscrew type shute at the bottom. The remainder of the run provided some huge holes, surfing waves and boiling eddylines which were capable of swallowing RPM's whole, as Dave found out.

I would highly recommend this trip for those of you who have done all the normal runs around this area and are looking for something a bit more challenging. However, it is a wilderness trip and as such should be treated with respect as the walk out is very substantial should things goes wrong.

If you are interested in this trip there are several helicopter operators around who can provide you with access to the gorge, or if you really want to save money it is possible to walk into Waitewaewae Hut but allow at least 5 hours for this. The best deal we found was from Kapiti Aero Club. It cost \$505 for 4 people and boats to get lifted in from Otaki Forks and this also provided the advantage of allowing us to have our vehicles at the get out.

The Whanganui River Guide

The New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association publishes a 56-page A5 guide book for canoeists, kayakers, raft groups and jet boaters travelling the Whanganui River through the Whanganui National Park. The first edition was published in 1963, and the 10th edition is now available. The guidebook includes 10 maps, sun compass, information on several hundred rapids and items of interest, useful guidelines on safety, transport, group equipment, and more.

If you have used the guidebook and have corrections or additional information, we would really appreciate your input. Comments can be emailed to: whanganui_guide@rivers.org.nz.

The Whanganui River Guide (10th ed) is now on sale through the NZRCA and Department of Conservation offices in Whanganui National Park. To order from the NZRCA, send a cheque for \$10 (includes P&P, GST) to PO Box 284, Wellington. NZRCA members can purchase the guidebook for \$7 (includes P&P, GST). An order form is available on line at: www.rivers.org.nz/whanganui_guide/

**for more news,
reviews and boat info,
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If you are interested in this trip there are several helicopter operators around who can provide you with access to the gorge, or if you really want to save money it is possible to walk into Waitewaewae Hut but allow at least 5 hours for this. The best deal we found was from Kapiti Aero Club. It cost \$505 for 4 people and boats to get lifted in from Otaki Forks and this also provided the advantage of allowing us to have our vehicles at the get out.

The Whanganui River Guide

The New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association publishes a 56-page A5 guide book for canoeists, kayakers, raft groups and jet boaters travelling the Whanganui River through the Whanganui National Park. The first edition was published in 1963, and the 10th edition is now available. The guidebook includes 10 maps, sun compass, information on several hundred rapids and items of interest, useful guidelines on safety, transport, group equipment, and more.

If you have used the guidebook and have corrections or additional information, we would really appreciate your input. Comments can be emailed to: whanganui_guide@rivers.org.nz.

The Whanganui River Guide (10th ed) is now on sale through the NZRCA and Department of Conservation offices in Whanganui National Park. To order from the NZRCA, send a cheque for \$10 (includes P&P, GST) to PO Box 284, Wellington. NZRCA members can purchase the guidebook for \$7 (includes P&P, GST). An order form is available on line at: www.rivers.org.nz/whanganui_guide/

**for more news,
reviews and boat info,
check out the nzrca
website at
www.rivers.org**

The NZOIA/NZRCA Kayak Instructor Award Scheme

Janette Kear, Education Officer, explains the complexities of Kayak Instruction in New Zealand.

The current joint Kayak instructor certification scheme is a result of an agreement reached between NZOIA (New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association) and the NZCA, NZRCA's forerunner, in 1994. The scheme features three levels of instructor certification, the levels being Kayak Instructor Flatwater, Kayak Instructor Stage One (the level of chief interest to aspiring whitewater instructors) and Kayak Instructor Stage Two.

The scheme is administered by NZOIA. Anyone interested in having their kayak teaching skills assessed should contact NZOIA, P.O. Box 35 399 Browns Bay, Auckland 1330, or visit their website at www.nzoia.org.nz. Enquiries can also be directed to ao.nzoia@clear.net.nz.

At the time of amalgamation, both NZOIA and NZCA had instructor certification schemes featuring two levels of instructor certification. Why a small country like NZ had two instructor certification schemes in a minority sport such as ours, is one of those questions we now scratch our heads about. But it did. And lots of dedicated skilled people had put lots of hours into both those schemes. Often, in fact, they were even the same people. Mick Hopkinson, Steve Chapman, Ray Button...but that's another story.

NZOIA's levels were felt to be at a slightly lower level than the NZCA's. The agreement was based on NZCA's standards becoming the accepted standard at

Stage One and Two, with a new level of Flatwater Instructor created to cater for those whose work was mainly in this area.

Most NZOIA Stage One's upgraded to the new level, and many NZCA instructors joined NZOIA. Some instructors from both schemes decided not to remain involved. NZOIA Stage Two's not already cross-credited to the NZCA scheme had the opportunity to upgrade to the new standard, and NZRCA is continuing consultation with NZOIA to enable this to happen.

The pre-1994 NZCA Scheme also featured river safety courses designed to raise kayakers safety skills and awareness. The basic two day course is known as River Safety (RS), and the more advanced course, River Rescue (RR), is for paddlers who might need to know advanced rope work, boat extraction skills and how to avoid epics in remote areas. These courses continue to be administered by the NZRCA. To ensure the highest standards of skill teaching and safety, only current NZOIA Stage Two's can teach these courses (RR Instructors must also have NZOIA Rock Two) See the website; www.rivers.org.nz/safety or newsletter 99.3 for contact details for RS and RR Instructors, and information on how to apply for Water Safety NZ subsidy for a course. It's easy!

The old NZCA scheme also featured three levels of kayak proficiency on which paddlers could be tested. Kayak Test 1, 2 and 3 were designed to be used by clubs, schools and businesses in their teaching programmes. A River Racing Certificate, designed to assess the kayak skills of multisport athletes was also created to promote higher skill levels (and subsequently safety levels) in multisport events. Although technically still in existence, KT 1, 2, and 3 have not been promoted for some years due to lack of resources, and doubt as to their continuing usefulness. A similar situation exists with the River Racing Certificate. However, plans are underway to review and possibly replace this certificate with a more "user friendly" yet still relevant standard. If you have any ideas on this, or would like to be part of the review process, please contact me on: education@rivers.org.nz or ph: 03 352 5786.



Rusty Sage (USA) at the 1999 Rodeo Worlds, Taupo. Photo: Chris Sinclair

Book Review: *New Zealand WhiteWater*

Chris Sinclair, Membership Officer

New Zealand WhiteWater – 120 Great Kayaking Runs (2nd Edition) is written by Graham Charles and published by Craig Potton Publishing.

Having made extensive use of my original Graham Charles Whitewater bible it was with great anticipation that I unwrapped my new copy of *New Zealand WhiteWater*, revised edition. I was not disappointed!

The first thing I noticed about this revised edition of *New Zealand WhiteWater* was the amazing cover shot of the Gates of Argonath on the Hokitika River (as well as all the other new and exciting photos). This led me to feverishly search for the 20 new river runs that have been added to this edition. These include the Makatote River, Tawarau River, Stony River, Makuri Gorge, Para Para River, Waingaro River, Takaka River, Mokihinui - North Branch, Ngakawau River, Upper Toaroha River, Styx River, Kokatahi River, Upper Whitcombe, Upper Hokitika/Mungo River, Totara, Waitaha River, Karangarua River, Makawhio River, Lochy River and Waikaia River.

In addition to these new runs, the other major change is the increased detail of the maps. These are a large improvement on the sketches in the previous edition and provide a very clear and accurate representation of the location of each river. As with the first edition, Graham has again provided just enough information about each run to allow you to plan your trip safely without detracting from

the actual experience of getting out and doing it. Information included about each run includes how to get to the put-in, how to find the get-out, the estimated length, gradient, time, length of the shuttle, means of shuttle and a brief description of the rivers character.

With more and more boaters spending their hard earned cash on heli-boating, Graham has thoughtfully included a list of helicopter operators and their contact details for each region, so you no longer need to be left waiting for other people to organise your trip..

This revised edition contains information about trip planning, equipment, river safety and a strong message about river conservation and the work carried out by the NZRCA.

In summary, the revised edition of *New Zealand WhiteWater* provides whitewater paddlers with a complete guide to all things associated with whitewater kayaking. River runs, flow phones, safety, access, conservation and photos are all included. We're hoping the next edition will be water proof.

The NZRCA offers a 20% discount to members with the option to buy it through our website (limit one copy per member). Order your copy of *New Zealand WhiteWater* today from www.rivers.org.nz/nzww

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

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