



New Zealand 02.3 Canoeing

President's Comment

Robin Rutter-Baumann

The Executive is very concerned about the accuracy and usefulness of the Maritime Safety Authority report on the drowning of student kayaker Tim Jamieson on the Buller River last February.

Tim drowned whilst held against a partially submerged tree (strainer) which had been obscured from his view by a boulder/pour-over. The Buller was flowing at 95 cumecs on the day. This strainer is approx. 25 metres from the left hand bank of Rodeo Rapid, on the Earthquake section of the Buller River. Kayakers are advised to stay in the main flow of the river towards the right.

Since the mid 1990's we have been attempting to foster a better working relationship with the MSA. Despite this the Buller investigation was not conducted in conjunction with the NZRCA. The NZRCA believes that consequently the report fails to take account of important contributing factors that would enable all kayakers to learn from the Tim's death. In addition the NZRCA notes that the recommendations of this report are at odds with those in the report on the Clarence River drownings (November 2001) and only partially cover some of the contributing factors that are recorded earlier in the report.

We have once again approached the MSA and advised it of our concerns about its ability to adequately investigate kayaking accidents and requested improvements be made to MSA investigation procedures, the format of reports and greater consistency in recommendations. At the time of going to press MSA are yet to respond to us.

The NZRCA believes the following lessons can be learnt:

Strainers are a major danger for kayakers

A change in river flow (even a reduction) can increase the objective danger. If you do not have recent knowledge of a rapid then **scout the rapid** with caution and ask for direction.

All members of a group should communicate known hazards (including their own limitations in knowledge and skill) to each other and should be comfortable with advising each other of dangers.

If you cannot see what is below an obstacle beware: it is dangerous to paddle over it "blind".

Ensure that you can exit your kayak as easily as possible (even if held against an obstacle).

Ensure your Buoyancy Aid fits so that it will not come off unless you want it to.

Consider carrying some means of calling for outside help if necessary, for example; a cell phone or locator beacon.

Caution and knowledge (backed up by River Safety and Rescue Skills) are vital to ensuring a safe trip.

Spring 2002

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About New Zealand 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 around 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 Hugh Canard, Rapid Sensations, Quality Kayaks, Blisstick, Capricorn Books, Mike Savory, Maree Baker, Mick Hopkinson, Jon Hunt, Sue Abott, Ian Russell, and the myriad of e-mail 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
PO Box 284
Wellington
Ph 03 384 5575
editor@rivers.org.nz

The deadline for material for the Summer newsletter is 15 January 2003.

All map references are to NZMS Infomap 260 Topographical series.

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Focus on the Executive... these are the people out there saving your rivers! All elected at the 2002 AGM.

President - Robin Rutter-Baumann, Christchurch

Robin started kayaking in 1982, testing the limits of fibreglass boats in the Hutt Gorge. More recently, Robin has been an enthusiastic member of the Waimanui Club and has been an excellent Vice-President and President for the NZRCA.

Ph: 03 353 8451 president@rivers.org.nz



Vice-President - Mike Birch, Taupo

Mike is our new Vice-President, welcome Mike! Mike trained as a raft guide on the Rogue river in Oregon in 1985, and was introduced to the art of paddling, but more often swimming, when some fellow raft guides convinced him that kayaking was the way to go. Mike owned Taupo based "Rapid Sensations" from 1989 to 2000, and consequently did more rafting than kayaking, and a little less swimming. Nowadays, Mike lives in Taupo and spends as much time as possible at Fulljames (Ngawaapurua rapids) - where he's still perfecting his wet exit.

Ph: 07 378 7903 vice-president@rivers.org.nz

Treasurer - Lynne Fuggle, Christchurch

Lynne, previously our Administration Officer, has continued to improve our processes in the role of Treasurer, with the use of computer software to support our accounting and increasingly robust auditing. With easy to read information made available via the Annual Report, Lynne has increased the transparency and defensibility of our accounting practices.

Ph/Fax: 03 384 9301 treasurer@rivers.org.nz



South Island Conservation - Maree Baker, Dunedin

Muzz, our legal eagle for the past six years, has been a key player in the Association's conservation successes for a number of important rivers, particularly the Clarence, the Buller and the Tongiraro Rivers. This year, Muzz's energy will be directed toward...

Ph: 03 454 3249 conservation@rivers.org.nz

Nth Island Conservation - Graeme McIntyre, Palmerston Nth

A Palmerston North stalwart, Graeme was a late starter into white water and was brought into the sport his sons Phill and Colin. Graeme also has an interest in long distance sea kayaking and his adventures have featured in *NZ Canoeing*. Graeme has just stepped down as president of the Ruahine White Water Club after 7 years and now hopes to spend time doing some NZRCA work.

Ph: 06 355 1227 niconservation@rivers.org.nz

Education and Safety - Glen Murdoch, Queenstown

Glen was elected into his position while he was still in Japan. Glen has been paddling since 1994. He's paddled all over NZ, with a little bit in Europe and Japan, and since 2000 he's been a professional raft guide. Rafting every day means he's built up some insight into what's necessary for a safe river trip. This year Glen hopes to improve our relationship with the MSA and help them to improve their investigation and reporting procedures.

education@rivers.org.nz and safety@rivers.org.nz

Access - Mike Savory, Christchurch

Mike is our most venerable member of the Executive, and a very valuable source of wisdom, as well as the person who's covered the widest range of positions. Access work for the coming year will include re-negotiation of existing flows for rivers such as the Pukaki, Tekapo, Managahao, and troubleshooting any access issues that are reported to the Association.

Ph: 03 384 8466 access@rivers.org.nz

Communications - Polly Miller, Wellington

Polly has covered Communications and Newsletter for the past few years, and this is her last newsletter before handing this role over to Tony. She is looking forward to getting into the Communications role and will start by improving our contact with members (particularly clubs) reviewing our methods for dealing with the media, and providing support for other Exec members on writing submissions.

Ph: 04 387 4117 communications@rivers.org.nz

NZ Canoeing Editor Tony Ward-Holmes, Christchurch

Tony's background in first descents will hold him in good stead for taking on the challenge of editing *NZ Canoeing*. Welcome Tony!

Ph: 03 384 5575 editor@rivers.org.nz

Membership

Alan Bell, Wellington

Alan Bell, the power behind the Hutt Valley Canoe Club, brings a strong club perspective to the challenges of the membership portfolio. Alan, our 2000-01 Canoeist of the Year, is well known for his energy for introducing new kayakers in to boating.

Ph: 04 570 0232

membership@rivers.org.nz

Webmaster

Jonathan Hunt, Christchurch

Jon, our truly tireless webmaster, continues to develop and maintain the www.rivers.org.nz website. The site has a number of popular features (for example the Buy/Sell/Swap forum). Jon aims to introduce forums for kayakers to discuss conservation, access and safety issues - and talk about going boating.

Ph: 03-381 2800

webmaster@rivers.org.nz

Administration

Melissa Bardsley, Wellington



The Executive continues to be very appreciative of Milli's ability to keep us all on track, as well as being the first point of contact for the Association and doing the myriad of jobs in the Admin role amazingly well. This year, Milli will be moving to Hamilton and enjoying the rivers around there.

Ph: 04 560 3590

admin@rivers.org.nz



*Most members of the NZRCA Executive at the Maori Gully takeout on the Hurunui River
From left: Polly Miller, Robin Rutter-Baumann, Lynne Fuggle, Alan Bell, Milli Bardsley, Hugh Canard, Mike Savory, Mike Birch and Graeme McIntyre. Photo: Stefan Lamont*

Maggie Oakley, NZRCA Canoeist of the Year

Sue Abbot

Maggie's achievements in kayaking and her continual involvement in all aspects of canoeing over nearly 30 years made her a clear winner for the NZRCA Canoeist of the Year. As her prize, Maggie collected a Topsport River Vest. Many thanks to Topsport for donating the prize, and congratulations to Maggie.

Maggie first started kayaking in 1973 just before the birth of her daughter. This was on the Rangitikei River in the North Island, and her first kayak was an old-style double, bought from a local farmer, which she paddled with her husband Rod. She joined the Palmerston North Canoe Club in 1974.

In 1977 Maggie moved to Lawrence with her family, and in 1981 moved to Dunedin. She joined the Otago Canoe & Kayak Club in 1977 and has been involved in the committee in various roles on and off since then and has always an active member. She has been involved in most forms of the sport, namely whitewater, sea kayaking, slalom and in 1987 was in a women's team of the Coast-to-Coast and in 1988 won the Veteran Womens Individual Coast-to-Coast.

The various activities Maggie has been involved in include organising numerous trips, both white water and sea & lake trips. Maggie has always been keen to get beginners out and onto the beautiful rivers and lakes of NZ, whether it's for fun or an organised river safety or first aid course.

Maggie has been particularly active in conservation, and has been the conservation officer for OCKC for the last five years. During this time she set up guidelines and a template letter for responding to resource applications. She has canvassed club members for support against various resource consent applications mainly on the rivers of Otago but

also of the South Island. She has networked with others involved in conservation around the region such as Fish & Game, District Council Members, Ngai Tahu, etc.

Maggie loves nothing more than being in her kayak on a river. She delights in seeing other people developing their skills, enjoying the outdoors and doing so safely. That is a reason she is so passionate about conservation. Over her years of paddling she has seen river after river being taken over by hydro-electricity irrigation or commercial jetboats or tourism. She does not want any more of this whitewater lost.

What Maggie has done for women paddlers also needs a mention. She started paddling at a time when it was unusual for women to be paddling and has kept it up over the years despite being busy with family commitments and fulltime employment. She is an inspiration to older women (and younger ones). Women in the OCKC realise that they too can get out and enjoy kayaking, no matter their age.



Maggie Oakley, Canoeist of the Year, in her Topsport Lifejacket

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Our patron's words of wisdom on the Competition for Water

Hugh Canard, patron@rivers.org.nz

The New Zealand government is embarking on a growth strategy designed to get the country into the top half of the OECD countries income levels. The thinking goes like this: We have been lagging behind our neighbours and those countries we fondly imagine to be our peers. Collectively we have been financing a high standard of living on a developing world income for a number of years. More economic activity and more jobs, especially those industries that are globally competitive and which will provide higher paying jobs. To deliver the much needed health and education improvements we need, requires more income.

More economic activity usually means more energy and resource consumption, although it does not necessarily have to be that way. It is sometimes possible to get more from less. So what? Does this affect you? Oh yes. Water is one of our increasingly valuable and fought over resources.

Especially water containing that magic ingredient, gravity. Hydro generation schemes are being dusted off all over New Zealand, and there are literally dozens of irrigation schemes in various stages of advancement. Irrigation is capable of delivering some substantial economic gains to rural regions, hence the increased interest. A less obvious threat to in-stream recreation is the decline in water quality due to more intensive agriculture, with dairying being a prime suspect. Even those rivers we value highly and have fought hard and long for, like the Buller, have their National Water Conservation Orders being challenged. It is inevitable that a river with volume and gradient

will attract attention from developers. The nearer to a centre of economic activity, the greater the likelihood that the figures will stack up. So, your cherished local run is in the frame.

The last few years have been a period of consolidation for the NZRCA. There have been no major dams proposed - or at least not by people with the wherewithal to actually get the consents and build them. There has been plenty going on, but the present crop of projects does not have the push that a few blackouts in major cities and industries can create. Irrigation schemes usually divert water from rivers, leaving 'residual' flows, and we all know that residual flows are not as much fun as natural flows.

Where does this leave us? First, brace yourself. Expect a new round of applications and schemes on major and minor rivers. Take some comfort that we have rights under the Resource Management Act and "effects have to be mitigated". To have the effects on our sport "mitigated" we paddlers need to present our case well, and base it on hard data. It will not carry the day to turn up at a hearing or spam some government officials with emotional pleas, however true we know these views to be. Given that some schemes will proceed, we need to ensure that our voices are heard.

The most effective conservation tool is very simple - a logbook. They are made of paper and are cheap, portable and do not require high bandwidth. Record every trip, date, how many paddlers, the flow, and how the experience was for you. It will impress your grandchildren (yeah, right), but more importantly, it will impress tribunal members and officials, who seek facts and numbers and dates. Even a spreadsheet on your PC that you update on a Sunday evening is a logbook. When a river comes up on the radar, whoever is on the NZRCA case will be looking for numbers and dates and this is where personal logbooks are so useful.

A small thing to us can have an unforeseen effect on a lay person. At a hearing on the Kawarau the judge interrupted a paddler in the middle of his evidence, "Do you mean that you actually have names for all these rapids?"

We know that, but the judge had no idea, and in his mind this was evidence that we really did care about the river and the experiences we had. The collective efforts of those paddlers over many years has meant that we are listened to, and that our views are given some weight when the hearings are held. You owe it to your fellow paddlers to participate. Some people are capable of writing long submissions with legal arguments - just as well. But all of us can contribute the price of a few beers and a bit of time and not leave it to 'someone else'.

If you really want to impress your grandchildren you can tell them how you once personally helped save a river. All you have to do is support the people in the NZRCA. And get a logbook, and fill it in.

Adventures on the Turkish Coruh River

Mike Savory

Arrgghhhhh... another frustrating day in the office, driving home in the cold dark rain. What I need is some paddling in a nice warm place to escape this winter.

What about that email I got from Slime* a few months ago, I wonder if he has any places left?

“NAUGHTY BOYS IN TURKEY - one week - June 14th to 23rd. I don't know if you realised it but this is Dave Manby's last year in Turkey running trips on the Coruh River. Apparently it's twenty years since we did the first kayak descent there, plus they are starting to build a dam. So I've arranged a very special trip with Dave. Cost around £450 plus airfares. 7 days of kayaking, a multi-day trip with van support, camping and hotels.”

A quick email wings its way off to Slime and an encouraging reply that there is one place left, has me quickly on the phone to a travel agent. With only seven weeks before the trip, finding a flight in the European peak season becomes a problem. At one stage it looked like I would have to go via Los Angeles and Frankfurt to get to Istanbul. Eventually after lots of hard work (thanks Fiona at Riccarton Travel Center) I ended up with a fairly direct flight via Sydney and Singapore, but with nearly 60 hours of stopovers! Thank goodness for my old Qantas club guest vouchers... The flight wasn't cheap though, so I almost pulled out at this stage. Then Slime emailed with a suggestion that we stay on for an extra week and climb the highest peak in the region (Kaçar Dag 3938m), a relatively easy snow plod.

So what is the river like? I found some good looking rafting photos (<http://www.alternatifraft.com/Photogallery.html>) and Dave's own site (<http://www.dmanby.demon.co.uk/>). It looked pretty good.

What about this dam? Some quick research on the net (search for Yusafelei dam) yielded some good background:

“The Coruh river runs from the Mescit mountains, through north-eastern Turkey, into Georgia and down to the Black sea at Batumi. The ethnic Georgians who inhabit its valley live among thousands of medieval buildings and archaeological remains. The river's catchment is a key transit point for migrating birds of prey, and the habitat of bears, wolves, lynx, ibex and some 160 endemic plants.

The Turkish government intends to flood most of the valley with a series of dams. Local officials estimate that it will drown the homes of some 15,000 people, and displace a further 15,000, as their roads and fields are submerged.”

So, I packed up my huge collection of alpine snow tramping gear and summer paddling gear, and headed away. There were 12 of us on the trip.



The team prepare to take off. Photo: Mike Savory

The river ended up being a Buller sized affair starting on the first day a little like the Granity Creek section and finishing with a lower gorge of Iron Brige size flows in a confined gorge that made for days of great continuous Class 4 big play water. I paddled a brand new Inazone 230 and really enjoyed myself more than the Grand Canyon as it had much less flat water between rapids. The food was great and the culture interesting. Turkey was also doing really well at the World Cup, so we had to plan our paddling around watching their games.

Unfortunately my camera broke on the second day, so I'm waiting to see what sort of photos the others took. Also Slime twisted his ankle while hiking up to a castle, ending our plans to climb mountains (there was probably too much snow around anyway). So Slime headed home early and I went touring in the desert of Capadocia with all my alpine clothes never leaving their bag for the whole trip.

All in all a great trip. Lots of opportunity in the area for more paddling. I found out about another 20 smaller rivers in the area that would be worth checking out.

* Slime- aka Peter Knowles, a UK paddle bum (in his 50's now) who, as well as writing great paddling guide books (Nepal, European Alps and Equador), specialises in organising paddling trips around the world for his mates so that he can have a free trip.

What Mick Hopkinson Takes Boating

This gear is what I pack for the Coast, when I'm doing serious kayaking or creek boating on rivers without road access, or drive-ins where the river does not follow the road. I always take good gear that I can rely on, I recommend that if you can't afford new gear, then you should consider turning down the trip.

Take good friends with better skills and fitness than you!

On your body

Warm gear, including a dry top. Consider the merits of a dry suit (may make you less flexible, but pays dividends in keeping you warm day and night)

Shoes which you can walk out in. Consider that when you're loaded down with a boat you need good support, and the terrain you may be walking though.

Helmet which provides good protection for forehead and the back of your neck, and has a visor for the sun. A hot head (or warm hat) is also essential.

Elbow pads

Ear plugs

Lifejacket with at least 6kgs of buoyancy (remember that exposure to the sun makes your lifejacket less floaty) with towline, at least one caribiner, river saw, river knife, watch, whistle, big sling, fire starting gear (a candle and matches).

In your boat

Split paddle

Dry bag with duct tape, painkillers, food, Leatherman, sling
Prussicks

Throwbag (either between your knees or on the body)

Large plastic or bivvy bag in case of overnight adventures
2 or 3 caribiners

Airbags

And don't forget to pack your brain...

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Conservation Update

Maree Baker

It's been another busy year, but not one with many tangible outcomes. Of particular interest to North Island paddlers will be our agreement with Genesis Power to mitigate the effects that the Taupo Power Development Scheme (TPD) has had on white water, see below:

Tongariro

We reached agreement with Genesis Power Ltd about the ways in which the effect of the TPD on kayaking can be "mitigated". That agreement is basically as follows:

- 3 weekends on the upper and lower Tongariro per year
- 2 natural flow days on the Whakapapa (with backup days)
- Flushing flow on the Moawhango
- Creation of an artificial playhole (in conjunction with OPC)
- Provision of a trust fund for developing kayaking (to be administered by OPC)

Rangitata Water Conservation Order

Late last year we presented a full day of evidence to the Special Tribunal in support of Fish and Games' application for a National Water Conservation Order to protect the Rangitata River from increasing irrigation demands and pollution. The Tribunal has still not released its decision. We are hoping to receive a decision in October or thereabouts. If the decision is in our favour, it is highly probable that the irrigators will appeal it to the Environment Court, and likewise if it is against us it is likely Fish and Game will appeal to the Environment Court

Gowan River

In February we appeared alongside Fish and Game, DoC and Tasman District Council to oppose the Majac Trust's application to have the Buller Water Conservation Order severed from the Gowan. It was all "legal" arguments, rather than substantive or factual issues relating to the Gowan in particular. The High Court ruled in our favour, but the Trust appealed, so this story is not yet finished

Waikato/Ngawaparua

We are still in discussions with Mighty River Power about what their responsibilities are in terms of providing "mitigation" for the effect of their dams on the kayaking amenity on the Waikato

Clutha

Contact Energy has not shown much interest in discussing this similar issue with us on the Hawea and Clutha. Central Otago Whitewater has a good relationship with Contact so we are keeping an eye on the progress they are making.

Smiths Falls

Queenstown Lakes District Council has decided not to proceed with their application to blast the bluff above Smiths Falls (part of the flood mitigation package) so that is great news. However they are not actually withdrawing the application so we are still keeping an eye on this.

The Adams Wilderness Area

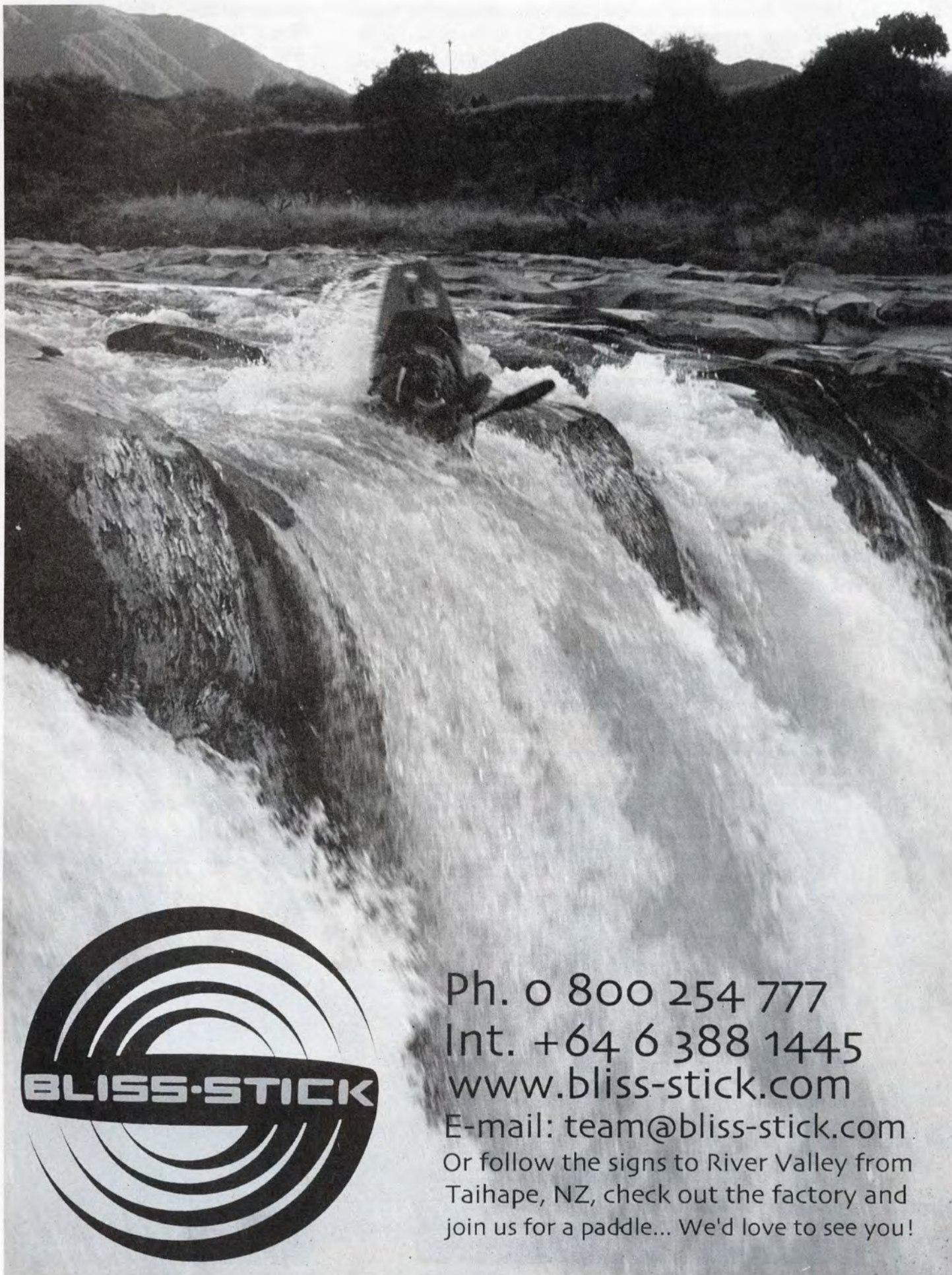
Jonathan Hunt

Earlier this year the Department of Conservation proposed two new wilderness areas on the West Coast. The Adams wilderness area proposal is of concern to kayakers with respect to continued access to the Upper Perth, Upper Wanganui and Adams rivers. DoC has provided a useful background paper and a specific information pack on the Adams area which recognises the Perth and Upper Wanganui as world-class adventure kayaking sections.

The Adams Wilderness Area is the latest in a series of conservation estate management plans that have reduced the recreational opportunities for whitewater kayakers. Kayakers have already lost access to the Upper Landsborough (due to the Hooker-Landsborough Wilderness Area) and the Karangarua (old airstrip at Cassel Flat is now in Westland Tai Poutini National Park), and arguably the Waipara (due to the Olivine Wilderness Area), the best day-trip landing in the Karamea (above Roaring Lion in the Tasman Wilderness Area), and air access was threatened during the drafting of the Kahurangi National Park Conservation Management Plan.

In the Adams information pack DoC stated "use of the rivers included in the proposed wilderness area for kayaking and rafting would be unaffected if the wilderness area were created" but this is incorrect in relation to the Adams and the boundary near the Perth. Even if access to the Upper Perth and Upper Wanganui is retained the loss of access to the Adams would be a permanent loss to current and future kayakers.

(contd pg 11)



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Opening of the Tekapo White Water Course

Ian Russell

A \$750,000 new artificial white water course will be officially opened this Labour weekend on the Tekapo River in the McKenzie basin.

The course will be open for public viewing starting 10am 26 October with the gate opening, followed by speeches and demonstrations of various types of white water events. These include kayak Rodeo/surfing, slalom, down river race, raft/bug descent, and play boating.

The white water course is 500 m long and with 20 cumecs flow, is suitable for experienced paddlers at grade 3 level.

Sunday is competition day with organised slalom and rodeo events as well as play boating. These events will make spectacular viewing and are open to all grade 3 paddlers who would like some good competition or just some serious fun boating.

Both financial and technical difficulties have meant this project has taken 12 years from conception to opening, but now it will be a great asset to white water users in the future.

For more information, including the events calendar and this season's release flows refer to www.rivers.org.nz

Tekapo Release Dates

Sat 26 Oct 02	Course
Sun 27 Oct 02	Course
Mon 28 Oct 02	Course
Sat 16 Nov 02	River
Sun 17 Nov 02	River
Sat 30 Nov 02	Course
Sun 1 Dec 02	Course
Sat 14 Dec 02	River
Sun 15 Dec 02	River
Sat 28 Dec 02	Course
Sun 29 Dec 02	Course
Sat 18 Jan 03	River
Sun 19 Jan 03	River
Sat 25 Jan 03	PUKAKI
Sun 26 Jan 03	PUKAKI
Waitangi 6 Feb 03	Course
Fri 7 Feb 03	Course
Sat 8 Feb 03	Course
Sun 9 Feb 03	Course

Tues 25 Feb 03	School
Tues 4 Mar 03	School
Sat 8 Mar 03	Course
Sun 9 Mar 03	Course
Sat 15 Mar 03	River
Sun 16 Mar 03	River
Tues 18 Mar 03	School

Course - White water course only, at 12 cumecs

River - Tekapo river at 30 cumecs

Pukaki - Pukaki release as well as Tekapo release

School - a school has booked the course



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www.rapids.co.nz

This is Polly's last issue as editor of NZ Canoeing. Tony's first edition will be Summer 2003. To contribute news, events, stories and advertising, contact Tony on editor@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.

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