



New Zealand Canoeing 09.01

Summer Issue 2009

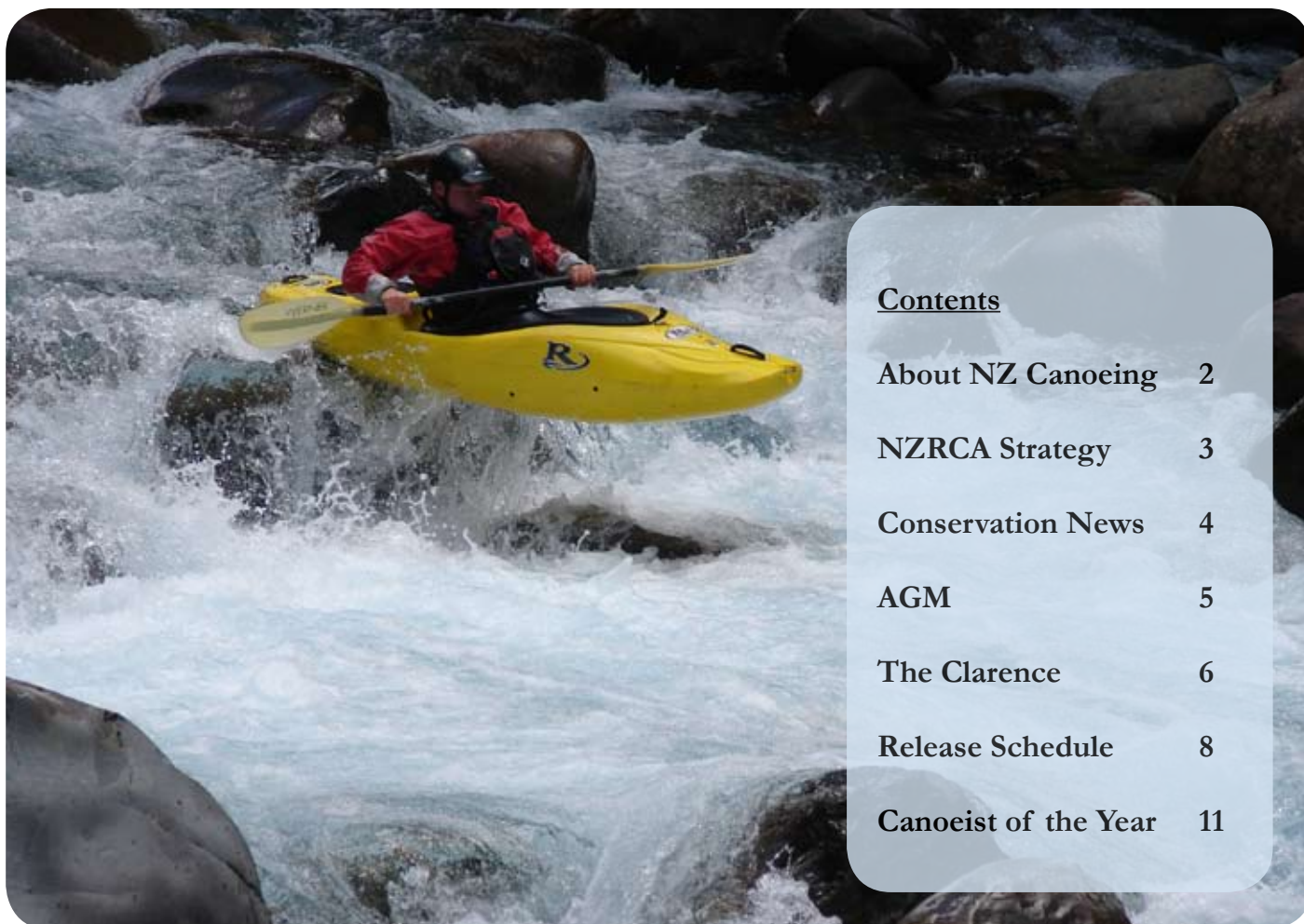
Welcome to the Summer 09 issue of NZRCA magazine! It was rewarding to hear a lot of feedback from the previous 'Black issue' with many commenting that they had no idea how bleak the outlook is for some regularly paddled New Zealand kayaking favourites. In this issue we have dedicated a section to a 'Conservation Update', so you can find out what has been proposed on the rivers in your back yard.

The responsibility is for all of us to be active in letting the applicants know how much we value the rivers we paddle on, or want to see in their natural state for many more years to come.

Canoeist of the Year (COTY) nominations are due by 20th April 2009. Please forward these to an NZRCA member (listed on page 2). The 2009 nominations will be discussed at the AGM on 25 April, and the winner will be announced in the next magazine. Please see further details on page 11.

Summer provided some good paddling conditions, with many kayakers taking advantage of their annual holidays to get in their dose of kayaking. Hokitika was again busy, and it was great to see places such as the Hokitika Holiday Park embracing the kayaking potential in the area, and offering discounted camping rates to kayakers and also putting in a didymo washing station.

Cheers and Safe paddling,
Michelle



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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 contributors and advertisers and the myriad of e-mail correspondents for their contributions to this issue of *NZ Canoeing*. May the rivers flow for you!

All map references are to NZMS Infomap 260 Topographical series.

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Cover Photo: Stu Daniel launches a boof on the Hollyford.
Photo by Michelle Wallace

Your contributions are welcome!
Please send items to:
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as elected at the NZRCA AGM April 2008

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The NZRCA's Draft Conservation Strategy; What is it and what does it say? *Written by Duncan Catanach*

Why a Conservation Strategy?

Last issue, the “Black Issue”, painted a bleak picture for the future of New Zealand’s whitewater resources.

We’ve got fights on all sorts of rivers on our hands – Kaituna, Nevis, Waitaha, Mokihinui, Matiri, Matakaitaki, Glenroy, Mokau to name just a few and there’s plenty more schemes being planned. We’re constantly fighting proposed changes to legislation (e.g., Resource Management Act) and policies (e.g., National Policy Statement on Renewable Energy and Freshwater Management, Emissions Trading Scheme) that strongly favour developers and make it even harder for groups such as the NZRCA and individual paddlers to have their voice properly heard.

In short, the “perfect storm” that Tony Ward-Holmes signalled in the “Black Issue” shows no signs of abating, only intensifying. The odds are now sufficiently stacked up against us that we have to make some choices on what to fight and fight smarter.

The NZRCA executive recognised that different times may dictate a different approach and so the Conservation Strategy was born.

This document sets out some guidelines as to how the NZRCA is likely to act in the face of this onslaught. It’s a reasonably formal document because the audience it is intended for includes all our key stakeholders – developers, policy makers, allied environment and recreational organisations as well as paddlers.

While the Conservation Strategy is only a guide to decision-making and it’s not cast in stone, the document is important enough that the paddling community should be aware of its implications. We’ve given a practical example on how the draft Conservation Strategy could work in action. And as our primary constituents it would be great to know your thoughts on what you think about the Conservation Strategy (see below).

What’s the big picture message of the draft Conservation Strategy?

Our aim is to protect the river sections, catchments and regions that paddlers value most (i.e., have the most whitewater amenity value) and get comprehensive and appropriate mitigation for rivers if we can’t get protection.

We believe that a consultative and strategic approach is most likely to result in our aim being achieved. We want to consult with paddlers to make sure our assessment of what is valued is correct. We want to consult early with developers so that they understand what we value and thus stay clear of those rivers and/or design schemes that take into account kayaker’s values.

It is not credible or sensible to oppose every hydro or irrigation scheme. We may decide (usually after significant deliberation) to support or not oppose schemes on river sections of lower whitewater amenity value if there is a strategic reason for doing so and if comprehensive and appropriate mitigation can be provided for any adverse effects on the values for which the river section is held. If the right mitigation isn’t forthcoming we will oppose the scheme.

We will oppose policy or law changes that make it less likely that the whitewater amenity value is fully considered or that limits our ability to engage in decision-making processes around rivers.

What does the draft Conservation Strategy say about how rivers are valued?

The draft conservation strategy does not say this particular river is valued more than that – it only gives some guidance into thinking about why a river may be valued by whitewater paddlers and how to describe it to others.

Paddlers are the experts on whitewater amenity value. Different paddlers also value different things. There is no magic formula but there are some attributes that are likely to contribute to a higher whitewater amenity value being placed on a section. These attributes include (in no relative order of importance) whitewater value, landscape value, use value, scarcity value and status value.

Importantly, we’ve said that you can’t think about a river section in isolation from other sections in the catchment or other rivers in the region, nationally or internationally. For instance, if a river section has features that are scarce nationally or internationally, then all other things being equal, that will increase the value placed on that river section.

Where do I find a full copy of the draft Conservation Strategy and how can I comment on it?

The draft Conservation Strategy is available online at www.rivers.org.nz. The strategy will be discussed at the AGM in Christchurch over Anzac Weekend (25-26 April), so please send your comments to conservation@rivers.org.nz prior to then.

**To receive a PDF copy of the draft to make comment on:
email conservation@rivers.org.nz**

Conservation News

Written by NZRCA Conservation Officer, Tony Ward-Holmes

As reported in the last issue of the NZRCA newsletter, the “Black Issue”, there has been much happening on the river conservation scene. In the North Island the focus has been on policy, especially with the new government making changes to the Resource Management Act and also with National Policy Standards.

In the South Island there are a heap of projects on the drawing board.

In January NZRCA submitted in support of the Stockton Plateau Hydro Project. The SPHP will remove 17% of the mean flow of the Ngakawau River, however this constitutes almost all of the water polluted by mining activity on the plateau, so water quality in the Ngakawau will be significantly improved.

NZRCA in consultation with local kayakers concluded that the effect on kayaking would be neutral or arguably even positive, while the power generated will reduce the need for other schemes under consideration such as the Mokihinui, Waitaha, Matakaitaki and Taipo Rivers.

In February, representatives from NZRCA, NZ Kayak School, Whitewater Canoe Club and Nelson Canoe Club presented evidence at the hearing

for the Matiri Hydro Scheme (MHS). The MHS involves damming the Matiri immediately downstream of the lake, and was touted by the applicant, NZ Energy Ltd, as actually being of benefit to kayaking.

However in times of rain, all inflow into Lake Matiri would be captured behind the dam, and no extra water will flow down the Matiri until the lake overflows the top of the dam. As a result freshes and floods will

be partially or completely swallowed by the scheme.

The hearing did not complete in the allotted time and will resume at a later date.

On March 30 the hearing starts into NZRCA and Fish & Game's application for a Water Conservation Order on the Hurunui River. This will be a major effort, it is the first time NZRCA has been an applicant for a WCO.

Previously we have only supported Fish & Game and/or Forest & Bird WCO applications. There are about 270 submissions in support, 100

against. Many thanks to 75 kayakers who are supporting this WCO.

Lastly, on May 20, the hearing for the amendment to add the Nevis River to the Kawarau WCO starts. This is a Fish and Game application but kayaking is an important part of the river's recreational amenity.

Thanks again to all kayakers who submitted.



The WWCC Vice President, Graeme Wilson at the hearing of the Mokihinui Hydro Scheme (MHS). Photo by Robin Rutter-Baumann

river, boof, waterfall, sieve, huck, drop, paddle, rock, loop, cartwheel, air, nature, float, explore, canoe, white water, buffer, travel, experience, rescue, slide, spin, ferry, attain, eddy, whirlpool, cataract, gorge, swim, blunt, kayak, fun, scout, hydraulic, play, portage, creek, slalom, grade, carve, inspire, power, pourover, stroke, slice, pfd, donkey flip, helmet, race, wave, expedition, friends, lines, camping, throw-bag, movies, trips, adventures, knife, ecology, fitness, life, lateral, gate, undercut, lifejacket, carry, challenge, pour-over, competition, breath, crank, shuttle, mission, sunshine, passion, road-trip, events, prizes, tips, techniques, pin-drop, seal launch,

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New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association Inc.

Annual General Meeting

Arawa Canoe Club Rooms, Kerrs Reach, Christchurch

25 April 2009

Guest Speaker: Metiria Turei MP

10am – 12 pm	Annual General Meeting
12.30pm	lunch for all
1.30pm	Presentation of what will we lose? Slide show
2.30pm	how can we work together – discussion
6.30 ish	Dinner in the evening at a local venue – will advise on the day
Sunday 26 April	Paddle on the Hurunui on with mass meeting at the put in



NOTICE OF REMIT:

The Executive gives notice that a change to the constitution of the NZRCA is proposed for consideration at the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

The remit is to change the registered name of the association from New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association to Whitewater New Zealand. The Executive asks that all members wishing to debate and vote on this change attend the AGM. However written submissions are also welcomed and will be read out should attendance not be possible .

Submissions should be emailed to nzrca@rivers.org.nz no later than 18 April 2009.

THE CLARENCE RIVER

Photos and script by Maggie Oakley



A beautiful clean river, hidden away in the great valleys of the Kaikoura Mountains.

"You are no Shackleton" to quote my husband. True, but on a river like the Clarence you just go with the flow until you reach the sea, the end. 2007 started with my much longed for combined kayak and tramping adventure. Back during the summer of 1995 a friend and I had taken our fibreglass sea kayaks the length of the Clarence River. Unfortunately that particular year the river was in severe drought, we did not enjoy the hard work involved in lining our kayaks down the dry and bony rapids. Therefore a plastic sea kayak would be the ideal craft for me, built tough enough

should the river be in drought again and with sufficient storage capacity to carry both camping and tramping gear.

The river is most commonly run from the Acheron River Confluence, near Hanmer Springs, down to the main road bridge on the East Coast. At a usual summer flow of between 20 and 50 cumecs, the run takes five days and four nights. I extended that to include a couple of day tramps into areas of native bush, which I thought fun to explore further on foot.

High up on my packing list was my food selection, for my family

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the priority was safety gear. Therefore I hired an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). The model I chose was waterproof, and small enough to fit in the pocket of my life jacket. I also packed a paddle leash that I like to use at sea. The kayak I took, a Penguin with rudder retracted and secured, proved an excellent choice, easily swallowing ten days of food and two changes of clothes in the front hatch. In the back a tent, bedroll, sleeping bag, cooker, billies, backpack and boots disappeared with room to spare. Behind my seat in the cockpit I secured a first aid/emergency box, snacks, sun hat, paper and pen and toilet needs.

Two kilometres north of the river, at the Clarence River Rafting Company, I met up with my shuttle driver, Robin Judge. He showed me the short-cut back road to the put in.



Robin was perfectly in tune with my needs: he sat quietly while I methodically packed and got changed into river clothes. The river was running at about 20 cumecs, a pleasant grade 2 flow. When in flood with a flow up to 300 - 500 cumecs, the water in the gorges gets pushy and definitively warrants a grade 3.

The trip proved to be exactly what I was hoping for. On my own I was free to take more notice than usual where the river is eroding away, making the gorges deeper and deeper. I also enjoyed seeing the Marlborough rock daisy's jutting out from each cliff wall. The vast diversity of plant life is quite surprising, from dry grasslands to forest as you progress along the river, but you do need to stop from time to time to take it in.

Taking responsibility for my self resulted in a surprising feeling of calm and peacefulness. Spinal and head injuries sustained in the summer of 2002 have meant many changes to my life. Well-planned activities, quiet situations, one to one conversations and simple tasks are all safe and appropriate - this trip was perfect for the way my brain works now.

But the river was far from empty of people. On day four I came across six open Canadian canoes pulled up along the bank. These canoes belonged to a large group of Americans who were attending a National Outdoors Leadership School. (NOLS). They informed me they were

partway through a twenty-six day course on the Clarence "learning outdoors stuff". On my last evening I caught up with a raft group from Holland. These experienced rafters were fresh from running trips in the USA, namely the Middle Fork and Grand Canyon rivers. D.O.C. is putting more huts along the length of the river but it helps to know when to start looking for them, or you can quickly drift past some very suitable get-out spots. The increase in tourist interest and international use of this river was very pleasing to see, although none of them knew about the unique hut facilities that are available in New Zealand.

So - There it is: The Clarence remains one of the few unspoilt multi-day wilderness rivers in New Zealand - A beautiful clean river, hidden away in the great valleys of the Kaikoura Mountains.



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Release Schedule

NORTH ISLAND

Mangahao Gorge

Mangahao Release Saturday 27 October

Wairoa River - McLaren Falls to Powerstation

Wairoa Release Sunday 8 March
Wairoa Release Sunday 15 March
Wairoa Release Sunday 22 March
Wairoa Release Sunday 5 April
Wairoa Release Sunday 19 April

Tongariro River

Access 10 Saturday 18 April
Access 13 and 14 Sunday 19 April

Piripaua

No flow downstream Piripaua

Piripaua Release Saturday 28 March
Piripaua Release Sunday 29 March
Piripaua Release Saturday 4 April
Piripaua Release Sunday 5 April
Piripaua Release Saturday 2 May
Piripaua Release Sunday 3 May

Whakamarino

Whakamarino Release Saturday 4 April
Whakamarino Release Sunday 5 April



Please refer to our website (rivers.org.nz/events/) for the latest release schedules, including flow information.



Photos

Top right: Kayakers queueing up for the Tongariro release
Photo by Michelle Wallace

Bottom right: Looking into the mysterious Tree Trunk Gorge
Photo by Lee Davies

Background: Water spilling over at Access 14, get in, Tongariro River
Photo by Michelle Wallace



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SOUTH ISLAND

Tekapo Release

Tekapo release (school)

Tuesday 17 March 13:30-16:30	3hrs @ 18cu.
Tuesday 24 March 13:30-16:30	3hrs @ 18cu.
Tuesday 31 March 13:30-16:30	3hrs @ 18cu.

Tekapo release

Saturday 21 March 11:00-17:00	6hrs @ 17cu.
Sunday 22 March 09:00-15:00	6hrs @ 17cu.
Sunday 29 March 10:00-16:00	6hrs @ 18cu.

Tekapo Whitewater Course (Polytech)

Wednesday 18 March 11:00-17:00	6hrs @ 18cu.
Thursday 19 March 09:00-15:00	6hrs @ 18cu.
Wednesday 01 April 11:00-17:00	6hrs @ 18cu.
Thursday 2 April 09:00-15:00	6hrs @ 18cu.

Simon Callaghan on the Manuherikia River, Central Otago

Photo by Gavin Lodge



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Honza - Lake to Lake Norway

Canoeist of the Year

Canoeist Of The Year is voted upon at the AGM. This award is to recognise people who contributed to the sport of whitewater paddling and includes (but is not restricted to) conservation, access, safety, instruction, and club development. Nomination is a way to recognise a people who have assisted others.

Nominations for this award can be made by any member of the NZRCA and must be in writing. It is recommended that all persons nominating someone for the Canoeist of the Year obtain consent from the nominee before submitting a nomination. In cases where it is not clear that consent has been obtained the NZRCA will take all practicable steps to contact the nominee before accepting the nomination.

Nominations must contain the full name of the nominee and nominator with contact details for each, they should also clearly state why the nominee should be Canoeist of the Year and in the nominee has consented to nomination.

Nominations are to be called for no less that four weeks prior the AGM. This call is to be made in writing in the Annul Report, NZ Canoeing, via email and/or the website.

Nominations are to be received by the Administration Officer no less that 1 week prior to the AGM.

All nominations will be read out at the AGM and will be voted on by the members attending the AGM; in the event of a tie the President will have a casting vote.

In the event that no written nomination is received the President will call for nominations "from the floor" at the AGM. All nominations (including any made "from the floor" of the AGM) will be responded to in writing, with a letter of thanks to both the nominee and the nominator.

The Canoeist of The Year award recipient will be announced in NZ Canoeing, on the NZRCA website and will, automatically, become the NZRCA nomination for the Canard Cup awarded by the NZCFA

The Canoeist of the Year (and/or their nominator) will be asked to supply a short personal profile for inclusion in NZ Canoeing and on the NZRCA website.

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Please note that Club and Associate members pay different fees. See our website: www.rivers.org.nz/membership for details of other membership classes.

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New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association Inc.

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

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