



Whitewater NZ

Winter Issue 2009
09.2

New Zealand Canoeing

Winter Issue 2009
(09.02)

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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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Front Cover; Gavin Lodge on the Waito River beneath Franz Joseph glacier Photo by Stu Daniel

Your contributions are welcome!
Please send items to:
The Editor
PO Box 284
Wellington
editor@rivers.org.nz

NZRCA Executive & Officers

as elected at the NZRCA AGM April 2008

Patron

Hugh Canard
Christchurch
patron@rivers.org.nz

President

Polly Miller
Christchurch
president@rivers.org.nz

Vice-President

Duncan Catanach
Wellington
vice-president@rivers.org.nz

NI Conservation

Duncan Catanach
Wellington
conservation@rivers.org.nz

Conservation

Tony Ward-Holmes
Christchurch
conservation@rivers.org.nz

Safety

Matt Barker
Auckland
safety@rivers.org.nz

Education

Matt Barker
Auckland
education@rivers.org.nz

Access

Mike Birch
Masterton
access@rivers.org.nz

Treasurer

Simon Callaghan
Gore
treasurer@rivers.org.nz

Communications

Sophie Ballagh
Christchurch
communications@rivers.org.nz

Administration

Anne Smith
Wellington
admin@rivers.org.nz

Membership


Alan Bell
Wellington
membership@rivers.org.nz

NZ Canoeing Editor

Michelle Wallace
Hamilton
editor@rivers.org.nz

Webmaster

Jonathan Hunt
Christchurch
webmaster@rivers.org.nz



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Canoeist of the Year

Nominations for the 2009 Canoeist of the Year were reviewed at the AGM in April. Canoeist of the Year was contended for at the NZRCA AGM. Congratulations to Robin Rutter-Bauman and Graeme Wilson who were nominated for their extensive contributions towards kayaking.

Graeme Wilson was awarded the canoeist of the Year 2009. He has been a member of WWCC for only his four years but in that time he has made an enormous contribution, both within the club and to the wider kayaking community.

Graeme is not the gung ho kayaking guru / daredevil type instead he is a quiet achiever who works steadily away at matters of importance. He freely shares his passion for the sport with others especially those keen to do single day trips who like himself limited recreational time (which is understandable given his tireless conservation work).

Graeme joined the WWCC committee in 2006/7 and took up the position of Conservation Officer, he rapidly came to grips with this position and in 2007/08 he became the club President and continued to hold the conservation portfolio. Over the last year Graeme has been both the Vice-President and Conservation Officer. With a huge amount of conservation issues both nationally and locally he has really had his work cut out.

Here is a brief synopsis of his contribution over the last 12 months:

April 2008 - Wrote the WWCC submission against the Mokihinui Hydro Proposal.

June to August 2008 – Volunteer

coordinator for Brass Monkey Kayak Race series (4 races over 2 months involving kayakers from all over Canterbury).

August 2008 - Presented WWCC case to commissioners at the Central Plains Water Scheme hearings and initiated discussions with Network Tasman in response to the land buy up around the Matakita River.

September 2008 – Presented WWCC case on Mokihinui River to Commissioners in Westport.

October 2008 – Wrote WWCC response to Maritime New Zealand’s “Kayak Safety Strategy”.

February 2009 – Wrote WWCC submission opposing the Matiri Hydro proposal.

March 2009 – Wrote the WWCC submission on the Hurunui WCO which included coordinating a survey of 113 members.

April 2009 – Wrote WWCC submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on RMA Amendment Bill and is speaking to the committee later this month.

The White Water Canoe Club wishes to nominate Graeme Wilson as NZRCA Canoeist of the year for 2009.

Photos courtesy of Hugh Cannard



Conservation News

Matakitaki & Glenroy

Network Tasman are planning a hydro-scheme on the Matakitaki and Glenroy rivers in Murchison. There are 5 sites where they are planning to build dams, intakes or power stations. They have not been very forthcoming with details yet but their plans would probably drown the Glenroy, de-water the Middle Matakitaki, and hamstring the Lower Matakitaki section by constraining it to a very limited flow range. The Middle Matakitaki is one of the very best class II sections in New Zealand, and the Glenroy is a class III-IV creek run for more adventurous paddlers. They are the best of their class in Murchison. These rivers are our treasures - not only are they classic trips with some of the highest usage by whitewater kayakers in New Zealand they are both astonishingly beautiful.

The Matakitaki / Glenroy hydro-scheme is a very serious proposal.. in fact Network Tasman has already bought land on some proposed sites, and has options to purchase more. This significant expenditure was undertaken without public permission from their owners, the Network Tasman Trust. The Network Tasman Trust is owned by all power consumers in Tasman, including all Murchison residents. Murchison residents were not notified, let alone consulted with, before their own

money was spent on land to build a dam in a notorious earthquake zone upstream of their town.

Network Tasman had suggested a site visit to a very limited selection of stakeholders, however this visit was cancelled at NZRCA's insistence due to the small number of invitees. Obvious omissions included the NZ Kayak School, and Stu McGowan who represents not only Murchison Area school but more than a dozen other secondary schools who use the Matakitaki. An information weekend is now being organised for a wider group, on June 20 & 21.

Please help save the Matakitaki and Glenroy. Unlike many other rivers such as the Mokihinui, Nevis, Hurunui and Kaituna, kayakers are the

most effected group and cannot count on as much help as usual from organisations such as Fish & Game, DOC, or Forest & Bird. A website with more information will be forthcoming, check at rivers.org.nz for more news and ideas for how you can help.

Matiri

Back in February the hearing was held for the proposed Matiri Dam. Kayakers were represented by Maree Baker (NZRCA legal counsel who also read evidence from Hugh Canard, Graeme Wilson and Tony Ward-Holmes), Mick Hopkinson, Zak Shaw and Jess Brown. The main effect on kayakers is that no flood water will make its way down the Matiri until the proposed reservoir is filled. In the case of a large flood the effect may be minor, but a fresh or small flood could be swallowed by the reservoir with little increase in flows for kayaking. This emasculation of the Matiri flood flows, combined with the schemes proposed for the Matakitaki and Glenroy would gut much of the Buller region's kayaking amenity. We have not yet heard of a decision by the commissioners.

Nevis

Glenn Murdoch (NZRCA Conservation Officer) and Maree Baker again (she's having a very busy year) led the kayaking submission on Fish & Game's application to add the Nevis River to the Kawareau Water Conservation Officer. Evidence was presented by Glenn, Maree, Roy Bailey, Dylan Thomson, Pete Sinclair, Gordon Rayner, Hayden Dickey, Finn Butcher, Max Rayner, Dave Ritchie and Keith Riley. Keith's evidence was presented via skype from Greymouth and worked well, this proves the potential for participation in future hearings by kayakers out of town or out of the country. Kayaking evidence was well reported by the Otago Daily Times and the chairman of the commission commented that Glenn had left no stone unturned. Great job everyone!

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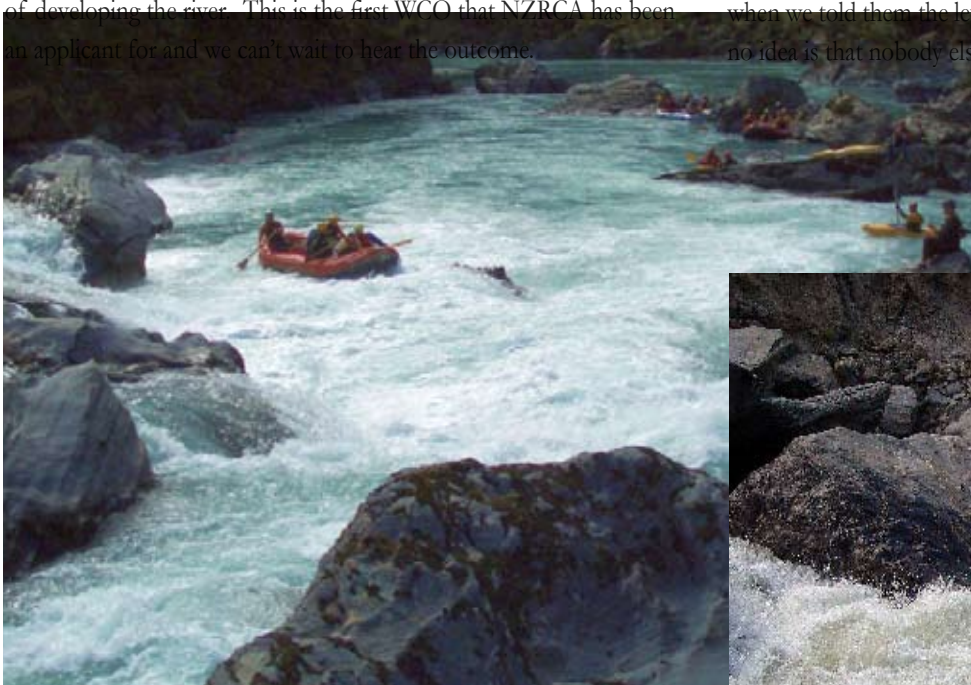


Hurunui

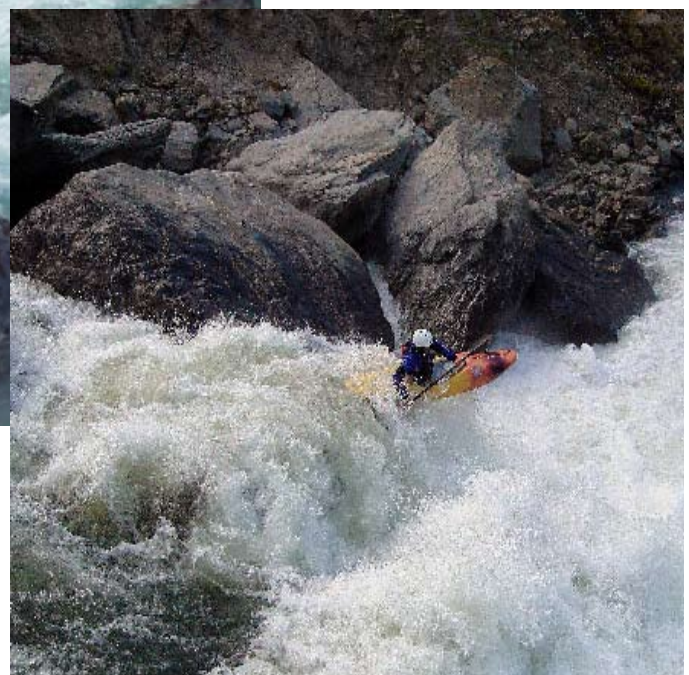
Waiatoto

NZRCA was co-applicant with Fish & Game for a WCO on the Hurunui. The hearing finished in mid-May, with the kayaking effort led by Doug Rankin and Maree Baker. Evidence was presented by Doug, Maree, Hugh Canard, Graeme Wilson, Ian Gill-Fox, Steve Gurney, Steve Moffat, Jono Hay, Graeme Body, Nixie Body, Ede Murphy and Tony Ward-Holmes (NZRCA Conservation Officer). Opposing evidence was presented by irrigation interests as expected but also by three different and competing power companies so obviously many parties had ideas of developing the river. This is the first WCO that NZRCA has been an applicant for and we can't wait to hear the outcome.

DOC has recently released the draft of their Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan. In pre-draft meetings NZRCA was informed that no more landings would be allowed at the Bonar Flats landing site for the Waiatoto river. A number of strenuous representations by Hugh Canard and Tony Ward-Holmes have resulted in a concession in the draft, up to 12 people will now be able to land at Bonar between October and April. NZRCA continues to work on this issue, kayakers are the dominant user group and disturb almost nobody. DOC and FMC were quite shocked when we told them the level of usage by kayakers, the reason they had no idea is that nobody else is there to be bothered.



Above: Hurunui River at the NZRCA AGM; Photo by Michelle Wallace



Above: Waiatoto River; Photo by Tony Ward-Holmes

Right: Olly on the Nevis River; Photo by Glen Murdoch



NZRCA Archives; 2000 poster

... Now Whitewater NZ

Whitewater NZ works to protect and conserve rivers, improve opportunities for kayakers to enjoy our whitewater resources safely, and protect public access to rivers for responsible recreational use.

Formed in 1957 Whitewater NZ is a national Incorporated Society with a mission “to conserve New Zealand’s whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.” Whitewater NZ is a membership organization representing a broad diversity of individual whitewater enthusiasts, river conservationists, and the majority of local paddling clubs across New Zealand. We are the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of whitewater resources throughout New Zealand, and we connect the interests of kayakers with our relationships with partner organisations and the available research to achieve the goals within our mission.

Objectives of Whitewater NZ:

Conservation – Protect and conserve river sections that paddlers value most, monitor potential threats to whitewater river resources, provide technical advice to local groups regarding river conservation and management, and negotiate comprehensive and appropriate mitigation if we can’t secure protection.

Access – protect public access to rivers for recreational use and maintain a national rivers database

Safety and Education – promote safe, enjoyable kayaking and foster the kayaking community through supporting club and individual members with resources and education to paddle safely.

Working with our partners – work with our partners and government agencies to protect the ability of the public to engage in the decision making processes around rivers and advocate for legislation protecting our rivers and their aquatic resources.

Success stories

Whitewater NZ has successfully worked to save whitewater rivers throughout the country; from remote steep creeks to gentle class II float trips. Here are just a few of our success stories:

- When necessary we go to the Environment Court to protect our rivers – when Tranzrail threatened to take the boulders out of the lower Clarence we went into bat to ensure that the last day of this classic multiday trip remains the bouncy fun class III trip it’s always been.
- We’ve supported Water Conservation Orders to protect our most wild and scenic rivers such as the Buller, Motu, Mohaka, Rangitata and Kawarau Rivers. Recent applications made by Whitewater NZ for WCOs include the Hurunui and Nevis Rivers.

When we can’t save a river, we do our best to ensure that kayakers receive appropriate mitigation when a river is dammed or diverted, for example:

- The recreational releases on the Tongararo, Whakapapa, Waikaretaheke, Mangahao, Pukaki and Tekapo Rivers were all negotiated by Whitewater NZ.
- The slalom course at Tekapo, the Wairehu playhole and new slalom courses planned for the Arnold and Hawea rivers are examples of negotiated solutions where a whitewater river is lost.

Our network of volunteers under the direction of the Whitewater NZ Executive is working on over 50 rivers across the country. To find out more information about our work in your back yard go to our website www.rivers.org.nz

Wild Rivers

Whitewater NZ is a founding member of the Wild Rivers campaign, a coalition of user groups that work to ensure that our wild rivers will be preserved. We need to reach out to those people in New Zealand who will never see the headwaters of a West Coast river – but who believe in saving New Zealand's last wild rivers. Together with partner organisations including Fish & Game, Forest & Bird and FMC, Whitewater NZ is saying that the time to stop damming wild rivers is now.

What we could lose

Whitewater NZ know that the odds are stacked against our special wild places and we have to make some choices on what to oppose and fight smarter. Our Conservation Policy sets guidelines on how Whitewater NZ is likely to act in the face of continued pressure on our whitewater resources.

We are opposing proposed schemes on a huge range of rivers – Kaituna, Nevis, Waitaha, Mokihinui, Matiri, Matakītaki, Mokau to name just a few and we know there are plenty more dams planned, including the Taipo, Whakapapanui, Papamanuka, Kakapotahi and Toaroha rivers. We're constantly submitting on 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 Whitewater NZ and individual paddlers to have their voice properly heard.

Our approach

We believe that a consultative and strategic approach is most likely to result in our aim being achieved. We consult with paddlers to make sure our assessment of what is valued is correct. We 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.

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.

Communications

Whitewater NZ reaches, serves and engages members, volunteers, sponsors and partner organisations in a variety of ways. NZ Canoeing, our quarterly magazine has been our primary communication tool since the organization's inception. The newsletter has been augmented by www.rivers.org.nz, New Zealand's busiest whitewater website. We also com-

municate with members via our new on-line newsletter, updating the community on what's going on locally.

Get Involved

How can you help Whitewater NZ protect your favourite river?

- Join us! Join on line at www.rivers.org.nz
- Volunteer your time and talents – contact whitewaternz@rivers.org.nz
- Follow issues that are important to you and the places you enjoy, write a letter to support our work or attend a meeting, and encourage your friends to take an interest also

In a box: Why change the name?

After two years of engaging with members and discussion in the Executive, we've decided to change the name – the NZRCA has become Whitewater NZ.

Whitewater NZ is what we are – we work to protect and conserve our whitewater resources, and represent paddlers who get out on whitewater. If you're a person who needs definitions – take a look at the international grading system for kayaking. We're here to conserve whitewater and opportunities to enjoy rivers safely on rivers from class I–IV. You might enjoy floating down your favourite class I-II fishing creek on an inflatable – or charging down a steep class VI-V creek in the latest creek boat. Whitewater NZ is engaged in conservation and access work on untouched wild rivers and the highly modified stretches of lowland rivers.

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**WHITE WATER
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has been the training ground for a bunch of high flying professionals in a range of fields. Our people in the past have taken on parties such as Tranzrail, Contact Energy, Genesis Energy, TrustPower and others to save rivers such as the Clarence and the Buller. And we're not just hippies on the fringe...ex officers include principles in law firms, consultant planners, engineering specialists and tourism developers.

We're looking for people who're interested in using (or growing) their technical skills in Environmental Law and Planning and Web Content Editing. By working with Whitewater NZ you'll be doing your bit to save our rivers.

And don't worry – you won't be alone – we're here to help. If you're interested in being involved, drop me a line or send a text to: whitewaternz@rivers.org.nz or 021 027 58661.

See you on the water
Polly

river, hoof, 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, extract, gorge, swim, blunt, kayak, fun, scout, hydraulic, play, portage, creek, slalom, grade, carve, inspire, power, pour-over, stroke, shoe, pfd, donkey flip, helmet, race, wave, expedition, friends, lines, camping, throw-bag, movies, trips, adventures, knife, ecology, fitness, life, lateral, gate, motorcut, lifejacket, carry, challenge, pour-over, competition, breath, crank, shuttle, mission, sunshine, passion, road-trip, events, prizes, tips, techniques, pin-drop, scal bunch,



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Release Schedule

Hawke's Bay/Waikaretaheke/Piripaua, II-III

Please check with Warren Hales 06 844 01 29, Hawke's Bay Canoe Club, to confirm release status if you intend going to any of the releases.

Piripaua releases

06 Sep 2009	09:00-15:00	downstream Piripaua
03 Oct 2009	09:00-15:00	No flow downstream Piripaua
04 Oct 2009	09:00-15:00	downstream Piripaua
07 Nov 2009	10:00-16:00	downstream Piripaua
08 Nov 2009	10:00-16:00	downstream Piripaua
13 Dec 2009	09:00-15:00	downstream Piripaua

Whakamarino releases

07 Nov 2009	09:00-15:00	20 cumecs
08 Nov 2009	09:00-15:00	20 cumecs

Waikato/Tongariro/Rangipo Dam to Tree Trunk Gorge (Access 14), III-IV (P)

Ensure you can identify the take-outs before Tree Trunk Gorge and/or Waikato Falls before running these sections.

Tongariro release

20 Sep 2009	10:00-16:00	below Rangipo Dam)
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Wanganui/Whakapapa/Whakapapa Dam to Owhango, III-IV

Whakapapa release

12 Sep 2009	10:00-16:00	Backup date Sunday 13
26 Sep 2009	10:00-16:00	Backup date Sunday 27

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

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Sunday 27 September - 10am - 4pm

www.recreationexpo.co.nz

Times are subject to change - visit the website for up-to-date information.



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

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