



# New Zealand Canoeing



Michael (Fatty) Verberne on the Wairoa (rollercoaster) shows us that it isn't as bad as you think. Photos Toni George

Welcome to the first issue of New Zealand Canoeing for 2011. Apart from the obvious earth shattering news of the year, extremely high flood waters have changed the unchangeable river. The main rapid on the Wairoa, the Rollercoaster, (in the Kaimais just out of Tauranga) is considerably different.

Things have been a bit quiet on the conservation front as Whitewater NZ executive and politicians alike deal with restoration of infrastructure and other basics.

Andy England has finished and published his thesis on An Assessment of the Whitewater Recreational Values of West Coast Rivers. We've included his summary and a couple of pics from a hard year of research. He joins Craig Potton and Russel Norman in publicly expressing concern and affection for our rivers in the local media.

We also hear from Nic Thomas and Paul Caffyn on Hokitika dramas and Graham Eggar.

Enjoy.  
Miriam

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## About New Zealand Canoeing

*New Zealand Canoeing* is the official newsletter of Whitewater NZ Inc. *NZ Canoeing* is published quarterly and distributed free to around 1,200 members of Whitewater NZ 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 Whitewater NZ.

*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*.

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as elected at the NZRCA AGM July 2010

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Paddler: Andi Uhl. Location: Fantasy Falls. Photo: Paul Currant

# West Coast Whitewater is officially awesome

*Mostly by Andy England*

In 2010, Andy England was awarded a Royal Society of New Zealand Teacher Fellowship to conduct research into the white-water recreational values of West Coast rivers. He took a year off being deputy principal at Greymouth High School to work together with the Department of Conservation (Ian Wightwick), Lincoln University (Ken Hughey) and the kayaking community on the research. The Project objectives were:

1. Develop a system for effective assessment of recreational value (specifically for rivers from a whitewater recreational user perspective but with a view to use for other activities).
2. Assess and record the value of major drainages in the West Coast region to whitewater recreational users.
3. Develop a method for data presentation that enables use for a variety of applications, for example outcome statements for management plans, indicative tools for hydro scheme developers.

Andy produced a 262 page document containing 31 river reports, geotagged photos and results from the online West Coast Whitewater Kayaking Survey 2010 (WCWKS). With the help



*Dave Ritchie researching the perfect boof, Photo by Andy England*  
of DoC staff, Andy also developed a Google Earth file application which provides a summary of the data from the WCWKS when a river is clicked on.

Some extracts from the report are included here:

The reports cover overall values associated with rivers; graphs of the specific ratings of West Coast rivers; open descriptions of the value of West Coast rivers to survey respondents and a demographic profile of the survey respondents.

The research shows that, as a whole, the rivers of the West Coast region are the most highly valued in New Zealand and amongst the most highly valued in the world by whitewater kayakers. To whitewater kayakers around the world, the West Coast region is characterised by its rivers and its rivers are characterised by their high levels of challenge, scenery and wilderness.

In comparison to other regions of NZ and the world, the West Coast region has a very high density of rivers that offer great whitewater challenge, inspiring river scenery and a strong wilderness feel. Added to this are such qualities as cleanliness and clarity of water, a range of access arrangements including helicopter access, geographic closeness of rivers meaning low travel times between rivers, and a wider regional experience that offers additional social attractions.

That so many rivers of the West Coast are valued so highly does not belittle their assessment, but truly represents their remarkable qualities. It makes it impossible to segregate a common set of top rivers, but a general trend is that northern Westland has the highest concentration of top rated rivers for whitewater challenge, with very high scores for scenery and wilderness; while northern Buller and South Westland have small concentrations of rivers top rated for wilderness and scenery with high ratings for whitewater challenge.



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# A tribute to Graham Egarr

By Paul Caffyn

During the 70s, 80s and 90s, Graham Egarr was the leading figure for recreational canoe and kayak paddling, water safety and river conservation in New Zealand. Although initially interested in sailing as a nipper, at the University of Canterbury he took up white-water paddling and met his future wife Jan.

The potential damming of a North Island river in the mid-70s led to an urgent need to rate the New Zealand's 100 most important rivers. With a grant from Lands and Survey, Graham and Jan began a nation-wide river survey in mid 1977, starting at the top of the North Island. Aided by the support of local kayak and jet-boating clubs, a total of nine regional river guides were completed and published in 1978 by the New Zealand Canoeing Association.

As well as editing the NZCA 'Canoeing' magazine from 1976 to 1986, Graham had three books published on paddling and wrote numerous well-researched articles for boating magazines. In 1979 Graham commenced working for Water Safety NZ as an education officer and after 10 years was the organisation's Director of Safety and Research. By 1987 Graham had left the NZCA and commenced publishing two independent newsletters for recreational paddlers, 'The Open Canoe Newsletter' and 'The Sea Canoeist Newsletter.' He organised the first national gathering of sea kayakers at the clothing optional Mapua Leisure Park in 1989.

After the annual Mapua sea kayak forum in 1991, Graham and I had a plenipotentiary meeting of a national sea kayaking organisation in his bathroom. Graham was lying back in an old fashioned cast iron bath, one with claw feet, and he was a tad annoyed that a North Island upstart, who had stated at the forum his intention to form a New Zealand sea kayaking organisation and would be setting rules and tests for certificates of competency. You may wonder why two bearded sea kayaking blokes were in the same bathroom at the one time? Sadly to report, Graham was trying to ease the chronic pain of a cancerous growth around his spine. Graham suggested ASKNZ, association of sea kayakers,

but as solo expedition sea kayakers of that time often imbibed of an evening pre-prandial tippie or three of port, I suggested KASK, Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers.

In August 1991, when I returned from the finish of the Alaskan trip, I drove to Mapua to see Graham. The poor bugger was physically wasted but his mind was as sharp as a tack.



Graham and Jan Egarr

Even before his last newsletter (No. 34, November 1991) was mailed, melanoma claimed Graham's life on 19 September. At his Mapua funeral service, numerous tributes all spoke of a gifted, talented all-rounder and a wonderful family man. Graham Sisson noted: 'He was a visionary, always a jump ahead and ten years ahead of his time.'

This year will mark 20 years since Graham fell off his perch. I have found his shoes rather huge to try and fill, in terms of continuing publication of 'The Sea Canoeist Newsletter' and continuing with his paddler safety initiatives. With the help of Kiwi sea kayakers, with respect to newsletter articles, development of safety initiatives, keeping PC regulators at bay,

and maintaining a safe but enjoyable approach to sea kayaking, I like to think that Graham would be proud of how KASK paddlers have taken up and continued with the role he initiated with recreational paddling in New Zealand.

## Releases and Events

Wairoa River Release from McLaren Falls

17, 22, 23, 24 April 2011

10:00 - 16:00

Piripaua River releases

16 and 17 April 2011

09:00 - 15:00

Refer to our website ([rivers.org.nz/events/](http://rivers.org.nz/events/)) for the latest release schedules, including flow information.



# Conservation News

*By Tony Ward-Holmes*

## Matiri

Summary of developments: Whitewater NZ submitted against consents to build a dam on the Matiri, the consents were granted, we appealed, the case went to mediation, we discovered that there really were only minor effects on the flows but did manage to increase the bond for removal of the dam at the end of its service life.

As well as RMA consents, concessions were required from DOC which Whitewater NZ were not going to oppose as we had already agreed in environment court that there seemed to be only minor effects on kayaking. However, then I was told that the river has been paddled from the lake, so Whitewater NZ did oppose the consents unless the weirs could be designed to be kayakable. As many paddlers will have heard, all the Mangatepopo canyoning deaths were in fact in a hydro weir rather than the canyon, paddlers have died in weir incidents in NZ in the past, and Whitewater NZ has been working hard with Central Plains Water

and others to make sure that any river structures built are kayakable/swimmable.

As a separate issue, DOC have recently discovered the Matiri lake outlet is the largest remaining habitat of a critically endangered bat, which may make the concession unlikely.

## Mokihinui

As requested by Environment Court, Whitewater NZ has submitted its list of expert witnesses and issues for the Mokihinui hearing. There is no news on when the case will be heard now that the court rooms in Christchurch are unusable. Meridian have not gained a concession to inundate the conservation estate, nor have they managed to negotiate a land exchange to remove it from the estate. Apparently Meridian have spent \$14 million so far. It seems they are concentrating on the Environment Court case to secure their RMA consents, in the hope of creating political momentum to make it difficult for DOC to refuse a land-exchange. It would be far cheaper for all concerned if they'd resolved the concession or land-exchange right from the start.

## C.O.W. closes

### Canoe & Outdoor World to Close at Easter

Yes, it is with regret that we announce that the shop will close this coming Easter. After nearly twenty years retailing in Christchurch, COW will close the doors and cease trading. Following the down-turn in business of the past few years and two recent earthquakes, business has dropped to a level where it is no longer economically viable for the shop to remain open.

On behalf of Max, Margaret and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to express our most sincere thanks to all of those who have been regular customers over the years; to those who have begun their kayaking through COW, and to the many who have made a purchase at the shop however big or small. Thanks also to those who popped in for a chat to talk kayaks on a cold, quiet winter's day, just to keep the staff company.

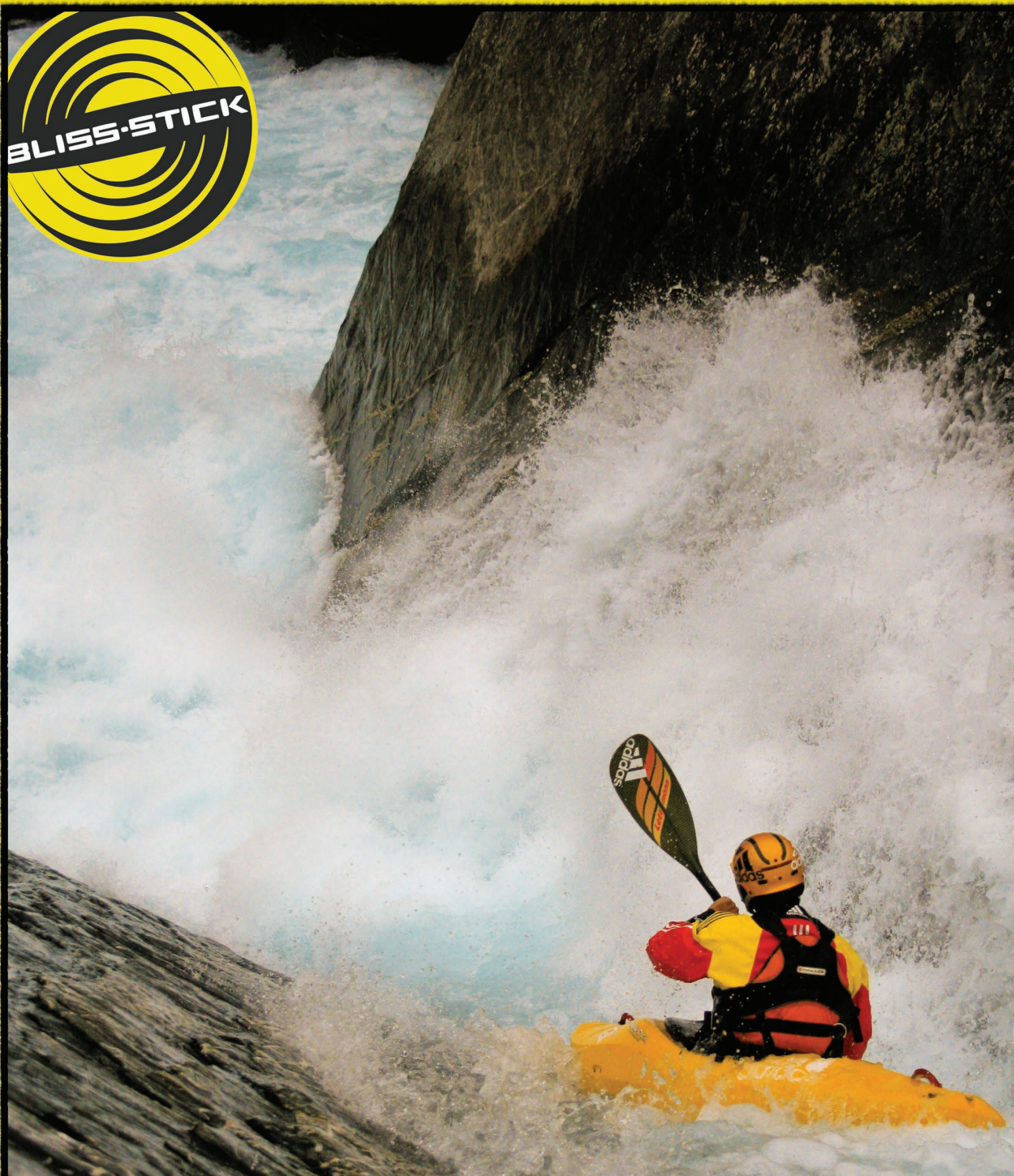
What the future will hold for kayakers in Canterbury

on the retail front remains to be seen as our immediately local waters are still polluted and businesses have been affected by the earthquakes. However, whether it be white-water, multisport, sea kayaking or recreational paddling with the family, try to keep your spirits up, find some clean water and keep paddling. Any day on the water has to be a good day, and we all need plenty of those at the moment.

David Welch, Manager







## KIWI DOMINATION TOUR 2010

IN 2010 THE FASTEST EXTREME KAYAKERS IN THE WORLD HAVE BEEN FROM NEW ZEALAND FROM COLORADO TO ITALY, AND FINALLY IN AUSTRIA AT THE SICKLINE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

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SAM SUTTON ON THE KOKATAHI, IMAGE MIKE DAWSON



# Adventure on the Upper Hokitika

*Nic Thomas*

Adventure can be found in many places. The measure of the adventure is in the minds of the participants and audience in turn. This January Paul Mason and I had something of an adventure on the Upper Hokitika.

The week had been a tumultuous one for the Wellington crew. Episodic heavy rain caused rivers to yo-yo, up and down, and with it the grades to rise and fall daily. High water resulted in considerable carnage on the Rees, and nearly scuppered a two day adventure on the Waitoto.

The storm that fueled the Waitoto pushed north and we followed. The tour was drawing to a close and there was an unvoiced expectation of ending on a high. The trick was to find a river to cater for everyone. We choose the Hokitika which has a harder upper section and a lower run suitable for the experienced intermediates amongst us. A few days without rain meant the rivers were dropping.

Paul and I would fly into the upper section while the rest of the crew paddled the lower. As we flew upstream, confidence and expectations of adventure mingled with a fear of the unknown and the remoteness of location. The valley sides closed in and steepened. The rapids swept into and out of short inescapable gorges. Impenetrable bush clung to the valley sides, punctuated by huge slips. Bruce flew low, allowing us limited scouting, and pointed out key rapids and new slips. Bruce's words reassured us: 'Yeh. It's not that high.', he said. Twice!

Soon we were alone as the sound of the chopper faded into the rush of the river. This was a remote and inaccessible location, something we were continually reminded of as the day wore on.

Initially the run was easy, fast flowing class II. The water was very cold and grey with concentrated silt, sand and sediments. Our 'warm up' was like paddling through icy treacle in dense water, which made it hard going. Every eddy was worked for, every hydraulic hard hitting.

The first rapid was fast, heavy, read and run (IV) easing briefly before Viagra (V+/VI). A sneak line and 2m boof saved some portaging but the main line was definitely best left unrun.

A short paddle brought us to the entrance of the first gorge, normally portaged on the left. The portage was flooded. On the right was a 5m waterfall. After scouting both left and right, we decided that the easiest and safest option was to run the waterfall, a concentrated voluminous kettle spout with an unseen landing. With cool commitment Paul hucked the drop perfectly. A whoop and holler from below meant it was my turn. It had been a while since I paddled at this level and I was a little intimidated by the

flows and the exposure of the gorge. However, this is what class V paddling is about. Stepping up to the mark. I committed... well, at least to the break out!

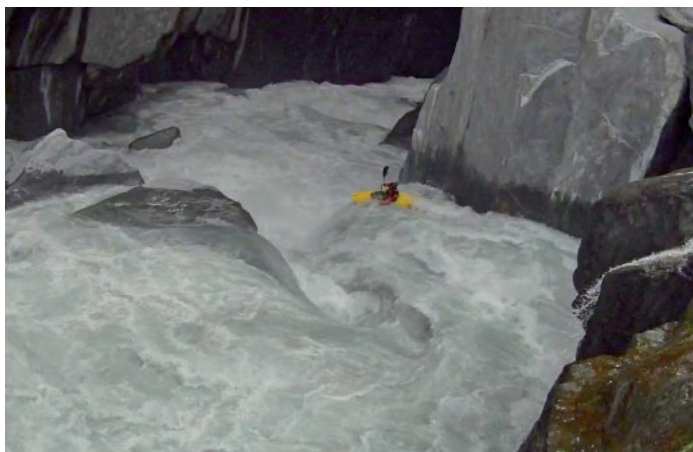
Insufficient power and edging too close to a marker boulder caused the kayak to spin on the lead in. Unable to correct my error, my keystroke was a reverse sweep followed closely by a reverse fold off of the falls. Winded, the sharp crack of my ribs was more than apparent as I rolled. I could sense that I was free from the fall but where? As it happened, I was trapped between a rock –undercut– and a hard place –the gorge walls. The roll was hindered by the aching ribs and the gorge wall but, thankfully, it was there.

“Get hard, stay hard”. Commit. No room for error. With that in mind we portaged some of the drops below, including Mikey's waterfall. A bit of blind faith got us through the entry hole into the second gorge. The paddle eventually proved more appealing than the prospect of portaging up over slips and thrashing through bush.

More scouting and portaging followed with some easier but continuous rapids (III/IV) took us to the third and final gorge containing the fabled Gates of Argonath. Cautiously we scouted the entry rapid (V – perhaps harder), looking deep into the gorge at line after line of hydraulics disappearing out of sight; vertical, inescapable and unknown.

The decision to split was not taken lightly. Arguably, it is not the wisest of choices, certainly not a textbook decision but it was the one that was made. For my part I was tiring, I was not paddling as well as I would like and potentially had broken a rib or two. In contrast Paul, was paddling exceptionally well, rising too and reveling in the moment. He was willing and able to paddle the drop into the gorge, and if all went well down through the gates, he would return to help me with the portage. .

The roar of the rapid was deafening. I watched as Paul meditated and centered himself on a large table topped boulder above the drop. He launched straight into the line in - no eddies, no second



*Paul Mason paddling into the final gorge, Photo: Nic Thomas*





*Nic Thomas paddles the blind drop into the second upper Hoki gorge,*

*Photo: Paul Mason*

chances. His lead in was perfect: cool, calm and above all on line. Skirting a curler he gained the clean water for a textbook boof over and through the hole of the falls. Landing upright he paddled into the gorge. Flicked by a stopper, he rolled, a process that was repeated twice more. When he disappeared from view he was halfway through his third roll. I watched a good friend disappear into an inaccessible gorge. At the time the portage seemed like an easier option.

The slip that forms the entry rapid to the Gates of Argonath is steep, exceptionally loose, highly mobile and easily in excess of 200m vertical metres high. With extreme care I traversed across into a small side creak then pushed, pulled, dragged, roped and swore my kayak up the waterfalls and through the bush in the creek. It was becoming clear that this portage was no small undertaking.

Focusing, I thrashed on through the bush. The bush thrashed back. Scouting, I managed to find a route through a sideslip and past the gravel cliff that had been forcing me ever higher up the mountainside before traversing the steep return slope towards the sound of the running water and the river. I emerged in a steep, open gullied tributary with 2-3 cumecs of flow. It reminded me of some of the Welsh streams back home and I flirted with the idea of a first descent as I left my boat and followed it towards the Hokitika river. Looking over the edge of a 30 metre waterfall into the Gates themselves, inspiration for a first descent deserted me. The waterfall occluded one half of the river whilst the other sumped under the boulders of the Gates itself. Thoughts returned to Paul and what had become of him in the gorge below. I could see downstream to steep near vertical bush, landslides and slips; impassable and quite frankly a dangerous. Heavy-hearted, I returned to my kayak.

In the tributary there was no way downstream. Scouting upstream through the bush narrowed choices further. It was not yet getting dark but it was late and there was no sign, let alone likelihood, of anyone appearing through the bush. Strangely the bubbling and gurgling of the stream echoed like the distant blades of a helicopter.

The decision to stay put and overnight was the sensible choice. I

was not in a position to make it out that night and it would have been risky to try. The probability of the lower Hokitika crew paddling out was high and they would be able to get help. In the open gully I was visible, in stark contrast to the invisibility that the bush offered if I choose to continue in the failing light. The tributary contained fresh water and an abundance of dry wood. I had time to set camp and dry clothes. More importantly I needed time to rest and to collect my thoughts. Being prepared to over-night with spare clothes, food and a lighter made it a comfortable night - almost five star!

I awoke at first light and began scouting again. Upstream the valley walls of the tributary steepened into loosely consolidated gravel cliffs. Downstream, was just as impassable as before but the Hoki had dropped, a little. After each reconnaissance I returned to camp in the trib, rekindling the fire each time and adding ferns to make blue smoke.

Clouds started to gather so, with a dwindling supply of muesli-bars, I made the choice to invest my remaining energies in the walk out. Ditching the kayak and taking only what was necessary I began the trek. Paddles are awesome to wedge between trees and swing off. They make great walking sticks too. A map helps as does the ability to use it. Progress was remarkably quick. I made it to the get in for the lower Hokitika much faster than expected. Further progress around the lower gorges was arduous but still much faster than expected.

The last kilometre of bush began with a perilous accent of another loose slip, I dubbed it 'The Slip of Death', mockingly. Two steps up, one step back. As I entered the bushline for the last time the thrumming of helicopter blades began to fill the valley. Rushing back to a small clearing atop the slip I could easily see the Solid Energy Rescue Helicopter scouting the river. They were flying slowly with all eyes on the river. I wasn't in the river. They flew by at eye level, less than a stones throw from me. I consider it rude to throw stones at rescue choppers, so I didn't.

I watched the helicopter fly slowly on and out of sight. The thrum of the engine faded and roar of the river returned. Surely they would spot my kayak. The fire may still be burning. They did. Gradually and reassuringly the thrum of the engine grew closer again, fading in and out as it searched side streams in adjacent valleys. I climbed back down onto the scree of the slip to improve the contrast of my clothing against the background. On an ash grey slip the chances of being spotted in an orange cag must be a little higher. I waved as they came into view. They flew right by. Crap. On the return sweep I was spotted. And that is pretty much that. The rest is history.

Airlifted directly to Greymouth Hospital, extensive investigations could not confirm whether ribs were broken, cracked or bruised. Medical advice remains the same – don't do anything stupid, rest up and dose up on paracetamol and ibuprofen. Paul collected me from hospital. He had a very different journey. No less adventurous.

After he disappeared from sight he rolled in the turbulent currents

running into the Gates. The gorge was blocked. As I had seen from overhead, the waterfall which fell into it blocked one line, the river flowed under the boulders of the Gates themselves blocking the other. Paul managed to eddy out above the Gates and climb steep slippery boulders below the waterfall. Hauling his kayak onto the boulders with a sling he managed to seal launch around the hazards and continue. He sneaked the rapid below, despite eyeing up a juicy mainline which he begrudgingly, but sensibly, let go. Paul did hike up into the bush to try to meet me to assist with the portage. He found the same dense impenetrable bush that I found and wisely decided to paddle out and call in professional and aerial support.

Two days later Paul and I flew in to the Lower Hokitika put in, hiked back up to the camp above the Gates and retrieved my kayak. I owe Paul a huge debt of thanks, as that operation would have been impossible to complete alone.

And so ends the tale. There is much more too it; the emergency service response, the press response and indeed Paul's full story. This adventure made my first short kayak movie. But was it adventure or mis-adventure? Were we prepared or unprepared? A walk in the park or a storm in a teacup? I guess that is for you to decide.

## Damn the dams - the quiet way

By Miriam Odlin

As kayakers, the readers of this magazine are acutely aware of the effects of hydro electric generation on their recreation. Sometimes they make us slalom courses, sometimes they provide us with information about how much water is left or release some for it now and then, sometimes they just completely destroy what was a unique river and give us ... waterskiing potential? If the alternatives were easy or popular we would not have a problem. Nuclear is steeped in stigma. Thermal contributes to global warming. Wind is unsightly, noisy and unreliable. Tidal and wave is in its infancy. Solar is not yet commercial on the scale power companies will consider. There are only so many geothermal fields. Etc.

Growth in demand for electricity has stagnated over the last few years as a result of the recession and potentially other factors. Generating companies are carefully considering their options. The prohibitive costs of consenting major hydro electrical schemes with a serious environmental or recreational impact does weigh in there so the time spent in court and on submissions is not wasted. But we will one day crawl out of the recession and the earthquake aftermath and start 'growing' again.

Maybe we should look at the other side of the coin before they dam the last river and cover our hills and coasts with windmills and coal fired power plants. All this is being done for us. For our stoves and heaters and lights and TVs. If we all use less power they will not damn any more rivers.

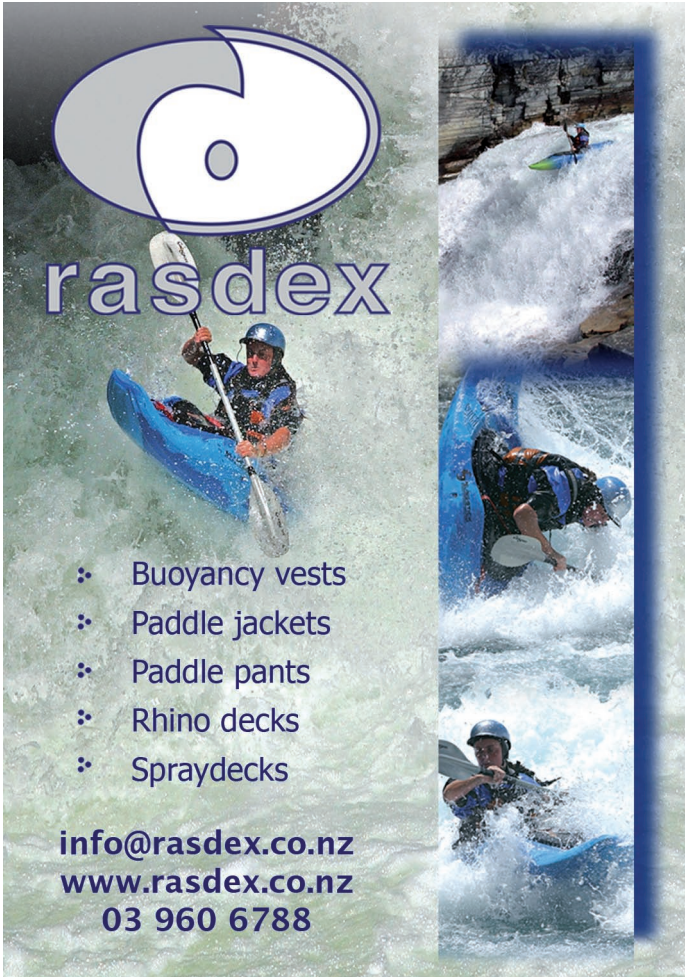
Like most of capitalism, it is near impossible to incentivise a reduction in consumption. There are however, some good government agencies that try none the less. A kW less consumed is worth more than a kW more generated because of savings in electrical transmission and distribution assets. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority is the main government agency working towards reduced consumption. Check out <http://www.eeca.govt.nz/>. They provide a tonne of information

and subsidies for a lot of energy saving initiatives.

What you can do (from easy to difficult):

### Appliances:

- Turn stuff off when you are not using it.
- Before you buy an appliance, consider whether you need it. If you choose not to buy it, you're saving on purchase and running costs and the energy, materials and waste that go into the manufacturing process.
- If you do buy, buy energy efficient ones. Check how much power they use when turned off.



The advertisement for Rasdex features a large, stylized logo at the top left, which is a white circle with a grey swirl inside. Below the logo, the word "rasdex" is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo, there is a vertical strip of three photographs showing kayakers in action on white water. The main body of the advertisement is a light blue background with a list of products, each preceded by a small star icon. At the bottom, the contact information is provided in a bold, sans-serif font.

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- Dehumidifiers cost 40c or more for every litre of water they remove from your home, when the job should not be necessary with proper ventilation, insulation and heating.
- Waste disposal units use water and electrical energy, and add to the load on the local sewage treatment plant. Compost or get chickens.
- Avoid clothes dryers which are energy tyrants and are easily replaced by patience and good management.

### **Lighting:**

Use the sun:

- Open blinds and curtains fully.
- Use light-coloured paints.
- Work near windows instead of in darker corners.
- Prune foliage around windows to let in sunlight.
- Consider where you need light and how much.
- Use energy efficient bulbs.

### **Heating:**

- Insulate: bats in the roof, underfloor insulation, double glaze, use curtains
- Avoid double glazed aluminium windows that don't have a thermal break. These are about as warm as single glazed wood windows.
- There are a growing number of companies that will double glaze your existing windows.
- Seal drafts.

EECA subsidies available:

You can get up to \$1,300 (or 33%) towards the cost of ceiling and under floor insulation if your house was built before 2000. This funding can also be used for other energy efficiency measures, including pipe lagging, draught-stopping and/or a ground moisture barrier.

There are a lot of alternatives to conventional electric heaters (clean wood burners, heat pumps, ventilation systems that circulate air from the warm spots in your roof).

If you are building or renovating, read up on passive heating. Houses are built in colder places than New Zealand that maintain a comfortable temperature with no electric or combustion heating.

### **Water heating:**

Insulate your hot water cylinder. The heat loss, even from a well-insulated 270-litre electrical cylinder, may be about 2.0 kWh/day, costing 36 cents at 18 cents/kWh. If you have an older cylinder, which is not as well insulated, then adding a cylinder wrap could save you up to 1 kWh/day (saving about \$66 per year). The wrap costs about \$60-\$90 (2006 prices) and could pay for itself in about a year. Also:

- Save hot water
- Use cold water for washing clothes, rinsing, filling the

jug etc.

- Turn off the water heater when you go on holiday.
- Have showers instead of baths and keep your showers relatively short.
- Fit low-flow shower heads which are water efficient (while still giving you a decent shower).
- Choose water-efficient household appliances.
- Fix leaks and drips.
- Reduce water flow from your taps.

### **Solar Water Heating:**

About 30% of your electricity bill is for water heating. You can supplement solar water heating with a wetback, electric, gas, or a heat pump. Most literature says that you should be able to supply half of your hot water with solar. If you live somewhere a bit sunny and angle your collector for winter sun, the reports are that you can achieve much more than this. Collectors should face North and be angled at your latitude plus 10 degrees for good winter performance. There is a wealth of conflicting literature about this so I picked an average.

There are two main types of collector panels, flatplate and evacuated tube. Evacuated tube usually use either metal or a working fluid to conduct the heat into your hot water supply and are thus, more frost resistant. A controller and a pump on a flatplate system will also reduce the risk of frost damage (until you have a power cut). Water is either circulated via thermosiphon (where the cylinder is on the roof, above the panel) or pumped.

Solar water heating can be retrofitted to an existing cylinder. Expect to spend \$5 – 7000 for a system. EECA offers subsidies of up to \$1000 and some companies even offer a deal where you pay the system off via your electricity bill each month with no up front costs (<http://www.novaenergy.co.nz/solar-finance-package>, <http://www.bope.co.nz/sola/index.php>)

### **Make your own electricity**

For those with a bit more capital to spare, you can make your own power. Photovoltaic panels are becoming more and more energy and cost efficient to produce. Meridian (our arch nemesis when it comes to the Mokihinui) offers reverse metering so when you are not around using power (because you turned everything off when you went out, eh?) you can export to the grid and they will subtract these units off your bill. This saves you buying batteries that contain nasty chemicals and need replacing every few years. You will need to spend a lot to get your energy bill to zero but it has been done.

With a bit of effort and often some capital investment, you can significantly reduce both your power bill and your contribution to the generation deficit.

# Whitewater NZ

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

PO Box 284 Wellington • Ph +64 21 027 58661 • whitewaternz@rivers.org.nz • www.rivers.org.nz

## Want to make a donation?

You can use the form below to join Whitewater NZ and make a donation which will go towards preserving rivers you enjoy for tomorrow

Individual Membership Form

Whitewater New Zealand

PO Box 284 Wellington

E-mail: [nzrca@rivers.org.nz](mailto:nzrca@rivers.org.nz)

Website: [www.rivers.org.nz/membership](http://www.rivers.org.nz/membership)

Individual Membership

\$

30.00

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

Donation

\$ .00

Additional support for our work in Conservation, Access, Safety and Education is gratefully appreciated.

Total \$ .00

Tick to receive a receipt

☐

Make cheques out to "Whitewater NZ" and send to PO

Box 284 Wellington. **Welcome!**

### Personal Details

Name

Ph (day)

Ph (a/h)

Address

E-mail

Fax

Occupation

Club

Your membership details are managed by Whitewater NZ in accordance with the Incorporated Societies Act (1908) and the Privacy Act (1993).

### For Whitewater NZ Use Only

Membership ID

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Response Date

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Receipt #

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