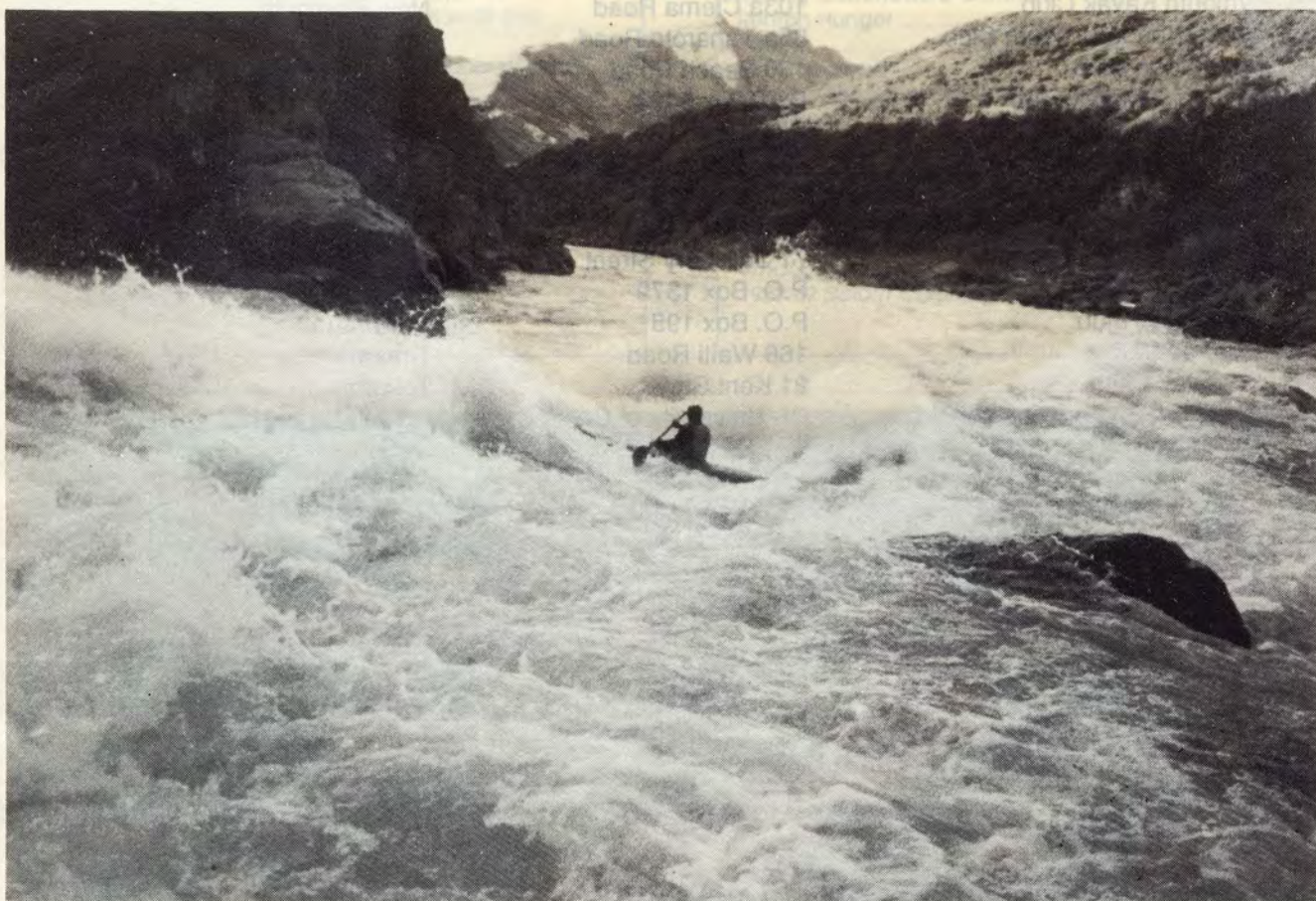


New Zealand **Canoeing & Rafting**

- ☐ Slalom
- ☐ Dragon Boat Racing
- ☐ Kayaking in Nepal
- Mick Hopkinson*
- ☐ Canoe Polo

id=324



NEW ZEALAND CANOEING & RAFTING MAGAZINE

Published for the New Zealand Canoeing Association
P.O. Box 3768, Wellington, N.Z.

The NEW ZEALAND CANOEING ASSOCIATION is the administering body of recreational and competitive canoeing, kayak, and rafting sports in New Zealand. Individuals become members of the Association through membership of an affiliated canoe and kayak club. These affiliated clubs are as follows:

Arawa Canoe Club	P.O. Box 13177	Armagh, Christchurch
Ashburton Kayak Club Inc	P.O. Box 238	Ashburton
Auckland Canoe Club	P.O. Box 3523	Auckland
Gisborne Canoe & Tramping Club	P.O. Box 289	Gisborne
Hamilton Canoe Club	P.O. Box 9497	Hamilton North
Hauraki Kayak Club	P.O. Box 3580	Auckland
Hawkes Bay Canoe Club	P.O. Box 883	Napier
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Northland Canoe Club	130 Beach Road	Onerahi, Whangarei
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Palmerston North Canoe Club	P.O. Box 1126	Palmerston North
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Hutt Valley Canoe Club Inc.	P.O. Box 38389	Petone (formerly Te Marua)

'NEW ZEALAND CANOEING & RAFTING MAGAZINE' is a publication published for the N.Z. Canoeing Association and its member clubs. The editorial board of the magazine is entirely separate from the Association and the views expressed in the magazine are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily coincide with those of the editors, nor of the N.Z.C.A.

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Jeff Snyder paddling 'Exit Drop' on Tumwater Canyon of the Wenatchee River, Washington in Project Squirt Boat. Photo by Mike Savory

TO ALL CLUBS

Instruction Calendar For 1988/89

ADVANCED SKILLS

October 15/16	Auckland to be confirmed (Button/Anderson/Billowes)
November 26/27	Christchurch to be confirmed (Hopkinson/McKeegan/Billowes)
December 3/4	Dunedin contact OCKC (Neil McKeegan/other)

RIVER RESCUE TECHNIQUES (Mark Rowe/Mick Hopkinson)

September 24/25	Tauranga Wairoa River
October 8/9	Palmerston North, Manawatu
November 12/13	Christchurch contact Christchurch
February 11/12 (1989)	Dunedin contact OCKC

Requests for courses at other venues should be made to the Executive Officer as soon as possible. Content of these courses will include a wide range of rescue techniques for use on the river and on the river bank and will also include up to date ideas from the USA as well as the tried and true.

Application to attend these courses should be made to the Executive Officer. Costings for the weekend are yet to be finalised but will be in excess of the usual \$50 charge, because of the special nature of these courses and the need for several experienced instructors.

These courses are supplementary to the NZCA Instruction Scheme but do not substitute for the basic and advanced course requirement for NZCA Instructors.

TEACHERS ADVANCED

December 12/15	North Island Buller River (Mick Hopkinson/Neil McKeegan)
January 16/19	North Island Tongariro River (Button/Webber/Billowes)
January 16/19	South Island Tairi River (Hopkinson/McKeegan/Anderson)

REGIONAL INSTRUCTORS

July Wellington prior to AGM	
December 10/11	Nelson Buller/Lakes (Hopkinson/Billowes)

VIDEO PRODUCTION

August (end)	Taupo Pool/Lake/Waikato
--------------	-------------------------

COURSE COSTS

Advanced Skills	\$50.00
River Rescue	\$70.00
Teachers Adv.	\$240.00

INFORM OTHERS, BOOK NOW

*All enquiries regarding courses are made through the Executive Officer, NZCA, PO Box 3768, Wellington.
Attention: Nick Billowes Instruction Officer*

NZCA INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

If you have any queries regarding instruction contact any of the below people and they will help you out! These people are on the national instruction committee and are our regional instruction officers.

Nick Billows	I/O, 41 Otaihangā Rd, Paraparaumu,	85609
Barry Anderson	R/O, Waimarino RD1, Tauranga,	64337
Ron Beardsley	R/O 62 Sinclair St, New Brighton, Christchurch,	664772
Neil McKeegan	R/O, 1/38 Konini St, New Brighton, Christchurch,	487243
Pat Hyland	R/O, 23 Sunshine Lane, Dunedin,	53588
Tim Densim	R/O, PO Box 972, Taupo,	80199
Annette Richards	R/O, 20 Milne Terrace, Island Bay, Wellington,	835181
Hugh McLearnie	R/O, PO Box 698, Masterton,	85029
Ken Mercer	R/O, 5 Acacia St, Palmerston North,	64729
P. Sommerhalder	R/O, 5 Mont Le Grand, Mt Eden, Auckland	686773
Kris Worledge	R/O, PO Box 7195, Napier	449683
Steve Chapman	R/O, C/o Nelson Canoe Club	

EDITORIAL

Well, I've been putting off this moment for a while now but eventually I had to put a pen to paper and write about kayaking. A while ago I was in a discussion with a person I know and their attitudes to the sport in some ways shocked me! In these discussions, people have said to me that they felt that canoeing alone was acceptable. Even I have committed this unquestionable sin of paddling by myself, but it is not an act that I condone, especially when I am talking about Grade 3+-5 water.

This person compared kayaking alone on Grade 3 and above water to solo climbing and using his climber's attitude said that it was all right for a person to risk their own life in this way. I disagree because for a number of years I have been teaching safe kayaking and the attitudes of a few people send shivers down my spine.

I enjoy kayaking because it is in effect an individualist's sport, when you are on the water you are in effect a 'soloist' - in control of your own fate. I enjoy this sport for the people that participate in it with me. Thus by having a group of friends around me they can fish me out of the water after I have 'sucked the aquatic kumera'.

A true soloist kayaker - no river support, no bank support takes his own life into his hands when paddling and gives kayakers a bad reputation. Most swimmers are so exhausted by the turbulence, cold and lack of oxygen, that often they do not care if they live or die after a bad swim.

The Police and Search and Rescue have a hard enough time as it is without chasing solo kayakers' bodies down the rivers because of their thoughtless actions.

A friend of mine soloed the Huka river, Mt Cook and got stuck in a hole. After 3-4 minutes he got flushed out, still in his boat, a swim there would have been fatal as he already was exhausted from rolling and being in the hole.

PLEASE KAYAK SAFELY WITH GROUPS OF FRIENDS. LET OTHERS KNOW YOUR INTENTIONS.

Donald Johnstone is the 1988 Canoeist of the Year, Congratulations to New Zealand's top slalom paddler who has received little recognition in the past. As an organisation the NZCA is alive and well and thriving. The newly elected committee is ready to work hard for the sport and communicate to you through this magazine and letters.

Things are boding well for international slalom, with the inclusion of slalom in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. The River Segre, slalom site, is in La Seu 'Urgell' with the wildwater site on the Noguera-Pallaresa at Sort. The slalom site is from what I can work out an artificial one with a flat water canal incorporated. Also on the slalom scene is an exhibition 1988-89 World Cup Slalom Series. In the future this may be an annual event. More on this later.

Back to the New Zealand scene. We see our Instruction Officer working hard on a new instruction programme with a regional basis. There are regional instruction officers that have with a team of instructors working with them. The only problems I personally envisage is a set of double standards between the NZCA instruction programme and the NZOIA (New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association) instruction programme. I personally believe that this country of 3 million people cannot sustain two different instruction programmes. Why don't the two organisations combine and have one instruction programme?. I feel that the NZ Canoeing Association is the governing body of canoeing and is answerable to all other organisations that are even remotely connected. I know we are a very flexible organisation and will be willing to discuss our role in NZ canoeing with anybody!

Fairydown now make a very nice paddle jacket which retails for approximately \$120. Macpac Wilderness will be releasing one soon as well. Both are designed by canoeists, for canoeists.

Please write and comment on anything you can think about relating to the sport and I'll try to publish it!

Happy Kayaking

Craig Kennedy
The Editor

id=321



PINK DREAM

The Karnali

Mick Hopkinson

A chance encounter with an old friend on the Grand Canyon - campfire talk, the world had still been going on whilst I had spent ten years in New Zealand (and the States and Australia??). Pete had been down the Stikine and the Fraser, twice to Nepal, to Ladakh. Did I want to go to Nepal again? I said yes without giving it too much thought. After all, it might not come off.

It was only with the increasing frequency of Pete's letters that it became apparent that it was going to happen. Reality had to be faced. Still, as the overseas contingent my part in the masterplan was small. I had to take a spare pair of underpants and a pack full of Alliance freeze-dried. Short of buying the tickets I could put the whole thing to the back of my mind. It was only as the 27th October became imminently unavoidable that I put my affairs in order, even made a will.

It was hard to forget that it was on just such a trip that Mike Jones had paddled round a bend in the river for the last time. Fear became a real thing particularly as Pete, displaying an amazing penchant for organisation began to send me masses of information about the river, flow, gradient, gorges, etc. The Karnali became a real challenge not just an abstract idea.

However, even arriving in Kathmandu, the challenge was deferred. Met at the airport by the team, changed in the mud in the carpark, in front of the erstwhile forgotten masses, 5 hours in a rickety van and abracadabra we were on the Trisuli. No Kathmandu hassles, no time even to be ill. Four days of fun, well it would have been if I hadn't got all my free gear in the kayak, four days of getting used to the yellow pig (Everest 90) and the pink lifejacket - well I was lost there.

Four days of holes and waves and getting to know the team, and enduring the only bad weather of the trip (2 hours' rain). Back to Kathmandu to drive the porcelain truck for a couple of days whilst the rest of the team packed the gear ('cept Phil Blain - he was a co-driver). Ceremonial last postcards before departing into the great unknown. I wasted one on John Wasson. I hadn't seen him for 4 years and he turned up in the hotel to see us off twenty minutes after the postcard was posted. Huh!

More hassles - the Nepal gang bus cannot negotiate the narrow streets to the Hotel. We bag a ride on an Encounter Overland truck - for a whole 4 blocks then the purgatorial bus journey, essential feature of any expedition, to the ends of the earth. (I've spent 3 days trapped down a cave... I still can't decide which was worse.) 'Arrive Nepal gang 5th November fly in 6th' That's what the brochure said and that's what happened. I kept pinching myself, still remembering the 11-day wait for a flight in the Rawalpindi.

Great flight too, even flying over the river in places. Some of it looked kind of scary from 15,000 ft. But generally it did look like there were the occasional flat bits. There was hope. It was only when we got to Simikot in the 25th October, met us at the airstrip. He was run-down and displaying many symptoms of severe altitude sickness.

Mike McDonald who had worked with Chris at Benmore Lodge was particularly worried. It was only later when a much recovered Chris appeared in New Zealand that I was able to appreciate how ill he really had been. The decision was taken to walk down to the river, from 10,000 to 7,000 ft in the hope that Chris might improve. Unfortunately this turned out to be a mistake and after the first days kayaking Chris collapsed and passed out. Thus we were forced into the unavoidable position of having to call in a helicopter.



This simple (in New Zealand) operation took 5 days and left us all emotionally drained. Sadly for Mike, who along with Pete had done most of the work of organising, this was also almost the end of the expedition. He generously volunteered to fly out with Chris who was incapable of looking after himself.

Then there were five. Very nearly four after I managed a glorious cock-up in the second canoeing day. Attempting to hit a narrow gap between two large rocks it dawned upon me that I was not going to turn the pig in time. The bow hit the left hand rock and I went over the fall upside down and sideways into an evil pour-over type stop, coming to an abrupt halt with the boat in a vertical position with me still under the water and under the undercut of the right hand rock. I was busy trying to roll not realising that I was in a vertical pin. Consequently, nothing happened. Panic... eject.... swim... lose canoe for a mile and a quarter... damaged ego, pride, etc... lose glasses and collect hypothermia.

It is fast becoming one of my standard laws of big water paddling that the better and more experienced you become then by definition the bigger and nastier the swim when it eventually happens. Otherwise brilliant technical paddling in the grade IV-V range all the way from Simikot to the Lochi Karnali junction. We had several portages I am not ashamed to say, and we generously left the ninety, fifty and forty foot waterfalls (with rocky landings!!!) and some subterranean paddling for future heroes with rubber legs and much bigger lungs. All of this with riverside tracks and porter support. Luxury!! However all good things come to an end and as the trail wound over a large spur and the porters said their farewells (somewhat ambiguously I thought!) we came upon our first and most committing gorge. We had decided to run it lightweight - food and fibrepile but no sleeping bags, fly, sheets, etc.

Dropping it 150 ft a mile for 5 miles the gorge took two days and provided heaps of L.T.S. paddling and a couple of portages, one of which Phil Blain reckoned he might have done, with a lightweight boat and a large crowd if it was near a pub. However, since none of these conditions applied he walked like the rest of us.

We picked up with the porters at Tumche but only for one more day since it soon became apparent that we could paddle in 2 hours what they took a day to walk. So we said farewell to Karma our ever helpful guide, and Mr Adhikari our excellent liaison officer, loaded up the pigs with fourteen days' food and gear and gaily submarined down the river.

The next ninety miles took 5 days and was mostly Grade IV apart from the gorge above the junction with the Tila which was harder than Grade IV and again a five mile stretch took 2 days and involved several thankfully short riverside portages.

We arrived at the Lahore Kola junction with four days food left and 125 miles to go. We had intended waiting for Mike McDonald who was coming back overland from Kathmandu, determined to at least paddle the bottom end of the river. However I had a deadline to meet - an airline ticket back to N.Z. So, leaving Pete, Phil and Stu to wait for Mike, Phil and I set off to try and reach Chisapani as quick as possible.

The first fifty miles from the Lahore Kola junction to the Seti Junction was the best piece of river I've ever paddled. Big water, grade 3-4 - Grand Canyon style. Freed from the dual chores of inspection and possible portage, we soon got a feel for the river and ran every rapid unseen. It was one long adrenalin rush for six hours.

Every rapid (and there were hundreds) a gem! However it was not without incident. Sitting in the huge river wide stopper at the bottom of one rapid I can remember vividly thinking "Oh lord, if I swim now I hope Phil can pull me out." Little did I know that he was in the other end of the same stopper thinking similar thoughts.

From the Seti to Chisapani it is flat and anticlimactic. And sadly, like most big water trips we were just paddling to finish. At Chisapani Phil and I had beer for breakfast and said our goodbyes. He was to wait for the team whilst I made a sort of slow motion dash across the country to catch my flight back to N.Z. The trip ended in a diarrhetic haze in Kathmandu and Singapore and I arrived home a stone lighter wondering if it had really happened. Still, I had the pink lifejacket to prove it.

AUCKLAND



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KAYAKING IN NEPAL

If you have read this far you may be wondering about kayaking in Nepal yourself; so perhaps we should add some brief notes.

1. Nepal is something of a paradise for multi day kayak trips and there are now many groups going kayaking in Nepal each year. There must be over a 100 kayaks out in Kathmandu available for hire, so unless you are a large group you can just travel out there and make arrangements when you arrive. You should take all your personal paddling gear, spray decks, paddles, etc.
2. Nepal is a very friendly country and travel with your kayaks on local buses is fairly easy and cheap. Apart from in the West, there are plenty of villages with tea houses so you don't have to carry a lot of food.
3. A one month holiday in 1987 would probably cost about 800 inclusive from Britain - you would have a job spending more than a 1000.
4. For trips on the Trisuli and Sun Kosi you can join up with a commercial raft group - empty boats and good company!
5. Best months are probably November and December - sunny days, warm rivers, but cold nights - almost all you need is a warm sleeping bag!
6. Almost all the main rivers of Nepal have now been kayaked, so certainly for a first visit you should not be thinking of a first descent. There's lots of fine rivers of all grades so you don't have to be a white water macho freak!
7. Rafting permits are available for the main rivers and in practice these cover the main tributaries. Like Trekking permits these can be obtained in a couple of days without any real hassle - but do ask for advice first from previous kayakers or use a knowledgeable agency - it is important to do things right and things are not usually spelt out or obvious - you have to remember that this is Nepal, and things are done in a perhaps more friendly, illogical, and at times frustrating ways than what we impatient Westerners are used to!
8. The Ministry of Tourism is keen to promote kayaking and they are sympathetic to requests to run other rivers but if you do want to do a major expedition on a more remote river then it is obviously important to apply like we did several months in advance through the right channels and via a first class agency.
9. It really is a beautiful country, nice people and great kayaking that I think can be recommended as a holiday to anyone who is reasonably tolerant and adaptable. Frankly, I should forget the idea that going to Nepal is an "Expedition" anymore than going to the Alps a few years ago was - you can honestly read the guide books and the fly out with your gear and you will have a great time!

The Expedition from 'The Karnali Report'

"How did it go?" everybody asks: well, in brief the river exceeded our expectations in every way - the white water was very continuous but almost all the river was paddled - only some two miles in total had to be "carried". Scenery was spectacular, locals very friendly and wildlife plentiful. When we arrived in Kathmandu we found that there was a lot of research being undertaken into the river for hydro potential, and we were told by the hydrologists that it was in fact the largest and longest river of Nepal - not just of the West as we had thought.

They helped us out with lots of useful information, and then said "if you guys are going into that top gorge, we'd be grateful for anything you could tell us about it" - well it's nice to know that kayaks do have advantages - even for outfits with budgets of millions of dollars and plenty of helicopters! We had of course agreed to do a survey for the Ministry of Tourism into the potential for tourist rafting in return for a special river permit. After several briefings at the Ministry they gave us a very special research permit with a big red stamp, plus letters of introduction that made us out to be very important people and not the kayak bums we looked like! These proved very useful in getting Chris and Karma a flight to Simikot (anyone interested in travelling to the Far West - be warned: Flights are extremely difficult to get).

In the summer, a development team had been trying a jet-barge out on various Nepalese rivers. On the Karnali they had been stopped by a nasty rapid some 60 miles up from the bottom and they were keen to know what the rapids were like above here - would we take some photos and also do a survey for them? It was a relief to leave Kathmandu and all these meetings and head off to the Trisuli river for a quick warm up.

Back to Kathmandu and a major pack, a bus to Nepalgang and then a charter flight into Simikot (Royal Nepal Airlines couldn't have been more helpful). Waiting for us on the landing strip (the most remote one in Nepal - also perhaps the most dangerous, a sloping ledge on the side of mountain, no second chance!) was Chris Nichol, our reconnaissance person who had gone in ten days before to scout the upper river. He wasn't well but didn't appear seriously ill.

We hired porters to carry our gear and boats down to the river 4000ft below and the following day did a few miles on the river. Chris accompanied the Liaison Officer, Guide and porters. On

the second day he was taken seriously ill, unconscious with convulsions; we suspected altitude sickness so had little choice but to request emergency evacuation by helicopter. After some difficulties with communications, the helicopter eventually turned up four days later. (We now realised just how remote we were - even ten miles from the airstrip - and would be in the days to come...)

Despite numerous tests in Kathmandu and Bangkok, the illness was never really diagnosed but thankfully Chris has subsequently recovered. This happily proved to be the one major epic of the trip (just as well, at 3000 a trip our cash reserve wouldn't stretch to another helicopter). We did manage to have a few swims, but with nothing worse than injured pride and a lost paddle, the river was definitely "chunky" with an average gradient on this top section of about 100ft a mile.

This valley of the Humla Karnali was very beautiful with friendly local people who had not been spoilt by outside influence (there had only been 6 other foreigners into Simikot in the year) - in truth something of a "Shangri La", probably like the rest of Nepal was 30 years ago, but it's doubtful if the poor subsistence farmers would agree? Main means of transportation was still sheep and goat caravans, each animal carrying small homespun pack bags - There were horrendous traffic jams on the narrow trail when a herd carrying rice up from India met one coming the other way with salt down from Tibet. At night the traders built individual fires to sleep by - to surround the herd and keep the wolves away.

Our porters were a very likeable bunch - mainly Bhotias (Tibetan Stock and Buddhists), always laughing, joking and singing around the campfire (I suspect that for them this was a bit of a holiday with good food, pay and entertainment from these crazy foreigners in the day!). We had a good guide in Karma and our Liaison Officer Mr Adhikari could not have been more helpful - a good support team. Climax of this upper section was the top gorge (just below the Lochi Karnali): unsurveyed, untrodden, cliffs shooting up 3000ft - we were naturally apprehensive! The cliffs didn't prove quite as ommitting as we had imagined - but the paddling was. We did about 2 miles the first day and then had to bivvy for the night.

The gorge was like some lost world, with palm trees and exotic fauna. It seemed to form a natural barrier between two different regions - below the gorge and after the confluence with the Mugu Karnali the valley opened out and the landscape was more arid. The villages and people were noticeably different. Two days after rejoining our porters we said farewell to them and set off down the rest of the river with all our gear in the boats. Whilst it was sad to leave them, it was great to be on our own and self sufficient.

■ DAY TWO ■

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At first the river was relatively easy, but of course soon changed and we had the dubious pleasure of paddling grade 5 rapids with boats weighing about 90 pounds - got some spectacular slow loops! There was a really demanding section starting about 10 miles above the Tila river - average gradient 150ft a mile and 4000 c.f.s.

Mike McDonald had had to fly out with Chris, but we had tentatively planned for him to rejoin us at our food re-supply point at the confluence of the Lahore Khola. We got there early, waited until the agreed date, then decided to give Mike one more day before setting off again (we had managed to buy some rice and dahl).

Just as we were literally setting off down the river was a shouting from the villagers on the bank and bobbing down the Lahore Khola came Mike in a Rotobat (first and solo kayak descent!) It was great to see him again - he had had his won adventures getting there and we sat on the river bank swapping yarns.

The bottom bit of the river proved to be "one of the finest stretches of white water for rafting in the world" a real thrill a minute roller coaster ride (see Appendix A). Even the relatively flat bits of the river were not without interest - tracks of tigers, leopards crocodiles and other wildlife. We were a bit blasé about all this wildlife until they told us one of the villagers had been eaten the previous week! (I tried out my well proven bear deterrent of a pair of wet suit boots...)

At the bottom of the river we were offered hospitality in a construction camp - showers, toilets, dining room, cold beer, etc. Phil woke up in the morning with a snake (a 10ft baby python) under the next bed.

Well, we all stayed disgustingly well, ate like pigs, and did some great paddling - over 250 miles - most of it grade 3 and over. But it was good to get back to Kathmandu...

Here we prepared and presented our report to HMG and also had a very friendly invitation to drinks with the Ambassador.

Mick Hopkinson probably summed up the trip for all of us when he called it "the most committing river I've done".

A full report of the Karnali river trip can be obtained from the publications Officer, P.O. Box 3768, Wellington, for a small fee.

1988 N.Z. HIMALAYAN KAYAK EXPEDITION

Mick Hopkinson inspired me many years ago when he wrote an article for this magazine with the quote "Procrastination is the thief of time" included in it.

Well after talking with him many times I realised that expeditions overseas and kayak trips are organised by normal people.

Seeing his slides has motivated me to go to Nepal to kayak several rivers there. Ben Willems and I formed the core group and enthused several other people, a couple pulled out but we were left with seven. So in November this year a group of Christchurch kayakers will be paddling in Nepal for 2-3 months.

They are Craig Kennedy, Ben Willems, Mike Brewer, Sarah Anderson, Patricia Deavoll, Chris Abraham and Dave Mills.

As group we would like to thank our sponsors who are

1. **Fairydown by Arthur Ellis & Co**
2. **Quality Kayaks**
3. **Singapore Airlines**
4. **Day Two**
5. **Hanimex (NZ) Ltd**
6. **McEwings Mountain Sports**
7. **Alliance Freeze Dri Foods**

See you when we come back.

Craig

CANOE POLO

Ian Russell is now the new Canoe Polo Commodore and hopes to promote polo as a major part of the sport of kayaking. Canoe Polo is very social, lots of fun and improves skills while in a pool situation. Contact Ian for the new rules and regulations if you don't already have them.

THE FIRST WORLD CANOE POLO COMPETITION Sydney, December 2nd-4th, 1988

The World Canoe Polo Competition is open to all canoe Polo teams, national selected teams, club teams or composite teams. It will be held in 3 categories: Open (any players), Women (female players only) and Junior (players born on or after 1st January 1970). The competition will be run to the rules finalised by the ICF Polo working group, in Duisburg, August 1987. This is the game with a goal 2 m off the water, boat and shoulder tackles, no hitting the ball with a paddle.

The preliminary rounds will be on the first two days, providing each team with at least 4 games in a league/points system. the top 8 teams in each category should progress to the finals Sunday which will be a knockout system, with some repechage so a team is not eliminated by the first game they lose.

Deadline for entries: September 4th 1988

CANOE POLO UPDATE

Results from Wellington Regional Canoe Polo Champs

Final	
Wallies 6	VUCC 3
Semi-Final	
Secret Policemen 2	Wallies 8
Semi-Final	
VUCC 3	KKKK 3
KKK1	VUCC 3
Wallies 8	Kupe 1
Porirua 1	Hutt Valley 1
Masterton 5	Amazons 1
VUCC 5	Levin 2
Secret Policemen 5	Dannevirke 1
Taupo 6	Extras 3
Uni Canterbury 3	Amazons 1
KKKK 3	Masterton 1
Kupe 3	Dannevirke 1
Porirua 3	Wallies 3
Secret Policemen 3	Hutt Valley 1
KKKK 9	Extras 1
Levin 7	Amazons 1
Uni Canterbury 2	VUCC 3
Wallies 4	Taupo 1
Porirua 5	Dannevirke 5
Extras 0	Masterton 3
Levin 3	Hutt Valley 4
Uni Canterbury 5	Secret Policemen 1
Kupe 2	Taupo 3

Thanks must go to the Wellington Canoe Clubs for their organisation and to the teams for making it all worthwhile.

Replies from Questionnaire

1. Ten clubs replied, enabling the following conclusions:
1. There is a good support for Canoe Polo Competition in clubs.
2. Existing Club competitions are well underway in Palmerston North, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch
3. The most favoured option for interclub polo competition is to coincide with slalom competitions, and with NZCA AGM's in Wellington/Picton.
4. Getting polo gear and use of a pool is a problem for some clubs as well as transport costs.

Proposed plan

- a. Clubs to set up a local polo competition.
- b. North Island Polo Champs (*after NI Slalom Champs, or National Champs*).
- c. South Island Polo Champs (in Christchurch Between 25 December-7 January between Slaloms).
- d. National Polo Champs (*after NZCA AGM July 89*)
- e. Selection of National Polo Team to compete in Australia and World Champs (Aug 89)

IDR Russell, NZCA Canoe Polo Commodore

January 2, South Island Polo Championships

Contact Ian Russell, 22 Banbury Street, Christchurch. Phone 587 665

FACES OF THE RIVER

David Young and Bruce Foster

Many years ago I was searching for books that could give me some general information about some of New Zealand's rivers, but the search was fruitless; there were ample books about our mountains and lakes, even some beautiful photographic books on our coastland, but nothing on rivers.

In 1979 I started to write such a book and had a number of publishers interested, at one stage wellknown photographer James Siers was to do the photographs. Then I discovered that John McKay (author of 'Wild Rivers') was about to write a similar book so we pooled our efforts. A short time later we discovered that David Young was also about to start a book on rivers and he had the support of the Hydrological Society. The important thing to me was that a book just had to be written and it had to do justice to our rivers, to seek out and convey the very character and essence of our rivers and the book must avoid being a rush job written for no other reason than to make a profit.

Secure in the belief that David would do the job properly, we pulled out of the project but offered David all the help we could. So, in reviewing this book, I am going to be super critical. Is this the book I thought needed to be written? Is this how I wanted the book to be? Does this book capture the real character of our rivers, the rivers that we, canoeists and rafters know so well? Is this book worth the money? Yes, I think so, and if David hadn't been so generous in giving me a copy, I would have bought one; it is well worth the \$60 (approx).

Bruce Foster is one of the country's best photographers and although I know that he felt that the photos were not printed quite as well as he would have liked, the 124 colour photographs are great, the 12 panoramas really leap at you and there are a further 66 historic photographs, some from private collections never published before.

The book is divided up into ten main chapters, each dealing with one main river, with the choice of the river depending upon the theme that David is examining. The Buller River, for example, is about canoeing and rafting in the main, but also deals with the effect of earthquakes. The Waipou river deals with erosion but also includes the Motu and the environmental movement. The chapter on the Waikato deals, as might be expected, with Hydro but this is also picked up again in the last chapter on the Clutha.

If I have any disappointment with the book, it has to be with the amount of information. I know that David had tremendous difficulty cutting the book down to a suitable size - there was simply too much information for a single book - unfortunately this shows. Often you get into a paragraph that is discussing some aspect of the river when suddenly it ends and David is off on a tangent. The back of the book has a mere two pages of reference material that the interested reader could consult to dig more deeply into aspects raised by the text, but this is not really sufficient, particularly as many of the references are to unpublished papers. Again, some of our more popular rivers are hardly mentioned. The chapter on the Taramakau does mention the Arahura, but I could write a whole book on this river! And my favourite river, the Clarence, hardly appears at all either. I think David ought to write a few more books; I know he has the material.

Are there any mistakes? I looked as hard as I could and found only one real error - he talks of the grade IV rapids on the Motu (page 63) and David ought to have known better than to have been taken in by hype of this kind.

The appendix contains some extremely interesting information. No true runner should fail to read the section on "who owns the river bed" - it is at the very core of the conservation issue. The flow statistics make your hair stand on end. The mean flow graphs (pages 213 and 214) tell you why some months of the year are useless for canoeing particular rivers. For example, one glance at the flow graph for the Rangitikei is enough to tell you that the river will be too low to bother with in February but a trip in the August school holidays ought to give you a thrill, much the same could be said for the Motu except that its low flow levels last much longer.

This is not a book written for canoeists, in fact, if you have a narrow interest in rivers - be it canoeing, or as a hydro engineer, you may be in for a disappointment. This is a book about many aspects of rivers with the emphasis on historical information. The window David provides into the Maori

perspective of rivers is something that had to be told and I think that as a Pakeha David gives the Pakeha an ideal introduction to the Maori approach to the river - we now need a Maori to take it further.

I haven't finished reading this book. I really don't want to. I have the book sitting beside the TV set and I dip into it from time to time, or I flick through the photographs with the children. It's a pity the maps are not in more detail, but that is something I can live with.

If I had to classify this book I think I would not put it in the geography section of the library, not the sports and recreation; perhaps it is best seen as a book on the history of New Zealand culture as represented by the New Zealander's attitude to rivers - so I would put it amongst the history books, or sociology, maybe in religion because there is a spiritual dimension to rivers that is revealed in the 244 pages of this book.

Graham Egarr

ACCESS TO RIVERS AND SOE's

A Fairy Tale

Dear Children,

Once upon a time in this fair land, there were people called Paddle Elves who used to go out into the forests and rivers and actually walk and paddle without anybody telling them that they needed permission to do this harmless activity on the lands and forests that we all own by virtue of our citizenship.

Yes, I know this seems like a fairy story, but it's true.

Now we have the age of the SOE Goblins. These creatures now own the dams and the forests and the lands on which the Paddle Elves used to roam so freely in the past. In the olden days, the Electricity Goblins would open the dams and let some water down the river in the weekends for the Elves to paddle on. The SOE Goblins, however, said the Paddle Elves must pay for the water.

"Whose water is this?" cried the Paddle Elves plaintively.

"We thought you only wanted the energy out of it!"

"Now we are an SOE, we have a different set of rules, and we have to be commercial," said the Duke of the Electricity Goblins.

"Bloody Hell!" cried the Paddle Elves, wailing and gnashing their teeth, and banging their paddles together.

The Paddle Elves went to see the King of Aotearoa, but he was out racing his new chariot, so they saw the Prince of Doing Things Legally, Prince Geoff. He was most helpful, and said,

"You Paddle Elves must make fully detailed Submissions to The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, and The Interagency Working Group on Land Allocation, and have meetings with the Electricity Goblins, and the Waitangi Tribunal, and Timber Goblins, the Department of Conservation, and the Forestry Corporation, Federated Farmers and various Tribal Trust Boards, Catchment Authorities, and, while you are at it, bring a note from your mother."

And that, dear Children, is why Democracy is such hard work. It also explains why this Paddle Elf is a bit behind with this Newsletter.

Taken from White Water Canoe Club Newsletter

THE KARAMEA

A Seven Day Epic

Ben Willems

It was mid-October 1987, and for any varsity-bum like myself that means tension, stress, study, sweat and exams. It's about this time you begin to dream behind the desk about what you're going to do in the holidays. I had made up my mind that a trip down the Karamaea was a must, it was just a matter of finding 3 others of equal ability and enthusiasm.

Doug Rankin (Dr Doogle) was the first on the list; having been on the river twice before, his experience and knowledge of the Karamaea in retrospect saved us all from doing anything stupid (particularly me!) - there was plenty of opportunity. Ian (Bear) Russell the next to commit himself, had also paddled the river before. When I rang him up and asked him if he wanted to paddle the Karamaea, he said, "Anyone who's paddled the Karamaea wants to paddle it again - I'll come!"

Ian Macbeth, not having set foot in a boat for months, (the front end's the one with the stickers on it Ian!) after a certain amount of arm twisting also joined the group. With the addition of myself (XTC - it's a long story and one I wish to forget) off we set, four hardy young souls, to explore the unexplored, to paddle some hooty rapids, and to drink plenty of cups of really hot tea.

The Karamaea is a relatively large river and takes its catchment from the Northwest Nelson State Forest Park. It is remote, with access to only some parts of the river by track, while other parts of the river are virtually inaccessible except by helicopter. Like all West Coast rivers, it's very susceptible to flooding - flooding of amazing proportions. Little did we know that we were to be on the river in the worst flood for 15 years.

We arrived in Karamaea on Friday 20 February 1988 with the intention of flying into Luna Hut, 58km up the river at an elevation of 480 metres, on Saturday and spending the next four days paddling out. The first night would be spent at the Crow Hut, the second at the Roaring Lion Hut, and the third at Greys Hut, with a half day paddle out through the Lower Gorge on the 4th day.

Saturday morning was overcast with very low cloud, the weather map was for "clearing from the south". After some delay while the cloud rose sufficiently, the chopper arrived, and before we knew it we were being whisked up the Lower Gorge, and then over Kakapo Saddle into the heart of the forest park. A gear and food drop at the Crow Hut and a food drop at the Roaring Lion, meant the first day's paddling would be with empty boats, and less food would need to be carried from one hut to the next.

Travelling by chopper into a river is an awesome experience. One minute you're in a pub supping ale, then twenty minutes later you're in the middle of nowhere with four days of paddling before you're back in civilisation.

As the sound of the chopper faded into the distance a strange sense of excitement, anxiety and anticipation overcame me. We were on our own. There was an acute sense of loneliness in a land-

scape so dominant. It was up to each of us as individuals and as a group to get down the river with maximum enjoyment and safety (expedition mentality).

After the prerequisite 'team photo' outside Luna Hut, we were on the river, which at this point was only flowing at about 10 cumecs. The first section was boney and tight, as the river cut through bedrock. Everybody was trying to get into a rhythm, cutting in and out of eddies, to get those skills working. A striking feature of this river is the sequence of dams and dam outlets, caused by the 1929 Murchison earth-



Luna Hut. From left: Ian Macbeth, Ben, Doug Rankin, Ian Russell.

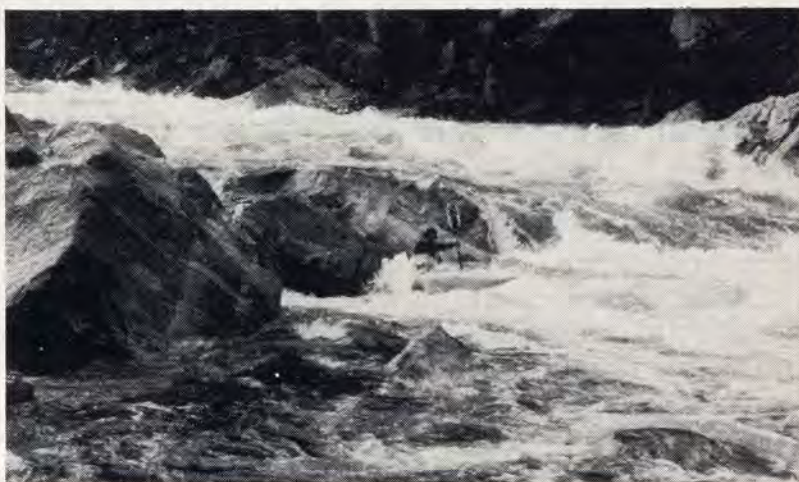
quake. The river level backing up behind each dam had drowned the forest, and paddling through a forest of dead tree trunks on each lake was a weird and eerie feeling (let alone bloody hazardous on some occasions).

The first of these dams of orbit creek was a good 50 foot drop and wasn't paddled due to lack of water (this was never a problem later on!) Looking back up the river from the bottom of the dam, you could easily see how thousands of tonnes of boulders had rolled off the mountains and choked the gorge up completely. A pleasant stretch of G3 water followed before Doug put an eight inch split in his Mirage, over a rocky drop. Great! Two hours into the trip and one incapacitated boat. After a quick repair job with F2 and canvas (he came prepared), in about the only half hour of sun we experienced on the whole seven days on the river, we were off again.

This was the first of many splits Doug got in his boat. He would repair them each night in the hut, which was a continual source of amusement, as he tried to manoeuvre a 4 metre boat into a 3 metre hut! After about one hour of surveying the Moonstone dam outlets Ian Russell and I jumped in our boats to do it. The dam itself was tight and steep, with large boulders and tree stumps in the most awkward places. There was little room for error, as Ian found out when he missed an eddie, resulting in a backward vertical pin over the next drop. That was exciting but not terminal. By now it was pissing down with rain but the river was a real joy of bouncy haysacks, sticky holes and tight rocky drops and manoeuvres.

That night in the Crow Hut with our warm gears on we listened to the tinroof as it rained and rained and poured and rained (and rained and rained and rained etc). The next day, both the Crow and Karamea rivers were in flood, having risen about 3 feet. The river was now a furious tor-

rent, and I expect that's what the trees and branches were thinking also as they floated downstream. One thing was for sure, we weren't going anywhere that day, but the weather was breaking. It's about this time you begin to wish you hadn't eaten such a huge meal the night before. Doug saved the day (somewhat), having caught a big trout the previous evening. The trout steaks were great, its the fishhead soup I couldn't handle. Doug was determined that we should eat every last scrap of this fish and so boiled its remains in water for about 3 hours. What was left was oily, fleshy, glutinous water



Ben, Lower Gorge Karamea (I think) February 1988

(call it soup? Doug did!) I hadn't seen anything quite as repulsive since I happened by accident to see Ian Macbeth just out of bed one morning! What really got me though was when Doug picked out an eye and started crunching on that.

The next day the river had dropped, although it was still much higher than when we had arrived. In spite of the fact it was raining again - off we set. The river was much bigger now, rapids were wider, faster, and bouncier, and the holes had to be avoided, they were nasty. The only rapid of note before the Bend was the one at Slippery Creek.

Although not particularly difficult, it was very powerful, with lots of holes and rocks. After stopping in on the 'Search and Rescue HQ' at the Bend (and eating big hunks of fruitcake courtesy of Snow) to inform him we were a day behind schedule we were paddling the flat water (dodging the dead forest) of the first of the big dams. This section of water down to the Roaring Lion hut is made up of three dams, each with a G3+-4 outlet. Each lake takes about 20 minutes to paddle with at least that time again to survey the outlet and decide on a route. (By the way - it's still raining.)

The first outlet was probably the longest, a good 300 metres, with plenty of rocks and holes and eddies. After agreeing on a route down Ian Russell tried his best to go where no paddler had gone before - but made the potentially hazardous situation look easy. With the addition of the Leslie upstream, the river was now flowing at about 200 cumecs and the hydraulics were severe. Ian Macbeth had to roll in this one (roll No. 1, but who's counting) just because he got caught by a nasty hydraulic at an inopportune moment.

The next dam outlet was steeper with only one route possible, down the true left. Massive

boulders in the rapid were creating huge buffer waves and some dynamic eddies, but we all managed this one cleanly. Our lunch spot was a real delight. A muddy sand island in the middle of the river, in the middle of a downpour, in the middle of a swarm of bloodthirsty sandflies, remember these are West Coast sandflies. Needless to say, that was a quick lunch stop. The final dam outlet was a simple drop, about twelve feet, but it made some great photos.

After about 30 minutes of flat paddling we turned up at the Roaring Lion Hut, and the food we knew would be there. Looking over the wide shingle expanse from the hut, which lay at the confluence of the Roaring Lion and Beautiful rivers, I contemplated the day's paddling, and what lay in store tomorrow with the largest dam yet to be encountered.

There are no prizes for guessing what happened that night - yes, it rained, but this time seriously. When I woke up in the morning I couldn't believe my eyes. What had been a shingle expanse at least 10 football fields' worth was now a dirty brown lake, and what's more its level was rising. Our marker tree trunk 8 feet up the bank floated away, which was so funny it was sickening. One thing was for sure, we weren't going anywhere today - *deja vu*. By midday the lake had reached its highest, about 15-18 feet above yesterday's river level. It was frightening to think of the water that had backed up behind the dam downstream (This was the day of the fifteen year flood.) And so it was another day stuck in a hut, being bored out your tree, because most of those were floating down the river. I got so bored in fact, I made a chess set, and promptly got beaten by Ian Bear (bastard) who never let on he was a good player. Meantime Ian Macbeth was reading a magazine which contained an article on the sexual habits of the US male. Apparently the average US male has sixteen sexual partners in his lifetime - what a useful piece of information.

Even though we had all brought 3 days extra food along, rationing was the wisest idea - who knows how long we would be in here. Doug on the other hand was oodling over his boat, which by now could be described as canvas held together by bits of plastic.

By the next day the lake had disappeared and the shingle island reappeared. As we ate our muesli, Ian Russell looked at his watch and commented that it was about now the guys at work would be wondering why he hadn't turned up. Paddling down the lake toward the dam took about 40 minutes. The river was still very high, up in the trees and much higher than when we had arrived. Soon we were upon the large dam outlet. This outlet has never been paddled in its entirety to my knowledge - even on a good day (by the way it's raining again).

Describing this rapid in this flow is difficult - you just had to be there, needless to say I would have preferred to paddle Nevis Bluff. Approx 500 cumecs dropping 150 feet over 1 km, formed some of the biggest drops and nastiest holes I've ever seen. Any one drop by itself, in this flow was at least G5 but stringing 20 or so of these together with no eddies in between, made this rapid unpaddleable (walking beside it was scary enough!) The postage was a nightmare too. It took 1 1/2 hours and meant scrambling up and down 30 foot boulders, bashing through bush and crawling under rock slabs.



"Nothing gets in my way!", Ian Russell

The paddling from here on down was with the utmost caution. Every rapid was inspected, and for good reason too; most had one or two 'lunch' holes in them (i.e.) if you get stuck in these you might as well ask for your lunch to be thrown over because you'll be in there for a while. And while they are at it, might as well throw you your dinner too and a sleeping bag in case it gets chilly at night.) This section down to Greys Hut was the most enjoyable. The rapids of G3-4 were big and bouncy, and spaced about every 500 metres. There were huge rocks, buffer waves and unpredictable hydraulics. Doug can vouch for this - in the middle of a relatively quiet stretch, he got sucked up by the river, out of sight, only to be contemptuously spat out again a few seconds later, on end, and almost totally airborne, followed by some frantic paddling to avoid a wicked hole (it was frantic - I saw the expression on his face!)

Ferris Creek was the other rapid of particular note on this section, a continuous grade 5 section

300 metres long with at least a G5+ drop in the middle, needless to say this was the second portage of the day. The arrival at Grey's Hut was a relief, we'd completed probably the most continuously difficult (or so we thought) of the river without major incident.

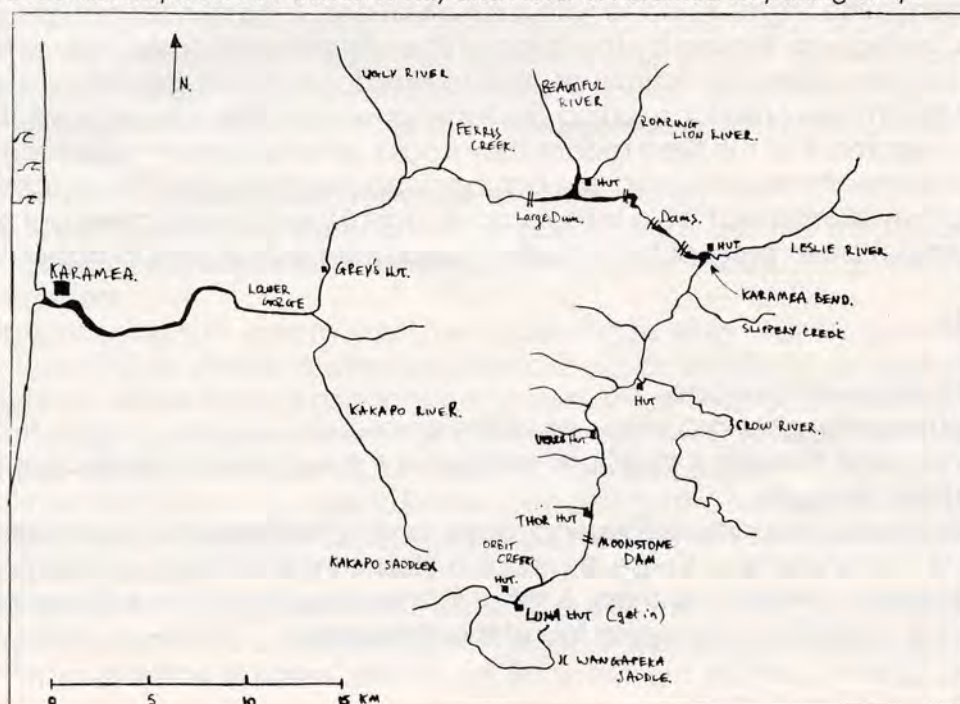
That night for something completely different, it rained again, heavily, and by morning the river had risen 6-8 feet. What was a pathetic braid by which we paddled down to get to the hut, was now a formidable slalom site - the water was lapping at the camping site and one thing was for sure - we weren't going anywhere today *deja vu*, *deja vu*. This whole scenario of a day paddling, a day stuck in the hut was becoming a very bad joke. By now even the hardest of spirits would be waning, and ours certainly were. We were all pretty pissed off with the bad deal we had got, the rain and the flooding. We all wanted to leave that day in spite of the flood (especially me, I had just missed enrolment at varsity) but Doogie convinced us that paddling the Lower Gorge in this flow would be very much less than clever (and he was right too). So another day was destined to be hut bound, the only highlight of which was the discovery of 1/4 of a bottle of brandy somebody had left. The next day patches of blue sky appeared (about time too, it was only our seventh day) and the river had dropped 6 inches on our arrival 2 days ago. The Lower Gorge is very confined and made up of 6 or 7 rapids with very large boulders and holes in strategically awkward places, making the rapids about G4+, I was not a happy chap.

I had expected today's paddle out to be straightforward, and that's exactly the direction I found myself heading on the 4th rapid in the gorge - straightforward toward a hole. It was a hole, when surveyed from the back was one we all decided you didn't want to be anywhere near - you could throw a bus into this one and never see it again. It was 1/2 river wide, (about 50 feet) with a 12 foot face on it, and my mistake, or lapse of concentration led me to punch the edge of it, any further to the right and I think I would still be in there today rotating. The other rapids in the gorge were equally menacing, and although we took the chicken routes (these were the G4+ pits) every time, none of these rapids could be taken lightly, not with the speed and volume of the water and lack of defined eddies.

But like all good bedtime stories, this one too was a happy ending. By 3 o'clock, all four of us were drinking milkshakes in Karamea (these took so long we were convinced she was milking the cow as well), and retelling the events of the last seven days including a classic comment by Doug. After just inspecting a rapid on the Lower Gorge, for route and eddie cutouts, walking back up to his boat he turned around and said "Now where the f—k was that eddie?!" Moments like these are only memories now, which I hope will be revived the next time I paddle the Karamea.

HAPPY HOOTING

Special thanks must go to our chopper pilot Terry Belcher who did an excellent job with the minimum of fuss. He and the Karamea police were concerned enough about our safety to fly in on Friday in search of us, complete with a food drop. It was not required. Also thanks to Kay and Pieter of Karamea for putting us up.



ROPES & RIVERS A GOOD MIX ?

Doug Rankin

(compiled from various sources)

The use of ropes in rivers can be extremely dangerous. Yet some sophisticated river techniques have been, and are being, developed (through necessity) in the States and Canada based on the use of same. Why the apparent conflict?

The purpose of this article is to:

1. Stimulate discussion and heighten people's awareness of the dangers of using ropes in rivers;
2. Cover situations where they can be used, albeit with attached risks but where their use may save a life in an otherwise desperate situation, and
3. To cover some definite dos and don'ts. My interest in writing this article has been stimulated by the observation that many throwbag owners haven't used them let alone practised with them, and also by some horror stories told where people have tried to use throwbags in situations where they are virtually useless.

Danger of ropes in rivers

An example of the danger ropes pose in rivers was highlighted by a tragic incident which occurred one and a half years ago on the Waikato River to a young Australian visitor camping beside the river. It is assumed he went down to the water, tied a rope around his waist and the other end to a tree and jumped into the river for some fun.

Tragically he did not realise the implications of his actions and was found some hours later drowned on the end of the rope. The reason for this tragedy is simple. With a rope attached to a person and the other end fixed to an obstacle in the river (eg, tree, rocks, wire) the water pressure will tend to force the person under water.

However, if the rope is on the surface and the person is in control lying flat on their back and holding the rope firmly on their chest (see Figure 1), a cushion of water can build up behind the back of the person's neck and allow them to breathe whilst their body streams out downstream. The force of the water on a person in this situation is very large, and if the person tires and is still attached or is tangled in the rope they may weaken, flip over, be unable to breathe and finally drown. One solution to this problem is to always carry a knife on your person for use in such a situation or to never attach oneself to a rope and avoid becoming entangled in a rope in a river.

On the other hand, the dramatic rescue of a rafter trapped in a waterfall on the Wairoa in the Bay of Plenty recently shows the value of some of the sophisticated rope techniques that have been developed in the States to cope with such situations. A passenger caught a foot in a rock above a drop. His leg was broken by the force of the water bending his body over downstream. While trapped under water the victim was able to breathe in an air pocket around his face.

Fortunately for him two American rafting guides happened to be in the vicinity. Their experience in rescues of entrapment of this type meant they could get a weighted rope held by rescuers on each bank, underneath his body and pull him back upstream against the force of the water to release his leg. They dislocated his hip in the process but at least got the client out alive. Had these skilled operators not been present this incident could have well ended in tragedy.

Dos and Don'ts

Golden Rules:

1. Never attach yourself to a rope.
2. Never become entangled in a rope - as victim or rescuer.
3. Never put your wrist through a small end loop on a throw rope or throwbag, it could jam under excessive tension.
4. Do learn the correct techniques for using ropes, and when to apply them. Gear is utterly useless unless you know how to use it! I recall a classic incident on the Karamaea River where a kayaker became pinned in a drop. A rafter in the party threw him a throwbag but didn't hang on to the end of it - they never found the throwbag!

Use of Ropes and throwbags on rivers for rescues

Ropes can be used on rivers for rescues in a number of ways. The techniques are, in some cases, quite sophisticated and require a lot of time to set up. Some of them also involve considerable personal risk to a rescuer which must always be remembered. The urgency of a situation (eg. person pinned under water and unable to breathe) means quick actions are essential. Thus for anyone wanting to use them it is preferable to have had first hand experience of these techniques in controlled situations so that the organisation required to set them up is understood and effective rescues can be made. There is not room here to discuss most of these techniques (and I refer anyone who is interested to the authority on the subject, "River Rescue" by Les Bechdel and Slim Ray, published by Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, Massachusetts, 1985), I want to confine myself, at present, to the use of throwbags and ropes for the rescue of floating, conscious swimmers.

Type of rope for use on rivers

A most important point is that any rope used should be a marine grade polypropylene rope of suitable strength, because it floats. This is not only essential for keeping a rope on the water's surface when thrown to someone, but it increases the safety aspect of using a rope. A floating rope is less likely to snag on the bed of a river and cause problems in a rescue or endanger the life of a rescuer/victim who may be entangled in the rope. The current view is that a coiled rope is often a better aid than a throwbag (rope contained in a nylon bag) to rescue victims floating in a river as it can be thrown further and more accurately and can be retrieved and thrown again more quickly.

The kinks in a rope packed in a throw-

bag can limit the free flow of rope from a bag when thrown and this, along with the limit to the amount of rope you can stuff into the bag, restricts its range. Once thrown and retrieved, however, throwbags are easily rethrown by filling the bag up with water and throwing again. There is no need to repack them - just make sure the line is free to fire out again.

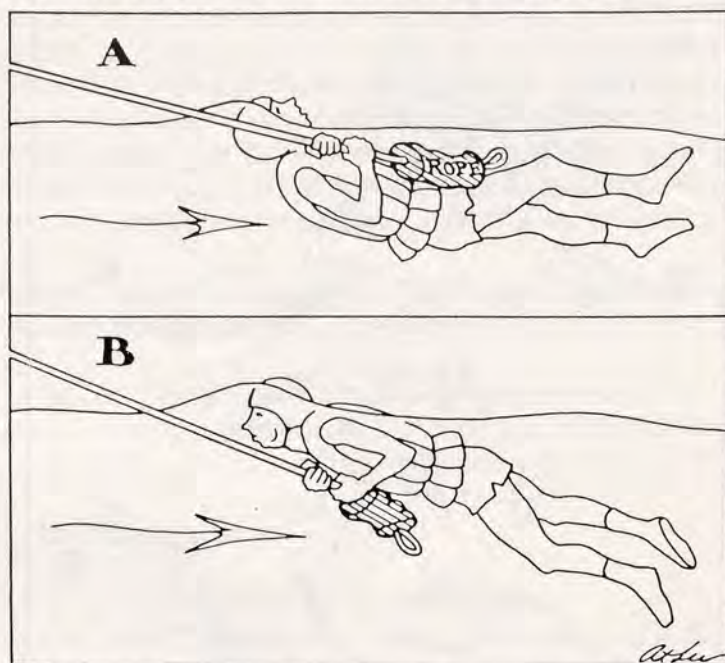
One argument in favour of throwbags is that they are a "clean" way of storing rope in a boat. It can't entangle the boater but a neatly tied bundle of rope should not move around too much in the back of a boat. Loops which are small enough to catch on your wrist are best avoided on throwbags, and toggles are a good idea - if the forces get too great fingers unfold off the toggles.

Where and when can throwbags and ropes be used effectively

In general it is best to effect a water-based rescue eg from another raft, kayak or canoe. It is normally the more extreme cases (entrapment, pinning, gear rescue, rescues in difficult water) in which ropes are used.

The concepts of using the river to your own advantage when kayaking also apply to using throwbags or ropes. One should always use the current or eddies to assist in a rescue. This is illustrated in Figure 2 where various positions are shown. What must be remembered is that there is no sense in attempting a rescue where the current is very swift. If a swimmer does materialise it is unlikely that you will be able to pendulum them ashore because the forces on the rope will be so great that either they or you will have to let the rope go and the rescue fails. Thus position A gives good visibility and has an eddy behind but is of little use to a swimmer or an upside down boat in the fast water of the chute.

B is a better place to pick up swimmers coming out of the chute or hydraulic, but the rope thrower must get them in before the tree downstream. C is set close enough to a hole to rescue a swimmer either in or below it. Both C and D are set to swing a swimmer into a convenient eddy.



(a) The right way to hold a rope in whitewater. (b) The wrong way. The swimmer, lying on his belly and gets a faceful of water. His body may even tend to dive.

E is set to catch a swimmer who might go into an undercut. F is too close to the undercut for a rope throw, but this would be an effective rescue position if a paddler were trapped there. At G would-be rescuers must be ready to throw. This rescuer is too close to the hazard and would not be able to hit a swimmer washing out of the hole or a kayak after several roll attempts. H is a better position, below the hazard with an eddy nearby.

The rescuer on the bank after throwing the rope should use a simple, static body belay (rope around the body rubbing on a lifejacket or other clothing, not on bare skin) to hold the swimmer while they pendulum them to shore. A tree or boulder may be used as an alternative to increase friction. However, there is the risk of pulling the rope out of the victim's hands when the tension

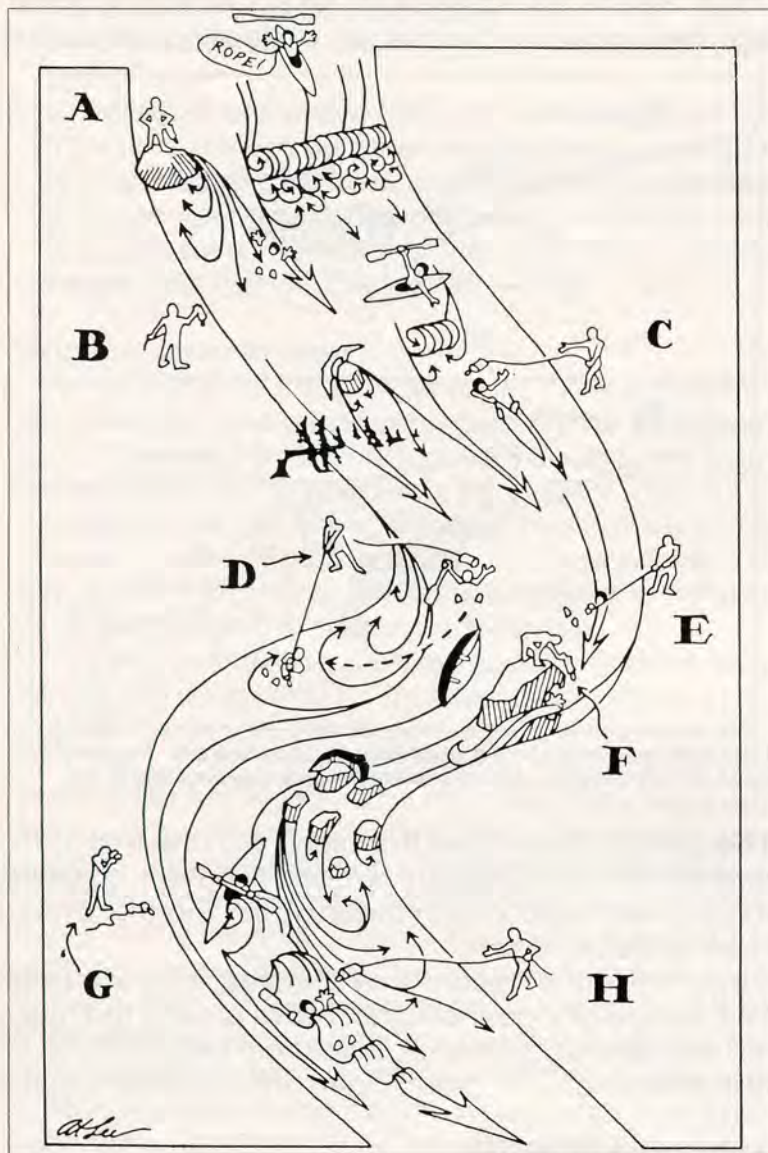


Figure 2

increases. A dynamic belay can be very effective where the current is swift and a rescue is essential. Here the rope is thrown to the victim and the rescuer runs down the river bank beside the victim, pulling them in at right angles to the current and not against the full force of the current. However, this does mean a relatively uncluttered bank is needed.

Ropes or throwbags can be used effectively to extricate people circulating around in large holes as long as the rope can reach them from the bank. In this situation it is useful to have a lifejacket tied on to the end of the rope as it is easier for the victim to grab while they are on the water surface. Accuracy and timing is obviously essential in a rescue (as for all rope throw rescues) of this type to coincide with the appearance of the rope/lifejacket with the person being up on the surface.

It is essential to signal your intentions with a whistle to a swimmer so that they know they are about to receive some assistance. The rope is useless if they don't know it is coming. The swimmer, for their part, should go for the rope aggressively, get hold of it, and hold the rope to their chest with their feet downstream. They must face upwards and not look at the rescuer as turning over and facing towards the rope may cause them to dive and deprive them of air, as is shown in Figure 1.

Never wrap the rope around any part of your body and likewise the rescuer should never tie off his end of the rope to a fixed object on the bank in case the rope becomes entangled on the victim.

The easiest throw to a victim is using an underhand throw with the body sideways on to the river but an overhand throw is more powerful and gives greater distance. The sideways throw is also necessary in certain situations and all three should be learnt and practised.

Concluding Comments

The use of ropes for rescues in rivers has largely arisen out of the necessity in that for some situations they are the only means available of rescuing people or retrieving gear. However, there are always risks and these have to be recognised and sufficient care taken and skills developed to cope with these dangers. If you carry a rope and/or throwbag on river trips find out how to use them, experiment with them under safe, controlled conditions to appreciate their usefulness and limitations so that you can effect safe rope rescues when the need arises.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

A personal account of the Alpine Iron Man II, held at Queenstown, Labour Weekend 1987

Rick McGregor

Editor's Note : With Labour Weekend coming up again, here is an account of last year's Alpine Iron Man Event. A large number of friends participated in this and enjoyed it. This year there may be a mountain bike leg.

The note appended to Conal McKenna's entry for the Alpine Iron Man event to start at the top of Mt Aurum and finish in Queenstown read: "Please excuse the lateness of this entry but my accountant has been getting possessive about my money lately. Cheque following on foot."

However as it turned out Conal was only the 16th of the 18 competitors to enter. I was up in Central Otago canoeing on the Kawarau River the weekend before, and at Labour Weekend I went up again, intending to act as support crew for a friend who was competing in the Iron Man. At the put-in for the compulsory canoeing practice run down the Shotover Canyon on the Saturday morning I met two friends from Cromwell, Charles and Penny Webster. As five times winner of the women's section of the event when it was held at Wanaka and Mount Hutt, Penny was taking part in this first Queenstown Iron Man.

'You should be competing, Rick,' said Charles. 'This would be right up your alley. You canoe and climb and tramp, and the run down the Aurum Stream is really lovely. We were up there last weekend. You'd really enjoy it.'

'Oh no,' I said, thinking I was quite safe. 'I haven't got a bike or skis with me anyway.'

'That's no problem,' said Charles and Penny. 'We can lend you skis and a bike, and we should be able to borrow ski-boots for you,' they said, after checking that my feet were bigger than Charles's.

'But I haven't skied for about ten years,' I said desperately.

'I saw you up at Treble Cone last winter,' said Charles.

'Well I haven't skied since then, and the skiing off Mt Aurum sounds really steep.'

'Apparently they're only going off the saddle. When we were up there last weekend it didn't look too bad. You should be all right,' said Penny, and I thought, this woman's a former NZ free-style champion.

No, I might just pass on this one thank you. I'll just take some photos and cheer the others on.

The race organiser, Robin Judkins, was co-producing a documentary on the event, so he handed out the bib numbers before the practice run down the river in order to take some extra footage which could be added into the film. He came to the end of the 14 names on the programme, added a couple of late entries, including Conal McKenna, and then said, 'And we have a very late entry,' and I thought, oh no, not me, and he said 'Mark Gabites,' a raft guide from Queenstown who had just entered the evening before.

'What about McGregor,' piped up Gordon Rayner, who had already talked a number of the Otago and Southland canoeists into entering.

'Yes, go on,' urged the others.

'It seems we may have an extremely late entry,' said Judkins. 'Is this true?'

'OK,' I said, why not. On the way up to Queenstown with Alex Low his enthusiasm had started to rub off on me, but I'd thought, oh well, I don't have a bike or skis anyway, forget it. But then Charles had described the running section of the course to me, a beautiful tussock basin and valley, dropping into a narrow gorge with patches of beech forest on the side of it, so I thought, yes, why not. The paddling should be all right. As long as I survive the skiing.

In some ways it helped not knowing until the day before the race that I would be competing in it. My training was just what I normally do, some tramping, some cycling, and lots of canoeing. And the planning for the event, which could have been stretched over weeks or months in obedience to Parkinson's Law, was compressed into one evening as I hastily sorted gear into separate bags: what I would need for the 750 metre ski off Mt Aurum Saddle ('Can anyone lend me a pair of gloves?'); which layers I would discard for the 13 kilometre run down the Aurum Stream back to Skippers; my paddling gear and some food to be waiting with my boat beneath the Skippers Bridge for the 20 kilometre paddle through grade 3 and 4 rapids down to the Oxenbridge Tunnel and Arthur's Point; and a final bag with dry clothes and more food and drink.



Whitewater Nationals 1986, O'Sullivan's Buller River, Miriam Jerusalmi. Photograph Graham Allan



to wait at the Edith Cavell Bridge for the cycling leg, 40 kilometres to Queenstown via Arrowtown, out along the back road, and back along State Highway 6.

An early start on Sunday morning saw all 18 competitors and their support crews assembled at the Shotover Resort Hotel at 7 a.m. I made the acquaintance of the skis I was to use (they looked rather long, I thought, remembering the horror stories Judkins had told at the briefing about the steepness and condition of the snow we would be skiing down), and hurriedly adjusted the seat of the bike which had been lent to me.

The practice run down the river the day before had established a good group spirit amongst the contestants and their assistants, so it was quite a relaxed group which waited at Skippers for the helicopter in on the Sunday morning. Pre-competition nerves were generally well hidden, although no doubt each of the competitors was concerned about some part of the course. For the non-specialist canoeists it was probably the river. For many of the canoeists it was the skiing.

The helicopter air-lifted us up to the saddle on Mt Aurum in groups of five, giving us an opportunity on the way up to have a look down on the running section, the Aurum Stream. It looked a long way.

Once on the saddle, ski guides Paul Scaife and Peter Tocker marshalled us into position along the ridge, and Mark Whetu, star of the film *The Leading Edge*, did a demonstration run down the ski slope, filmed from the circling helicopter. For the non-skiers in the field it didn't help our confidence that even as accomplished a skier as Whetu, who had skied Zurbriggen's Ridge on Mt Cook, should take a couple of falls because of the condition of the snow: white porridge, littered with the debris from three avalanches off the steep and rocky east face of the mountain. I hoped we wouldn't have to use the avalanche transceivers with which we had been issued, or the iceaxe and crampons which we each carried.

Peter Tocker gave the starting signal, we left the ridge and started down the slope, and most of us fell over on the first turn. The basin levelled out somewhat lower down, and the better skiers adjusted to the snow conditions once on the lower angled slope, and soon built up quite a lead on the rest of us. Ski and raft guide Geoff Hunt of Queenstown reached the bottom of the snow first, ahead of Roy Smith of Christchurch, with pre-race favourites John Howard and Steve Gurney, also of Christchurch, not too far off the pace at the first changeover, where skis, poles, ski-boots and packs were discarded and running shoes, shorts and T-shirts donned for the run down the tussock basin at the head of the stream. The middle third of the run was down a narrow gorge, splashing through the knee-deep water, 10 or 20 yards of track on the other side, and then back through the water again, with over-heated legs grateful at being cooled off and anaesthetised by the cold water.

Lower down the valley widened, and the stream meandered over a shingle bottom. Those who had forgotten to take a drink from it further up where it ran glass clear in its narrow rock gorge decorated with steep groves of beech trees were cursing once they had passed a mining claim which turned the water milk-chocolate brown.

Matagouri and briar rose formed an unwelcome barrier where a completely silted up dam forced a detour before a rough road led up out of the valley through delicately beautiful spring green larches, back to Burke's Terrace at Skippers. The road then led down to the Skippers Bridge, suspended 90 metres above the Shotover River.

A few hundred metres further down the road another four wheel drive track descended to a shingle beach where the support crews had the canoeing gear laid out ready on the kayaks. Howard reached the river first, with Gurney not far behind, and Roy Smith now in third place.

Geoff Miles from Invercargill had improved to fourth in the course of the run.

John Howard and Steve Gurney were the really serious competitors. They had trained hard for the event, and they had back-up provided by their sponsors, complete with support vehicles emblazoned with the sponsors' decals. The rest of us were reliant on the help of friends and family, people who were prepared to get up with us at 5.30 on the morning of the race, put boats and cycles in position, retrieve the ski gear after it had been choppered out from the head of the Aurum Stream, and generally cheer us along.

Howard went into the canoeing section on the Lower Shotover Gorge ahead of Gurney, but Gurney, the more accomplished canoeist, managed to catch Howard by the middle of the stage on the impressively narrow river which cuts its way deep into the mountain ridge between Coronet Peak and Queenstown. Behind them, Roy Smith was still in third place at the end of the canoeing, despite a swim in the Oxenbridge Tunnel. He climbed on top of his kayak to survive the rocky descent down the Cascade which ends the tunnel, and went into the cycling stage still ahead of

Geoff Miles and another of the Southland canoeists, 20 year old Roy Bailey. Mark Gabites, who had also parted company with his canoe during the kayaking, was lying 6th. I was now in 7th place, after overtaking a number of people on the canoeing leg, including several times veterans winner Sandy Sandblom of Christchurch. As I came out of the long Mother Rapid he was carrying his paddle along the shore to where the rescue boat had pulled his canoe ashore, and I thought, that's the last I'll see of Sandy.

I beached my canoe at the end of the paddling, changed into dry clothing and was fed and watered while the bike was quickly assembled. The drive out from Skippers had taken almost as long as the hour and a quarter it had taken in the kayak. Then it was up a gravel road to the Edith Cavell Bridge, and the outward leg of the cycle ride.

I was just approaching the hill up into Arrowtown when Sandy Sandblom cycled up to my shoulder.

'You should try a bigger cog, Rick mate, your legs are having to work too hard in that gear,' he suggested. 'Sit on my wheel if you like,' he offered, but I could only stay there for a few metres before he started pulling away.

As the officials marshalled us past the centre of Arrowtown I was still only 20 metres behind him, and saw how Sandy went wide to take the bend leading down the slope past the library. His bike hit a pothole, and Sandy flew up and over and landed on the road in front of a bus slowly coming up the hill. When I got to him he was sitting on the tarseal holding one knee with a gouge the size of a dollar coin in it. The bus driver climbed out with a first aid kit, and I cycled back to the officials to ask them to radio for a doctor.

'I'll go on, but you could get a doctor to meet me at Queenstown,' said Sandy, once he'd stopped swearing about the pothole. 'And they call this a holiday resort!'

I thought his knee would start to hurt and stiffen up, so once I had done all I could, I continued, and thought, that's the last I'll see of Sandy.

But no, shortly after Frankton, on the ride in to Queenstown, he loomed up on my shoulder again, with a 'what a waste of time that was,' and offered me a bite of the blackened banana he carried tucked down the back of his cycling shorts.

You're a better man than I am, Sandy, I thought, looking at his bandaged knee. 'Doesn't your knee hurt?'

'Not yet, but it probably will tomorrow. Having come this far I figured I might as well finish,' he said, putting the banana back into his shorts and riding away from me again.

At the entrance to the Queenstown Mall I handed the bike to an official, and jogged awkwardly on stiff legs the last 100 metres to the banner and the exuberant bearded figure of Robin Judkins, all smiles and cans of the sponsor's fruitjuice. I had completed the 70 kilometre course in just under five hours, a couple of minutes longer than Sandy Sandblom's time in winning the veterans' section.

A third of the way into the cycling leg Gurney and Howard had agreed to finish the race together, rather than try to fight it out all the way. Smith and Miles had held their positions to the end, and Gabites overtook Roy Bailey to take fifth place. John Howard and Steve Gurney's winning time was just under four hours, Penny Webster retained the women's title by finishing in five and three-quarter hours, and the last of the 18 starters, all of whom finished, completed the Alpine Iron Man in just under six hours.

As an Editor

I have a shortage of good photographs and articles for this magazine.

If you want to contribute please send me copies, black & white and colour photographs with high contrast are excellent !

DRAGON BOAT RACING

Maryrose Pigott

"Balance the boat - I mean bus - fellas." The captain's voice jolted the 32, sleepy after lunch, dragon boat paddlers into action. "Driver wants more people on the right." Obliging they shuffled seats, many with eyes still shut to avoid noticing that; the road up to the Cameron Highlands was very narrow, steep, and twisting, with patches worn away above precipitous drops, and the large

produce trucks, full of the highly prized evil smelling durian fruit, took over most of the road on each downhill bend.

Fresh from the 10th Penang International Dragon Boat Festival, winners of the mixed team's race and the cultural item, and second only to Hong Kong in the men's final, the New Zealand Taniwha Dragon Boat Team were taking a 'relaxing' three day bus and sightseeing trip from Penang to Singapore. The Singapore Festival would be the Taniwha team's 9th attendance at an international dragon boat festival. The group, of mainly canoeists, have been travelling each June from NZ to Asia since 1983 to take part in these unique



The British and American Teams, Singapore 1988

Chinese festivals. Celebrating an ancient legend, dragon boats have been racing on Chinese waters for hundreds of years.

With the massive migration of the Chinese peoples, dragon boat races spread from Hong Kong to Singapore to Penang and Macau, then to Vancouver and Sydney, and now are also held in many European and American cities, (where they are generally supervised by national canoe or rowing associations).

Local boats are used at each venue. Race distances are from 500m to 1600m. Lanes can be affected by tides, winds, waves, and wash from passing boats, and all 'local flavour' must be accepted graciously, quite a learning process for some highly competitive competitors. Some countries, such as India and Thailand, have a tradition of swan-boat races. Their ethnic craft, like dragon boats, hold about 20 paddlers. Overseas countries have recently been invited to take in these races which are held on the same lines as the dragon boat festivals.

For canoeists, who tend by the very nature of their chosen sport, to be often solitary individuals, to be part of a team training together, then living and travelling together in rather unpredictable conditions for up to two weeks, the participation in international dragon boat festivals is a tremendous experience.

The Taniwha's insistence on everyone now taking part in their cultural item has proved a great leveller. Talents, sometimes well hidden, have often been exposed. The videoing of the item, as well as of the training and racing, helps to turn out well polished and enjoyable performances both on the water and off.

The New Zealand Taniwha Dragon Boat Association was formed in 1984. One of its aims was to encourage the building and racing of Maori canoes. (While using their own Waka Tete Hou - Maori canoe - for training in for the overseas dragon boat races.) Despite considerable initial interest in this part of the project little more has happened.

This year, after the disappointment of being prohibited from competitive competition in the Auckland Lampen Dragon Boat races, the Taniwha group designed and built their own dragon boat, a stable and comfortable craft which can take up to 22 paddlers, and yet still be used by a skeleton crew of six or eight.

An invitation has come, to the NZ Taniwha Dragon Boat Association, from the NZCA for the inclusion of Dragon Boat Races in the NZ National canoe championships to be held on Auckland's Lake Pupuke in early March 1989. The entry fee will be minimal.

The cost to enter the Lampens Festival is \$5500 for each team. This therefore excludes most sporting, cultural, informal, or school teams.

Racing dragon boats is enormous fun. Being a canoeist is an advantage, but not a necessity. Most people can be taught to paddle in time. There are races for men's crews, ladies' crews, and official mixed team races with a minimum of eight women. The latter proving extremely popular, and, as age is not important, many family groups take part both here and overseas.

Plans for the Taniwha dragon boat are readily available, materials cost about \$2500 and we used about 300 man hours. But better still if enough orders come in fibreglass boats will be built. So do not delay, give your club, your community, or your workplace, a chance to be part of a dragon boat team.

Taniwha Dragon Boat plans are available from:

Ross Mackenzie
12 Smales Street
Point Chevalier
Auckland

Phone 861-400 (home) 787-505 (work)

Information about the New Zealand Taniwha Dragon Boat Association from:

Maryrose Pigott (National Coordinator)
45 Seaview Avenue
Northcote
Auckland 9
Phone 418-3929

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SYDNEY HARBOUR INAUGURAL DU PONT K4 CANOE MARATHON

Bill Garlick

Chris Cunliffe-Jones, Australia's member on the ICF Marathon Committee, encouraged NZ's Olympic K4 Team to compete in the inaugural Du Pont K4 Canoe Marathon. Not only did Chris organise the race with his friend Findlay Gray, but he also made a special effort to look after and entertain the Kiwi K4 crew.

There is no doubt that the race was a spectacular success. The race started at 8am on a Sunday morning with a course that included passing under the Sydney Harbour Bridge and past the front of the Sydney Opera House. Despite conditions being good for Sydney Harbour they were still rough for a K4 and presented some risk of shoulder injury to our Olympic Team.

A new and interesting aspect of the race for our crew was the fitting out of the K4 with electric pump and other gadgets to ensure that most of the water in Sydney Harbour was pumped from the boat. While the NZ crew was keen to attend, the Olympic training budget could not handle the cost and we are grateful that Qantas came to the party with 5 return airfares to Sydney. We are strongly of the view that the event is worth patronising and it would be good to see two NZ crews contesting the event next year. The race also raised the question of similar events in New Zealand and although there are not enough K4s to mount a K4 Harbour Challenge in either Auckland or Wellington, certainly a K2 event would be possible.

SHAKY ISLANDS CREW IS UNSHAKABLE IN A SWELL

*Newspaper article from 'The Australian'
Monday 13 June 1988*

There was plenty of time for pondering yesterday morning out on a sun-kissed Sydney harbour chasing the competitors in the DuPont K4 Canoe Marathon. And one thing became clear, that "awesome" and New Zealand are becoming synonymous in the world of sport.

With the memory of the All Blacks scoring 50 points against Wales on Saturday - for the second rugby union test in succession - spectators were no less impressed by four unshakeable paddlers from the Shaky Islands who won the 30km race from Parramatta to Shark Island and back to Birkenhead Point in less than two hours.

Their time of 1 hour, 57 minutes and 50 seconds gave them an average speed of more than 15kph, a fair effort in the swell that capsized five kayaks and caused two crews to abandon the race. And just to rub salt water into chilled wounds, the New Zealanders didn't even have the decency to be breathing heavily after crossing the finishing line.

"We tried to get the other crews to share the pace-setting with us, but the bloody Aussies said, 'you've got the map, you lead the way'. so we did, eh," said captain Grant Bramwell.

The New Zealanders had a brightly coloured diagram of the harbour taped to the hull of the 11m craft. This entrant for the 1000m sprint at the Seoul Olympics had come here to win. Bramwell won a gold medal for the event in Los Angeles. With three crewmates - Steve Richards, Brent Clode and John McDonald - he must be favoured for a medal of similar hue in Seoul.

Unfortunately, the Australian Olympic crew was not in Sydney to test that claim. The event was the start of the Australian Canoe Federation's attempts to raise the profile of the sport for the World Marathon Championships, which it hopes to host in Brisbane in 1992.

Second place yesterday went to the Mitta-Mitta crew, which included two of Australia's competitors for this year's World Cup, Peter Hogg and James Sloan. They finished eight minutes behind with the Yarra Canoe Club from Melbourne third.

SLALOM RETURNS TO 1992 OLYMPICS

Bill Garlick

The IOC have formally reinstated slalom as an Olympic event. By the time slalom reappears in Barcelona, 1992, it will have been absent from the Olympic Program for 20 years. While it is widely acknowledged that slalom is one of the most spectacular Olympic events few countries have been prepared to meet the expense of an artificial slalom course for Olympic competition.

The ICF made extensive representation to the IOC and the Spanish Canoe Federation have been very supportive. It is largely due to their efforts that slalom has returned to the program. The course in 1992 will draw water from the upper Segre and a small dam with 5 gates will control water flow to the slalom course. The maximum flow will be 15 cubic metres-second. Water records beginning in 1912 show a 75% probability throughout the year of more than 5 cubic metres, the minimum level for the course. The optimum volume is 10 cubic metres.

In addition to the natural flow there is a lake with a capacity of 70 million cubic metres and a dam upstream. Unfortunately the lake is in France and is controlled by the national electric board, but arrangements have been made to provide additional flow if required. The course is protected from the prevailing wind by the natural barrier of the city and its buildings. Completion of the sport park which includes a cross country ski track is anticipated by July 1989 with additional improvements to take place pending the final approval of the ICF.

New Zealand did not participate in the 1972 Munich Olympic slalom. In 1992 the Olympic slalom could be a top medal prospect for New Zealand. We have the white water, we have the internationally recognised competitors, particularly Donald Johnstone who now rates consistently in the top 10, and we have the experience of our successful flatwater racing Olympians to draw upon.

Slalom paddlers in the NZCA must now make a commitment to plan for 1992. Key steps include:

1. Discussions with the NZOCGA about selection standards and selection methods so that the NZOCGA understands the sport of slalom.
2. A 4 year plan including a program of domestic and international competition coupled with proper training programs, camps and coaches.
3. Representations based on the 5 year plan to various funding bodies including the NZ Sports Foundation, the Hilary Commission and the NZOCGA.

There is no doubt in my mind that NZ can take Olympic slalom medals in 1992. The challenge is there, the resources are there, we need only add the commitment and planning.

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WESTERN DIVERSION OF TOKAANU

Power Scheme/Upper Wanganui River

With the abolishment of NWASCA (National Water and Soil Conservation Authority) it seems local catchment boards are totally responsible for local water resource management. This means it is essential for local canoe clubs to become known to their local catchment board. (in a friendly way of course!). The Canoe Clubs should let 'their' catchment boards know of the areas of concern etc.

Editor's note: This is the situation last time I heard. It may have changed since then.

The Western diversion of the Tokaanu Power Scheme/Upper Wanganui River wrangle is still in progress. There's going to be a hearing early July on the minimum flow regime - Electricorp still intends to apply for water rights on the scheme (apparently there's 500 individual water rights) which will take at least 5 years. As you can see it's becoming very professional and a legally orientated business. Both 'sides' see this one as setting a precedent for the rest of the country, so it's going to be a 'heated' argument.

Newspaper Articles of Interest

Electricorp move sinks river hearing

The Rangitikei-Wanganui Catchment Board's five-yearly review of the Wanganui River flow levels may have been torpedoed at the last minute by Electricorp.

The corporation announced late last week it will apply through official channels for proper water rights to use the diverted headwaters for hydro-electricity generation.

For the past 16 years the water from 66 rivers and streams flowing from the central North Island volcanic plateau (mountains) have been dammed and diverted north to the Tongariro hydro scheme. Recent publicity from concerned groups in the southern King Country, Wanganui and Rangitikei regions has highlighted the adverse environmental and economic effects of the water diversions.

As a result Electricorp is known to have employed the services of a private public relations consultancy in a bid to establish ways of improving its tarnished image. Electricorp North Island hydro group manager Joe Grilli said the corporation has indicated its intention to apply for water rights 'because of the high level of community interest in the issue'.

Mr Grilli announced the move in Electricorp's submission to the catchment board river flow's hearing. The deadline for submissions closed on Friday afternoon. He said the corporation would not proceed with its water rights application until it had all the information it required and had completed a full evaluation of the implications.

The corporation was 'very sympathetic' to the concern of some members of the public that all competing uses of the river be taken into account. However, the fact that Electricorp had agreed to seek official water rights for the use of the rivers, would probably now make a nonsense of the the catchment board flow levels hearing, Wanganui River Flows Coalition chairman Keith Chapple said today. The coalition has all along been calling for a proper water rights hearing, describing the catchment board hearing as a 'de facto water right hearing'.

"We welcome the Electricorp decision as a significant step forward from last October when the Government was going to sell the water to the Corporation," Mr Chapple said. "First of all we want to read all the fine print and find exactly what the Electricorp proposal is. But we do congratulate Electricorp for a sensible and courageous decision."

Mr Chapple said the corporation's move to apply for legal water rights would set a precedent for all other New Zealand waterways which were currently being exploited for hydro power without proper water rights. "We have always regarded Wanganui as a test case, and obviously, Electricorp listened to the people. We can ask for no more," he said. The catchment board river flows hearing would probably now become simply an information gathering exercise, which could then possibly be used at a proper water right hearing.

Electricorp opposes existing flow regime

Electricorp is still opposed to a Wanganui River minimum flow regime set in 1983, and it's concerned these levels will become the basis for negotiations for a new regime by default. Group environmental manager Ian Johnstone said Electricorp and consumers' concerns were not given due weight at the 1983 Tribunal hearing, and this could result in "fait accompli" against the corporations when a new regime was set in Taumarunui in August. Dr Johnstone said the first regime was set in place without the corporation's submissions being considered, the first five-year regime was described as a trial at the time, and the Central Districts Catchment Boards now have the responsibility to provide survey information from this period, he said.

The Conservation Department, as Electricorp's leading opponents in the debate over diverting headwaters into the Tongariro power scheme, is using environmental issues as the basis of its opposition to all diversions.

Dr Johnstone said the catchment board's information should now be used to answer environmental concerns, but instead the corporation had been forced to compile its own technical evidence at considerable expense. Catchment board resource services manager John Garrett said since information was provided in the discussion paper released as a warm-up for next month's hearing.

"But environmental issues didn't come into the argument when the issue was discussed in 1982 - then the issue was one of navigability, particularly for canoeists and jetboaters," he said. Electricorp had been losing an average of 30.8 gigawatt hours each year since 1983 in releasing water to provide for recreational fisheries and boating in the Wanganui - amounting to one third of the annual 100 gigawatt hours production at Shannon's Mangahao power station.

Wanganui River Flows Coalition's proposal for minimum flows would lose 530.9 gigawatt hours - more than five times Mangahao's production.

Dr Johnstone said last summer considerable quantities of oil and coal had to be burnt to offset the combination of low flows and compensation releases made to keep levels up to the height set by water rights granted by the Tribunal hearing in 1983. This decision effectively meant the Central Districts Catchment Board deemed whether fossil fuels should be used as a form of energy production - rather than hydro power - during certain times of the year, he said.

Total cost of using coal and oil fuels - as opposed to hydro generation from the maximum amount of water diversion possible - had been estimated at between \$14 and \$40 million a year. Tokaanu project manager Joe Grilli said \$35 million a year was the probable cost to the corporation if all diversions were lost and alternative oil/coal generation was required.

Water released into the Wanganui River to comply with minimum flow rates cost Electricorp between \$180,000 and \$903,000 in lost electricity production a year, depending on the cost effectiveness of the alternative generation system used to make up the discrepancy. Hydro generation had many advantages over burning fossil fuels, he said. Dams used a constantly renewing resource, based on simple technology which did not cause air pollution. Running costs - compared to oil, gas and coal - remained stable. Dams were also very reliable, with plants 'on-line' 90 percent of the time. Fossil fuels plants were only available 60 or 70 percent of the time, he said.

Return on capital investment also favoured hydro - the Tongariro scheme cost \$487 million and had an indefinite operational life, while the Huntly thermal station cost \$642 million and had a life expectancy of 25 or 30 years. Hydro schemes were also very efficient, and in the case of the Tongariro power scheme this was multiplied many times by passing the intercepted water down the Waikato River hydro projects, he said. Dr Johnstone said negative environmental effects should be weighed against positive benefits such as (with the Western Division) the creation of Lake Otamangakau and the protection of the trout fishery in the lower Whakapapa River. "These positive aspects already exist, and a return to the past may be as environmentally objectionable as if a new scheme were being proposed," he said.

THE ALL NEW ALPHA BY QUALITY KAYAKS

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MANGANUI O TE AO

River Protected By Conservation Order

Editor's note: This newspaper article from mid-March is of interest

The last remaining river flowing from the north island's central volcanic plateau to escape development by man will now be protected in its natural state for all time, Conservation Minister Helen Clark announced today.

The Manganui O Te Ao River flows down the western side of Mt Ruapehu and is one of the largest tributaries of the Wanganui River. Announcing a National Water Conservation Order for the river today, Ms Clark said the order was granted on four main grounds - wildlife values, fishery, scenic or landscape, and recreational value. She welcomed the decision which was one of the first national protection orders to come as a result of advocacy by the Department of Conservation.

The order has been made despite objections by the Ministry of Energy and other hydro development groups who had various schemes for damming, diversion and alteration of the natural flows of the river and its tributaries, she said.

The original application for a conservation order was filed in December 1986, by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, but was taken over by the Conservation Department last year. "The river system contains the most dense population of blue duck known in New Zealand. The blue duck is threatened with extinction through loss of habitat throughout the rest of the country," said Ms Clark. "The Manganui O Te Ao is also a major resource for anglers and the local Maori people, and it contains good numbers of brown and rainbow trout.

"It's one of the few places in the world where angling is readily available in uncrowded and highly scenic surroundings." It also contained 13 of the 15 indigenous riverine fish species, including lamprey eel and smelt, all important traditional food sources. "The sparkling clear waters flowing in pools and rapids over a stable bed contrasts with the discoloured waters of the Wanganui River into which it flows, showing us what the Wanganui must have been like before widespread land clearance for farming and forestry, and the capture of its headwaters for the Tongariro power development."

Although land had been cleared for farming around the middle and lower reaches of the Manganui O Te Ao, a continuous strip of riparian forest had been retained so the riverscape was essentially unaltered. Although the National Conservation order was announced today, it was still a draft and would be open to appeal within 28 days, a Conservation Department official said.

The only final, gazetted irrevocable national conservation order in force covered the Motu River in the Bay of Plenty. Another order was almost finalised for the Rakaia River in the South Island, while a further four were now undergoing appeal at the Planning Tribunal. They were the Rangitikei River, Maitai River, Lake Wairarapa and the Ahuriri in the Mackenzie Basin.

The Wanganui Rangitikei Electric Power Board and the King Country Power Board are likely to lodge appeals against the Manganui O Te Ao protection order. They both objected to it earlier.

RACING

A Comment from Renton Hunger, our Racing Commodore

It has often been said that the Racing Scene is all in Auckland. That is a lot of nonsense. The Racing Scene is where racing is even though some clubs obviously wish to keep their racing activities secret, judging from the lack of replies to my requests for information.

The idea that the racing Scene appears to be in Auckland can easily be changed to give the (hopefully) correct impression if only club committees/secretaries/race secretaries would show some interest in racing activities outside their own club by making their activities known to others. This can be simply and easily achieved by printing an extra copy of race information and an extra copy of race results and placing it in an envelope putting a stamp on it and posting it to the Racing Commodore

Surely that is not too difficult a task.

Any information of any race is welcomed. Better too much information than the present situation of nothing. If the same club committees/secretaries/race secretaries were interested in promoting activities one would expect that all clubs and not just local ones would be sent race entry forms. Who knows - some competitor just might be travelling and able to compete.

I wonder how many do this.

Olympic Canoeing Team

We are pleased to report that the whole team put forward by the NZCA Selectors to represent New Zealand Canoeing at the Olympic Games at Seoul in September/October this year has been accepted.

Our prospects at the Games are excellent and the paddlers and officials have been continuing their preparation with enthusiasm and dedication to ensure that their performance will be the very best that they can achieve. To all of them we offer our congratulations and wish them the very best in their competitions.

Competitors Overseas

We have also some competitors who, although not being included in the Olympic team, show considerable promise and who we expect to be representing us in the future. We are pleased to note that they are showing their determination to succeed by travelling overseas to compete in European regatta in order that they may improve their standard with international competition.

Editors Note: It seems Renton has a problem with clubs not supplying racing information or clubs not liaising with him. Please try to keep in contact. It is to your benefit.

SAFETY

Our Safety Officer Mike Rowley has been busy and these are just some points that were made in the Safety Officer's Report at the AGM. New concepts are being developed all the time in all different fields of kayaking and by you the canoeist/kayaker realising this. You then personally have the chance to communicate your ideas to the NZCA. Remember - we represent your interests!

Code of Practice

Thanks to the help of clubs and canoeists in general, our Code of Practice was discussed, developed and finally adopted during the year. It was well received by both MOT and the NZ Water Safety Council, the latter deciding to find sponsorship and to print 100,000 copies in the form of our 'Enjoy your Canoeing Safely' pamphlet. This is now at the printers and should be available at our AGM.

Recommendations for Construction of Kayaks/Canoes

These recommendations were drawn up this year with the help of manufacturers, clubs and canoeists. Copies are available from the Executive Officer if required.

NZ Water Safety Council

At the AGM of the Council, the Grants Committee decided to not recall the \$3500 granted for River Guides in 1984 but allow it to go towards the Instruction videos now being produced. It was also reported that Rafterers had been involved in a recent River Rescue course, with the new rescue courses for canoeists under way shortly, no doubt canoeists will also be available for river rescue teams in emergencies. Also from the AGM came the message that the best way to stop water-related fatalities was to encourage people in every field of water sport or activity to join a club!



Douglas Hull, Mark Van Der Wel, Chris Spelious on the Upper Gauley River, West Virginia. Photograph Mike Savoury

RIO URUBAMBA

Part II of the Series on Kayaking in Peru and Chile

Bill Wilson

Our last and most memorable trip in Peru was on the Urubamba. We had learnt the hard way to negotiate safe freight transport for the kayaks before we departed, but were nevertheless relieved to see the boats and paddles intact when we arrived at Chaullay, our starting point. Locals warned us not to sleep in the street as we had planned, so we passed a still, unpleasant night at the railway station. Hordes of onlookers awoke us and their attentions drove us onto the river early. The Urubamba at this point is starting to ease off, after the continuous difficulties of the Macchu Picchu Canyon (grade 5 to 7).

From Chaullay down to Quillabamba it flows swiftly and powerfully at grade 3+ continuously, with frequent grade 4 rapids. Rains had brought the river up, and this first morning was consequently exciting boating. The excitement was considerably enhanced by a landslide, which blacked out our river world in a cloud of dust for about 1 minute. We were extremely fortunate to be on the far bank when it occurred, or else we would have been more than just scared. In our rush to "get the hell out of here" we ran a grade 4 rapid blind and Phil did an acrobatic loop in a big hole to add to the picture. Local goldminers had observed the entire spectacle, and congratulated us on being alive.

Fortunately the rest of the afternoon was more mellow, down on past the town of Quillabamba plenty of children swam out to greet us here, although unlike the rio Tono, they had seen kayaks before. The women of Quillabamba are famous throughout Peru, known as Quillabambinas! Exactly what they are known for I can't discuss in a family magazine like this but alas, we had to push on. An uncomfortable night's sleep due to the jungle heat and mild diarrhoea and extremely loud insect noise. Day 2 presented fun water not as difficult as Day 1, although as we approached Echarate things began to heat up. Two long portages required although the rapids are possible for the extra-keen (grade 6). Another uncomfortable night's sleep.

Day 3 saw the river easing off, and the jungle scenery becoming more prevalent. Previously, massive burn-offs had badly scarred the landscapes. Here Peru faces a great dilemma - jungle vs. food and cash crops, and the problem is far too complex to be solved by a simple one-sided stance, eg. 'conservation' or 'progress'. The most memorable part of this day was the night, a tropical rainstorm and frogs jumping on us throughout the evening. Day 4 was our last day in kayaks and we paddled on down to the small village of Kiteni. Here we hitched a ride on a motorised canoe and travelled on down to Pongo de Mainiqui. At "The Pongo" the Urubamba cuts out of the Andes in a spectacular gorge, and begins its flat jungle meandering to the Amazon.



"That was incredible. No fur, claws, horns, antlers, or nothin'... Just soft and pink."

This gorge is very beautiful, with strange rock formations, caves curtained by waterfalls, stalactites and massive cliffs. Our boat was used by local fisherman for a fishing trip and we spent two days collecting large perch-like fish, first blowing the sh...t out of them with dynamite. We also visited an isolated jungle mission, where Machiguenga Indians come to greet the twentieth century at a reasonable pace. Getting back to civilisation always seems to be an adventure in Peru, and this was no exception. First I had to part with my beloved watch to convince the boat captain to return on time, and then the canoe narrowly avoiding sinking in "The Pongo" on the return journey. (If you thought 'whopper stopper' was an unnecessarily frightening name for a rapid - try 'Monk-killer'!) This merely capped off a great 9 days in the jungle and the white water, scenery and people neatly summed up the best Peru had to offer.

SLALOM

Pre-Worlds!

In the Pre-World Slalom Championships held this year on the Savage River, Maryland, USA, New Zealand had a mens, womens and junior team competing.

In the womens event Kathy Lynch of Motueka came 22nd at a best time of 326.59 sec. Claire Cosson of Christchurch 26th with a best time of 375.11. Kathy Andrus 28th, time of 478.29. Katrina Day 29th, time of 736.29.

The best woman's time was Liz Sharman, Great Britain, at 215.42 seconds. In the men's event, Donald Johnstone of Feilding came 9th. Other NZ placings are below.



22	Kathy Lynch	321.5900
26	Clare Cosson	320.6000
28	Kathy Anrus	313.2900
29	Katrina Day	371.2900
47	Ian Mercer	215.9100
54	Vaughan Crocker	234.8600
55	Warren Chethem	237.6700
56	Owen Hughes	237.4500
57	Graham Charles	217.5000

Cathy Andrus on gate 22 the Preworlds on Savage River, Maryland. Photograph Mike Savoury

The Canoe Slalom World Cup 1988 Demonstration Series

The race programme is:

Race 1. June 18/19 Wausau, Wisconsin USA (Pan-Am Cup)

Race 2. June 25/26 Savage River, Maryland, USA (Pre-World Championship)

Race 3. July 1/2 Gull River, Ontario, Canada (Pan-Am Cup)

Race 4. July 4 South Bend, Indiana, USA

Race 5. August 6/7 River Liffey, Dublin, Ireland (Europa Cup)

Race 6. August 13/14 National Watersports Centre, Nottinghamshire, Great Britain (Europa cup)

Race 7. August 20/21 World Cup Final, Olympiastrecke, Augsburg, West Germany.

The Stars of Slalom

Taking part in World Cup races in 1988 will be seven individual world champions, past or present, plus representatives of more than 15 national teams. In the men's kayak event three times world and European champion, Richard Fox of Great Britain will be fending off the challenge of the Yugoslavs, Abramic and Strukelj, Peter Micheler of West Germany, American Richie Weiss and Lubos Hilgert from Czechoslovakia.

Competing in the ladies kayak event at World Cup races will be the top three ladies from the 1987 World Championships in Bourg St Maurice. World Champion Liz Sharman of Britain, French Champion Myriam Jerusalemi and West Germany's Lisa Misheler. Jon Lugbill, four times the winner of the canadian singles event at World Championships, and the 1985 World Champion Davey Hearn will be competing for the USA in the World Cup. Their team mates, Lecky Haller and Jamie MacEwan, world silver medallists in canadian doubles, will make the Americans formidable opposition in the canadian classes. The strongest challenge will come from the French C2 crews, world team champions in 1987, and the Czechs Simek and Rohan.

World Cup Scoring System

Each competition will be run according to ICF rules. World Cup points will be awarded to competitors finishing in the top 15 places at each race. The final race at Augsburg will score double points, and overall World Cup placings will be determined on the best 5 out of 7 results.

The Future of Slalom

The World Cup concept is designed to stimulate improvements in competition performances, training and coaching methods and race organisation. A World Cup series in canoe slalom will be exciting and challenging for competitors and will provide greater interest for spectators, the media and sponsors. A World Cup in future years will also play an important role in promoting participation in canoe slalom in the period leading up to the 1992 Olympic Games and beyond.

Junior World Slalom Championships — Seu d'Urgell, Spain 10 July 1988

K1 Mens Junior

1	Scott Shipley, USA	195.33
2	Claudio Riviera, ITA	203.08
3	Andraz Vehovar, YUG	203.16
36	Waren Cheetham, NZL	239.80
40	Owen Hughes, NZL	244.41
48	Vaughan Crocker, NZL	264.78

Junior world Wildwater Championships — Sort, Spain, 6th July 1988

K1 Men Juniors

1	Andrew Tribe, AUS	20m 05.52s
19	Philip Dooney, NZL	20m 57.75s

NZCA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mens K1 — Division 1

1	Donald Johnstone	157
2	Ian Jones	164
3	Barry Webb	167
4	Peter Shea	169
5	Steve Chapman	174
6	Andrew Duff	175
7	Robert Paul	177
8	Carl Murton	181
8	Simon Astle	181
10	Rick McGregor	183
10	Graham Charles	183
12	Wade Bishop	185
12	Alwyn Duke	185
14	Andre Terzaghi	192
14	Murray Watson	192
14	Phillip Muldoon	192
17	Andrew Rees	193
18	Stuart microberts	197
18	Roy Bailey	197
20	Gavin Cook	202
21	Brett Humphrey	203
22	Kevin Robertson	205
23	Andy Campbell	206
24	Nick Kerkham	207
24	Paul Simmons	207
26	Bruce Webber	209
27	Ewan MacGregor	212
28	Terry Pairhan	217
29	Scott Brothwell	221
30	Willy McQueen	228
31	John Frost	236
32	Neil Knight	244

Mens Division 2

1	Chris McCorkindale	180
2	Richard Vlaar	198
3	Geoff Miles	202
4	Mike Savory	203
5	Mark Preece	206
6	Steve Conn	207
7	Barry Kerr	208
7	Greg Oke	208
9	Steve Kingston	214
10	Sean Bellamy	217

11	Barry Nurley	218
12	Geoffrey Urquhart	219
13	Greg Bell	220
14	Peter Kettering	223
15	Craig Kennedy	230
16	John Western	249
17	Ray Button	258
18	Peter White	263
19	Ross van Wass	270
20	Neil McKeegan	275
21	Don Patterson	277
22	Tim Densem	285
23	David Gurr	295
24	John Yorston	300
25	David Simpson	304
26	Steve Gurney	308
27	Lee Laughton	309
28	Hugh McCleary	415

PLASTIC OPEN

1	Garth Falloon	207
2	Paul Wareham	217
3	Bill Thompson	238
4	Tim La Touche	275
5	Brett Whiteley	321
6	Colin Wood	326
7	Jeff Sutherland	397
8	Bill Lavelle	456
9	Suzie Kerr	545
10	Sue Legg	567
11	Matt Paulin	606
12	Chris Nichol	681
13	Kim Bulmer	909

WOMENS DIVISION 1

1	Kathy Andrus	205
2	Kathy Lunch	208
3	Katrina Day	210
4	Tracey Wemyss	213
5	Lee Mitchell	238
6	Jenny Holbut	256
7	Lucy Forde	270
8	Claire Cosson	279
9	Adrienne Markey	285
10	Jill Wratt	293

11	Kerry Evans	295
12	Christine Berben	348
13	Cindy Gilligan	366
14	Karen Rosser	607
15	Ellen Sagmyr	657
16	Paulette Curby	DNF

JUNIOR MENS K1 CHAMPIONSHIPS

1	Warren Cheetham	176
2	Mathew Dalziel	177
2	Vaughan Croker	177
4	Simon Thorpe	185
5	Aaron Merrill	189
5	Carl Thomas	189
7	Mathew Prout	191
7	Donald Gillespie	191
9	Phil Dooney	194
10	Owen Hughes	197
11	Kerry Edwards	199
12	Stephen Christensen	205
13	Mathew Schmitt	206
14	Barkley Armstrong	209
15	Shane Hall	212
16	Peter Sweeney	214
17	Tane Humphrey	221
18	Colin Simmons	226
19	Paul Bassett	236
20	Greg de Lautour	286
21	Troy Bentley	377
22	Norman Thomas	387

OPEN C1

1	Shane Richardson	225
2	Marc Andrew	266
3	Greg Salter	268
4	John Frost	337
5	Andy Campbell	382
6	Bernard Wright	425

OPEN C2

1	Kerry Evans	526
and	Roy Bailey	
2	Robert Paul	
and	Andrew Rees	

NZ WILD WATER CHAMPS 1988

Report to NZCA Executive and Clubs

Editor's note: Easter 1988 saw the first National Championships ever to be held on the rapid at Ngaawapurua and the organisation and slalom went well. Here is Slalom Commodore Bruce Webber's report of the event. If you are interested in slalom then get the regular Slalom Newsletter, cost \$10 from Bruce Webber, PO Box 972, Taupo.

This event was a first for the Taupo area, but with so many facilities at hand, had the makings of a first class event. The site, very popular with most paddlers in New Zealand having excellent camping facilities, along with a major tourist town 15 minutes away.

With the river being controlled by Electricorp, we could arrange a medium flow for the Slalom and dial up to a maximum flow, to run both the wildwater race and the rodeo. With a large mailing list we could cover quite a big area of the slalom fraternity, so getting entries quite early and having funds to help with the running of the event. Initial reaction to a mere \$20 entry fee was shock, horror, but after the event, all competitors were very happy with the event. Monies from entry fees helped pay for all the paper work, photocopying, postage, a \$500 bond on the reserve, bib hireage as well as many other important bits and pieces to run the event.

Sponsors came in from many areas, supplying equipment to run the event. Wire gates, photocopying, tentage, generator, drinking water tanker and so on - prizes came from many outdoor clothing equipment supplies, kayaking outfitters. But organising all of these areas takes a lot of work and we are well aware that one major sponsor would be a lot easier and charging higher fees, the latter would be frowned upon by all competitors. This area needs some work for future events.

On site facilities were very good to keep the maximum of the people on site informed - with a public address system running the full length of the course and into the camping area. Plenty of toilets and fresh drinking water as the Waikato River can cause some people to become very ill. Compiling of results was of very high quality and fast and effective with the use of Walkie Talkies. If a site was to be used regularly, it would be worth it to have a permanent phone system installed - again the communication system enables any small hiccups to be dealt with as soon as they arise.

Judging of slalom was at the early stage a big headache to the organisers, something which I tried to organise some six months prior to the event, nothing happened and we called in people on the day before and all went well. The judges were duly looked after with good food, tea and coffee, etc. Judging is a problem area throughout slaloms and clubs running events should be aware of this and maybe start up training some personnel to take charge of this job. We would like to thank Neil Oppatt for organising all the judges and also to thank all of those people whom gave up many valuable hours to assist with the judging.

Media coverage was at its best yet, with a TV crew phoning up on the Thursday night asking for directions and when would be the best time to film. With a fine sunny weekend the film crew spent all day on site getting some great footage. This was shown on 7.00pm News, Easter Sunday and again the following week on Sunday Grandstand. Newspapers - the local paper was very good, but as the paper is only small, did not get the coverage like a national paper would get. A Rotorua paper gave a full front page of a weekender magazine.

The photos and news bulletin we sent to NZ Herald was somehow lost and arrived three days late no longer news and was not printed. The local radio did interviews with myself and local MP Roger McClay, which brought many locals out for a look at this unheard of sport. Someone with a major media contact would be a big asset to Slalom Wild Water Canoeing.

The Opening Ceremony brought all of the competitors together at the start of the weekend. We arranged local MP Roger McClay to welcome everyone and Mike Turner, Production Manager of Electricorp, to officially open the event. Mr Turner presented the New Zealand Canoeing Assn a \$10,000 cheque for an instruction and safety video on canoeing-kayaking in NZ. This took all present by surprise and was a talking point for some time. In short, the event went very well without many problems, the venue provided our overseas teams to provide some facilities new to slaloms in NZ. An on-site tuck shop selling everything - evenings were also aimed at raising monies - a BBQ at the hot pools in Taupo and the Prizegiving dance was a magic way to wind up the weekend.

The Huka Falls - Tokoroa Canoe Club would like to thank all those who helped during, before and after the event, without this help the event would have been a disaster. The Club will compile a report on the running of a National Event to be made available to all Clubs.

Cheers, Bruce Webber

WHITEWATER RODEO

The Whitewater Rodeo or Hooters Picnic as some kiwis know it is an event where points are given to the person who does the best, most amusing, impressive 'stunts' on a whitewater wave or hole. The person with the most points wins!

The event was held after the Nationals Slalom and drew a big crowd who enjoyed the spectacular moves performed by the canoeists who entered. Several of the locals who knew the the front wave well had definite advantages while others capitalised on the points system by working out how the points were to be made.

A most enjoyable day's fun with Graham Charles winning the 1st prize of a Dancer (donated by Current Craft)
2nd Mark Andrews (commonly known as Ralph)
3rd Donald Johnstone

NGAAWAPURUA

Huka Falls Canoe Club have been doing a lot of work there.

1. More improved tracks down to main rapid, get in and viewing seats improved.
 2. Planting Native Plants. A landscape architect from Dept of Conservation is helping sort out a long term planting programme.
 3. With more funds intend to install a number of barbecue areas.
- Huka Canoe Club has spent \$400 on plants and telephone poles.
Kupe Canoe Club has donated \$100 for plants.
Brandon Intermediate c/- John Hodges has donated 150 plants.

If your club can donate please do, as access to this area could be restricted if we do not look after it!

THE CLYDE DAM

This large artificial barrier in the Clutha River will be finished sometime in mid-1989. The closing of the gates will start to fill Lake Dunstan and progressively drown some of the best whitewater rapids, not just in the South Island, but anywhere in the world. The Cromwell Gorge, Cromwell Gap, Bannockburn and Sargood's Weir rapids will be under 20-30 metres placid water.

There will be intense pressure on paddlers to try and run these rapids, especially the Grade 5 Sargood's Weir before they disappear forever.

I urge all canoeists to consider their abilities to run Sargood's Weir very objectively — resist the temptation to attempt this rapid if you are not really up to it.

Rather a drowned rapid than one drowned person. Both one forever.



Donald Johnstone, Ngaawapurua, Hooters Picnic. Photograph Willie McQueen

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CANOEIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

1988

I don't know if you realise but every year clubs affiliated to the NZCA are entitled to nominate a canoeist of the year and this year four nominations were made. They are then voted for at the NZCA Annual General Meeting.

After years of neglect as New Zealand's top slalom paddler and one of the top in the world Donald has finally won this award. Congratulations!. The nominees were:

Martin Bell *University of Canterbury Canoe Club*
Donald Johnstone *Palmerston North Canoe Club and the Whitewater Canoe Club*
Steve Chapman *Nelson Canoe Club*
Paul MacDonald *North Shore Canoe Club*

Editor's note: This letter tells us of Donald's feats in whitewater kayaking.

The Palmerston North Canoe Club wishes to nominate Donald Johnstone for the New Zealand Canoeing Association canoeist of the year award. Ever since Donald's last year in high school it was apparent to the Palmerston North Canoe Club that he was exceptionally talented in whitewater canoeing. What was not so apparent was that Donald had the initiative, drive and discipline to carry him to the top ranks for his chosen sport. As was customary at the time for the better young canoeists, Donald made several trips to Australia for their whitewater nationals. He was then selected as a member of the NZ national team for the World Championships in 1983 (Italy).

At that point Donald's sporting career differed from those of his predecessors; he persisted, returning to Europe each Northern Hemisphere competition season, largely on his own resources. As his record demonstrates he rose quickly to the top level of international slalom canoeing, with the award of the Continental Cup (combined placing in the Europa and Pro-am Cups) in 1986, and of course his fifth placing in mens K1 slalom at the World Championships in France 1987. Whitewater competition was shown on national TV after Donald's success in the BBC 'paddles up' competition. Donald's results in the 1988 Preworlds (USA) should be available in late June 1988.

Donald's national record is equally as impressive, being national slalom champion six consecutive times. In summary Donald Johnstone is the best competitive whitewater paddler that New Zealand has produced. Donald has made the international canoeing community aware of New Zealand, and has in effect promoted this country's potential as a whitewater nation, so encouraging visits from overseas paddlers (e.g. Richard Fox in 1986/87).

More importantly, Donald has been an inspiration to all whitewater paddlers, whether serious competitors or not, and in an indirect way has raised the overall standard of canoeing in New Zealand. The Palmerston North Canoe Club committee feels that Donald is one of the principal reasons New Zealand has kept up with the rest of the world in regard to available equipment and whitewater techniques. Donald's mechanical mind and inventive instincts has resulted in NZ manufacturers offering equipment that is disputably the best in the world. This includes plastic and competition kayaks, paddles and even roof racks.

Donald's ability to combine work with a successful training programme and yet maintain a relaxed relationship with those around him has enabled him to be of considerable assistance to our other top white water paddlers. Donald, when asked, has always been willing to provide assistance with training programmes, whitewater skills and competition techniques. In this past season he has energetically coached members of the NZ junior slalom team. The Palmerston North Canoe Club committee feels that with Donald actively motivating our junior canoeists he is effectively ensuring the future success of slalom in New Zealand.

The Palmerston North Canoe Club therefore recommends without hesitation that Donald Johnstone is a worthy candidate for the New Zealand Canoeing Association canoeist of the year award.

Yours faithfully

Brian Fisher, Club Secretary

CONSERVATION MATTERS

Doug Rankin

The Government is currently undertaking a review of most of the legislation pertaining to natural resource management in N.Z. This includes legislation concerned with mining, air, and land use and management and water and soil conservation and management. As many of you will know, this legislation forms the framework within which the various bodies (eg, Catchment Boards, National Park Boards) administer and control use of water from rivers throughout the country. The review is in its initial phase at present where it is canvassing a wide range of public opinion on issues of concern to all sectors of the community.

Part of this was carried out in early June in a nationwide campaign during which telephone lines were set up to receive submissions at the Ministry of the Environment. As part of an ongoing process of public consultation, discussion documents will be prepared as a result of these submissions. From these, ideas can be formulated on what changes, if any, are necessary to the present laws so that new legislation can be drafted. The present water and soil legislation, including the 1981 amendment, which set up a mechanism for protecting prized waterways such as the Motu River, is included in this review.

For canoeists and other river users this is an important time to make sure our voice is heard and understood. Problems of access to rivers from either private, public or what was public land (now corporatised or sold off) have been highlighted because of the present political climate and suggestions of instream users* paying for their recreational activities have been made. What many people have accepted as their birthright and heritage could be lost, and access to some resources either restricted to those able to pay or denied completely by virtue of changes in the law. Let's hope these latter two situations don't develop but unless some input is made by canoeists, naturalists and other river users our views will not be heard or understood. Thus I strongly urge anybody who has not already done so to contact their regional Ministry for the Environment Office. Ask for a kit on the Resource Management Law Reform and ask to be put on the mailing list for their newsletter covering this reform process. The kit explains the process and gives deadlines for submissions; the next one is the end of August for comments on the discussion document in preparation on recent public submissions. Don't worry if you have not participated yet, it is not too late to be heard! But do it now, to avoid missing out. Any input, no matter how small, is valid. An expression of the fact that you would like to have continued access to your favourite waterways at no charge is just as valid as a claim on the resource by some developer wanting to drain or dam local rivers, or restrict access. You may want to make personal submissions or organise one to be made from your club, and help with it.

If you want some further guidance contact the N.Z.C.A. and one of the following Offices of the Ministry for the Environment:

* Instream users persons who use the water without actually consuming, altering it, eg. kayakers, rafters, fishermen.

David Hill

Manager, Northern Region Office
P.O. Box 39-463
Auckland
Phone (09) 377-093/4

Craig Lawson

Manager, Central Regional Office
P.O. Box 10-362
Wellington
Phone (04) 734-090

Alisdair Hutchinson

Manager, Southern Regions
Christchurch Office
P.O. Box 22-285
Christchurch
Phone (03) 654-540

David Brash

Manager, Southern Regions Dunedin Office
P.O. Box 5316
Dunedin
Phone (024) 770-694



Whitewater Nationals '86/87 Granity, Buller River. Photograph Graham Allan

WHANGAEHU

Editors Note: Three factors effect the rivers quality

- (a) natural pollution from the mountains crater lake which drains into the Whangaeahu River the pH varies from 7 to 1.5 (very acidic)
- (b) Twenty-two tributaries of the river have been diverted (in 1970's) for the Tokaanu Power Scheme hence less fresh water to dilute the other pollutants
- (c) the Winstone Pulp Mill at Karori has a discharge

Several letters have written to the Wanganui Rangitikei Catchment Board about river quality but each time they seem to emphasize the natural pollution.

With tests in the water above and below the pulp mill (where a large amount of orange pollutant is being discharged) and also a review on the water right is up for objection/submission etc. later this year (could even be now!). We might see conservationists keeping industry on their toes.

What we must remember is with the power diversion to the Tokaanu scheme we are responsible for stronger acidic water quality down stream beacuse fresh water is no longer diluting it. SThe Chairman

Rangitikei-Wanganui Catchment Board, P.O. Box 92, Marton

Dear Sir,

Whangaeahu River Pollution

I am writing on behalf of the Palmerston North Canoe Club, white water enthusiasts and all recreational river users regarding the pollution of the Whangaeahu river.

The Commission of the Tokaanu Power Development resulted in the loss of several nationally important white water rivers namely - Whakapapa, Tongariro, upper Wanganui and Moawhango. The Whangaeahu river suffered reduced flows due to the diversion of several fresh water tributaries.

The Whangaeahu river, since these tributaries were diverted, has seen an increase in its recreational usage, particularly with regard to white water canoeing. I feel this is due to two main factors:

1. The loss of other similar graded rivers. Due to the nationwide demise in the number of available white water rivers, recreationalists obviously resort to utilising the remaining rivers. there are only three easily accessible rivers in the North Island containing a lengthy section of grade 2-3 rapids. They are Rangitaiki (Bay of Plenty), Lower Tongariro (Waikato Falls to Turangi Bridge), and the Whangaeahu River (Mangaehuaehu river confluence to Aranui bridge).

2. Progression of the sport of white water canoeing due to equipment advances, improved white water techniques and skills.

The advent of the plastic (Tupperware) kayak coupled with the improved white water skills and techniques being utilised today enables the higher graded rivers to become available to the moderately skilled paddlers.

I have personally utilised the Whangaeahu river extensively in the past six years, being within easy 'day trip' reach from Palmerston North and en route to my parents' farm at Ohakune. In these six years I have observed an increase in the river's usage whether from Palmerston North region canoe clubs, schools or from other canoe clubs and private users.

I have also, I am sure, observed a decrease in water quality, particularly in the past year. This is difficult for me to verify, but reports from others seem to support my claim. I understand you may have received other letters regarding this subject from other sources. I should mention that at least three independent groups actively pursued this subject unaware others were also interested.

I realise the Whangaeahu river is naturally polluted and that the pollution level varies due to thermal activity etc, but I am sure the more noticeable pollution evident in the river today originates from the Karioi pulp mill. This pollution causes skin problems and irritates eyes, foam forms in the river's quieter stretches with the river having a distinctive tanin smell. I feel it is a shame for a river, which even though is naturally polluted, to suffer from industrial pollution in its head waters.

Could the Rangitikei-Wanganui Catchment Board please help clarify several points.

a. Does the Winstone Pulp Mill have a water right to discharge into the Whangaeahu river and if so, what conditions are associated with this water right?

b. Is the water right ever reviewed?

c. Does the Catchment Board monitor discharges into the Whangaeahu river?

d. Are landowners, eg farmers, permitted to throw rubbish into the Whangaeahu river? This has caused, in one instance, a potentially dangerous situation whereby a farmer has thrown old fence wire and materials over a cliff into the river.

Please contact me with any enquiries you may have. Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

Wade M. Bishop

New Zealand Canoeing Association

1988 - 1989 SLALOM CALENDAR

NORTH ISLAND

Date	Event	Division	Contact
Oct 8-9	Birchville	2 3 4	No info received Te Marua CC PO Box 38389 Petone
Oct 22-24	Reids Farm	1 2 3 4	Bruce Webber PO Box 972 Taupo 074 84715
Nov 5-6	Mangohe	1 2 3 4	Palmerston North CC PO Box 1126 063 61388
Nov 19-20	Mangate	1 2 3	Ian Jones 1 Armagh St Hamilton 071 53859
Dec 3-4	Ruahih	1 2 3 4	Roy Tallon 488 Otumoetai Rd Tauranga 075 64473
Jan 21-22	Kawerau	1 2	No info received Tawerera CC PO Box 195 Kawerau
Jan 28-29	Waikere-Taheke North Island Champs Selection ranking	1 2 4	Charles Semple PO Box 883 Napier 070 352379
Feb 11-12	Colliers Bridge	1 2 3 4	Brett Humphrey PO Box 129 Wanganui
Feb 18-19	Tongariro	1 2 4	Don Patterson C/- OPC Private Bag Turangi 0746 5512
Mar 4-5	Ruatiti Manganui-a-te-ou	2 3 4	Warren Cheetham 063 268043 Max Grant 71 Salsbury St Ashhurst 063 268667
Mar 18-19	Murupara	1 2 4 Ranking	Pete Shea 7 Seddon Rd Hamilton 071 393759
Easter Mar 24-27	National Champs Ngaawapurua Ranking		Kupe CC PO Box 3768 Wellington

SOUTH ISLAND

Date	Event	Division	Contact
Oct 1-2	Hurunui	1 2 3 4	Lee Anne Mitchell 34 Mary St Christchurch 03 529522
Oct 29-30	Arnold	1 2 3 4	Stu McRoberts 8 Woodstock Pl Christchurch 03 428091
Nov 5-6	Waipori		No info received
Nov 19-20	Two Mile Island Buller	1 2 4	Steve Chapman 17 Dodson Valley Rd Nelson 054 520797
Dec 3-4	Hurunui	1 2 4	Clare Cosson 51 Rountree St Christchurch 03 484545
Dec 10-11	Teviot		No info received

South Island Series

Dec 27-28	Kawerau Dogleg South Island Champs	Gillian Wratt
Dec 30-31	Hurunui	Steve Chapman
Jan 6-7	O'Sullivan's — Selection Buller	

All Ranking Events

Feb 4-5	Arnold	1 2 3	Clare Cosson
Feb 11-12	Hurunui	1 2 4	Stu McRoberts
Mar 4-5	O'Sullivan's	1 2 4	Steve Chapman

Neil McKeegan 1/38 Konini St Christchurch 8004 (Chairman)	Tracey Wemyss 436 Oxford Tce Christchurch 1 (Secretary) 667 754	Willy McQueen PO Box 3705 Christchurch 843 206
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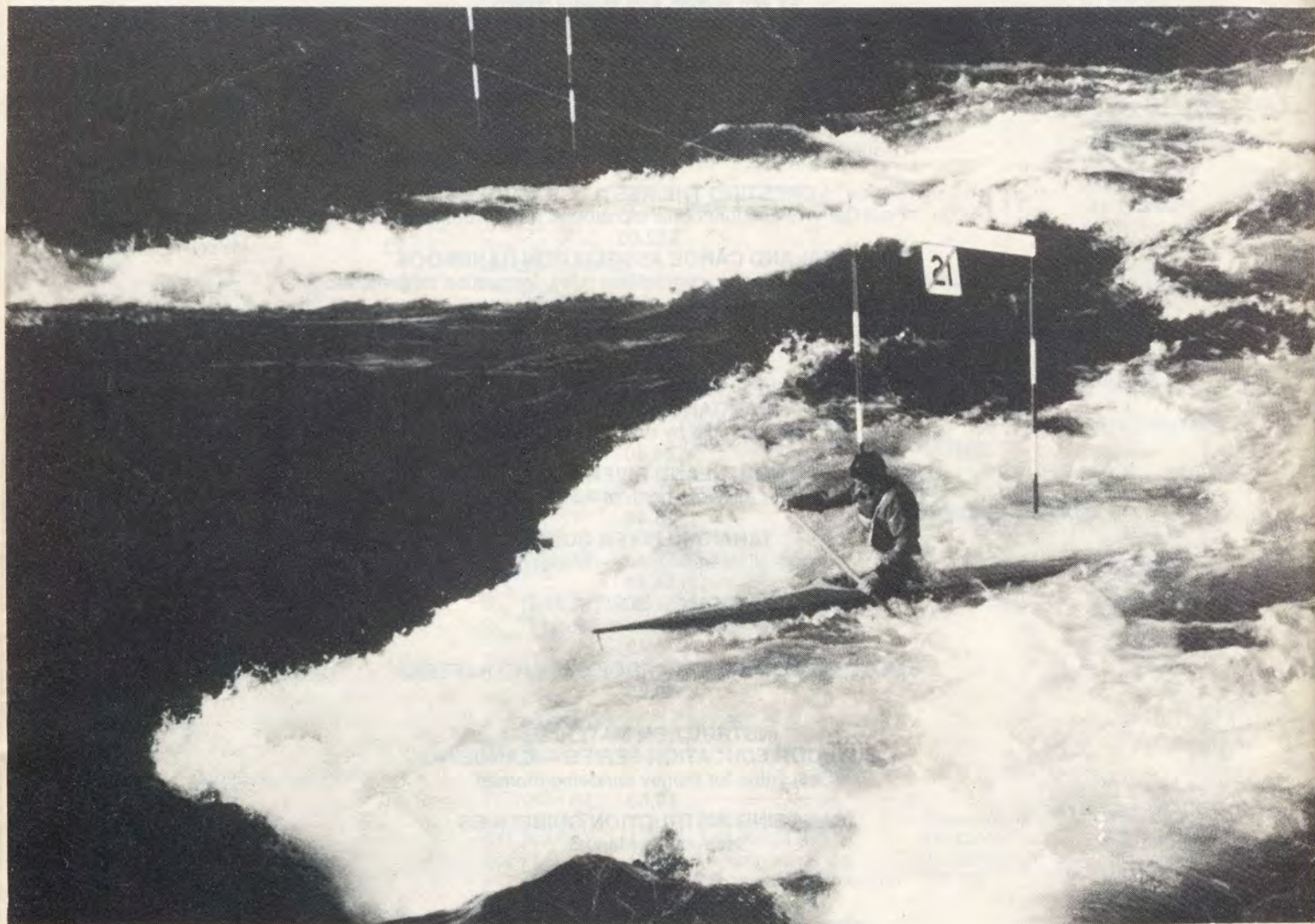
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'Ralph' Marc Andrew at Ngaawapurua Easter Nationals 1988, Photograph by Willie McQueen



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