



Whitewater NZ

Mo ngā awa te aroha, he waiaroha For the love of rivers

Annual Report to Members 2020-2021

2020-2021 BOARD:

President - Kev England	Matt McKnight - Vice President	Kev Payne - Treasurer
Hamish Darling	KT Te Maiharoa	Mike Dawson
Rayna Ramsey	Phil Claasens	Paddy Brand

Stepping down at the 2021 AGM:

- Kev England
- Paddy Brand
- Rayna Ramsey
- Phil Claasens

President's Report (Kev England)

During the 2020-2021 year Whitewater NZ has continued to increase our outreach to the whitewater paddling community of Aotearoa, with an increase of over 42% in individual memberships. The Board has chosen to use our bi-annual face to face meetings as an opportunity to connect with river people and groups around the Country by attending whitewater events (Hutt Valley Gorge Race, Bullerfest). We've also put some effort into our social media presence and continue to inform the paddling community about what's going on the paddling scene.

We also printed some extra cool t-shirts!!! Did you get one yet??

Here's a brief run-down of what we've been up to behind the scenes:

Ngaruroro WCO - Thanks to some very generous donations from the paddling community we were able to continue this fight. We have been battling to make sure that this Water Conservation Order is fit for purpose and actually provides this magnificent river with the protection that it deserves. Paddy Brand and Doug Rankin attended a pre-hearing mediation session with the other interested parties, who mostly oppose the WCO. Some progress was made here, but not enough to avoid the need to attend the Environment Court hearing. In February, the first week of the two week hearing took place, but was cut short by a Covid-19 outbreak in Auckland. During that session Doug Rankin presented his expert witness statement and WWNZ was represented by Sarah Eveleigh of Anderson Lloyd. During that week it became increasingly clear that we needed to do some extra work building relationships with the Maori Land Trusts that own most of the land in the valley. Collaborating with Forest and Bird, Kev E met with representatives from Owhoako C Trust, East Taupo Land Trust and Owhoako B&D Lands Trust online and later in person (in Napier) to discuss a suitable clause to include within the order that suitably recognises the kaitiaki role of these Trusts in the valley. An agreement was made and the agreed clause has been proposed for the order.

The second week of the hearing was attended by Sarah Eveleigh and presentations were made by various opposing parties. We await a decision from the Environment Court.

Submissions have been made on the following issues:

- Griffin Creek hydro application (Department of Conservation)
- Tank Plan Change 9 (Hawkes Bay Regional Council)
- Tasman District Council 10-Year Plan 2021 - 2031 (TDC)
- Natural and Built Environments Bill (NZ Parliament Environment Committee)

River guide - We continue to support the River Guide and have seen an increase in user numbers as well as 18 new river descriptions and many other important description changes, making this an invaluable tool for trip planning and research. We have contacted an app developer to begin the process of making it into a fully functional i-phone and Android app,

however, this will require additional funding and a coordinated effort within and outside of WWNZ to ensure its success.

Website (whitewater.nz) - The website that was launched in February 2020 turned out to be a bit of a dog and led to a whole series of issues that was only fixable by ditching the original developers and rebuilding it from the ground up. What we have now, I think you'll agree, is a great asset to our organisation and has the functionality to help develop our community into the future! Please take a look at the member's only area which details all of the membership benefits and how to claim them as well as the Trello Board, which shows exactly what we're up to and have been up to in the past. There's also a members' only forum in addition to the regular forum pages.

The website has soaked up a huge amount of resources (people-hours and money) and we now have a great, functional website that is fit to represent WWNZ and to engage with our membership and the rest of the river community of NZ. There has been a large effort to include the valuable historical information from the old (rivers.org.nz) website. However, this has not been straightforward, but we do have an archive of all the files that were present on the old website and if anybody is looking for a specific file we can search for it and provide it to you. Also, we have developed a Trello Board which displays all of the pertinent files from historic and current issues (this is a live document/work in progress and will be added to over time), so please make use of this!!!

Mangahao - Whilst no actual releases have happened yet, Nigel Parry has made some strong progress with King Country Energy who have agreed to compensate the paddling community for the missed releases and will continue to compensate us financially for missed releases in the future, until normal releases are re-established.

Tekapo - Negotiations with Genesis Energy have taken place to help ensure that the consenting of the release schedule is in line with our expectations and that this fantastic whitewater resource is maximised by the community. The Tekapo Whitewater Trust is leading the charge here. Many thanks to Sarge and Ngaio for their diligence on this matter.

Coroner's recommendations - After the unfortunate drowning of Sam Zarifeh in 2017 (on the Landsborough River) Coroner Cunninghame's inquiry led to a series of draft recommendations on which WWNZ was asked to make comment. We were able to add considerable value to the final Coroner's recommendations and were thanked by the Coroner's office for our efforts in ensuring that preventable drownings in similar situations are minimised.

NZOIA Kayak and Canoe Qualification reviews - WWNZ helped with the NZOIA qualification reviews by attending a series of meetings, workshops and document reviews, which will lead to an enhanced capability of whitewater kayak and canoe instructors in NZ.

Whitewater Code of Conduct - We have developed a "Code of Conduct" that offers some guidance to help ensure that people use our whitewater rivers appropriately. The four categories of guidance are: Ngā awa (the river), Te Whenua (the land), Ko Tangata (people)

and Haumaru (safety). We have reached out for approvals / input from DoC and MPI and we will launch this as a public information campaign in the coming months.

Issues on our radar that need future work:

Waitaha - In 2019 we celebrated saving the Waitaha River from industrial development, but we are now aware of Westpower's intension to launch a Judicial Review of the Ministerial Decision to decline their original application. Ngai Tahu have also stated their support for Westpower's proposal. WWNZ is in the early stages of formulating a plan to counter this activity.

NPS Freshwater Working Group - WWNZ have joined a team of freshwater scientists, conservationists and river recreationalists to apply pressure to the Government to ensure that the NPS Freshwater is fit for purpose and creates the positive change in water quality that it was designed to have.

RMA reform - We submitted on the Natural and Built Environments Bill and we will be keeping a close eye on the developments in this field, with more work to be done over the coming months and years.

Treasurer's Report (Kev Payne)

I present the financial statements for the period of 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 to the Annual General Meeting of the Society, Whitewater New Zealand (Incorporated). The society's accounts have passed an independent external review by our appointed reviewer who is a highly competent accountant.

Overall, the financial performance of the Society shows a surplus of \$5,470, compared to a deficit of \$9,435 in the previous period. The most significant reason for this is due to an increased income from membership subscriptions and donations, coinciding with an equally significant decrease in operating expenditure. Much of this expenditure was a continuation from the previous period, further developing our new website and dealing with other information technology necessities. This has recently come to a conclusion and hopefully we will see a lot less requirements other than general hosting and maintenance expenses.

It must be noted, fundraising for the Ngaruroro WCO contributed \$12,140 over this period. Removal of these special donations would have shown a deficit of \$6,670. Ngaruroro funds will remain solely for WCO legal expenses yet to be accrued.

The society has quite healthy reserves sitting in term deposit and currently our operating accounts are in a reasonably healthy position. However we need to continue to be aware that our annual income is almost entirely from membership subscriptions and donations. We need to ensure that we look at ways to keep expenditure under control and results are to the benefit of the Whitewater NZ membership.

I would like to thank the board members for assisting me with taking on this Treasurer role. It has been a learning curve and an experience, and I have enjoyed working with my fellow board members. Thank you to the president Kevin England and outgoing treasurer Dan Kirkman, your help in supporting me has been appreciated. I look forward to continuing with the new board for the coming year.

Kevin Payne
WWNZ Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP:

Club memberships: 597 (broken down below). This is down from last year due to the non payment of dues from Kupe Canoe Club, Otago Canoe and Kayak Club, and Manukau Canoe Club.

Individuals: 108 paid subs this year (up 2 from last year), although the actual number of individual members including life members and people who have joined after the 31 March reporting period is now 148 (up 44% on last year).

Total membership as at 31/03/2021 is 705.

Our “supporters” are people who have opted to be on our mailing but are not paid members. We have 3819 “supporters”.

Clubs:	Members
Auckland University Canoe Club	50
BugSports Club Inc Chch	15
Canoe Slalom Bay of Plenty	5
Canterbury Whitewater Club	221
Down River Kayak Club Inc	40
Hawkes Bay Canoe Club	20
Hutt Valley Canoe Club	21
Kaimai Canoe Club	10
Nelson Canoe Club Inc	30
New Plymouth Kayak Club (Whitewater Taranaki)	30
Porirua Canoe Club	5
Ruahine Whitewater Club	39
University of Canterbury Canoe Club	100
Victoria University Canoe Club	48
Waikato Kayak Club	3

We have a growing list of member benefits, which we will be adding to over time and are displayed in the “Members area” on the website.

Attachments to this annual report:
2020-2021 Financial report (to 31st March 2021)