

# **NZRCA PRESS STATEMENT**

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

**Date: Sunday, 28 October 2001**

**Approved By: R Rutter-Baumann**

**<STARTS>**

The New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association extends its condolences to the families of Annabel Atkinson and Hayley North, who drowned following a fatal accident whilst canoeing on the Clarence River near Hanmer Springs on Friday 26 October 2001.

In line with a recently established agreement to assist the Maritime Safety Authority to investigate accidents involving kayaks and canoes the NZ Recreational Canoeing Association will appoint advisors to work alongside the Maritime Safety Authority. The NZ Recreational Canoeing Association hopes that a full and detailed investigation into the accident will provide lessons that will enhance the safety of all kayakers and canoeists and prevent a reoccurrence of such a tragedy.

The NZ Recreational Canoeing Association urges all kayakers and canoeists to consider carefully the dangers inherent in kayaking and canoeing and to continue taking precautions to ensure personal safety.

**<ENDS>**

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