



# NZ Recreational Canoeing Association Annual Report

## NZRCA Annual General Meeting

The New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 17th of July in Wellington.

**Venue :** Crossways Community House,  
cnr Brougham and Elizabeth Streets  
Mt. Victoria, Wellington

**Time :** 9.30am - 4pm

Interested members are invited to eat at a local restaurant in the evening. Please indicate interest in dining out to Sarah McRae (04 386 4774 or 025 249 6116, [president@rivers.org.nz](mailto:president@rivers.org.nz)) or Janette Kear (ph/fax: 03 352 5786, [admin@rivers.org.nz](mailto:admin@rivers.org.nz)).

## Agenda for AGM

- Minutes for the previous meeting
- Matters Arising
- Executive Reports
- Financial Report and Balance sheet
- Election of Patron and Officers
- Notified motions and remits
- General Business
- Canoeist of the Year

The NZRCA Annual Report is released annually in addition to the publication of New Zealand Canoeing. The next issue of New Zealand Canoeing will be out to members by 1 September 1999.

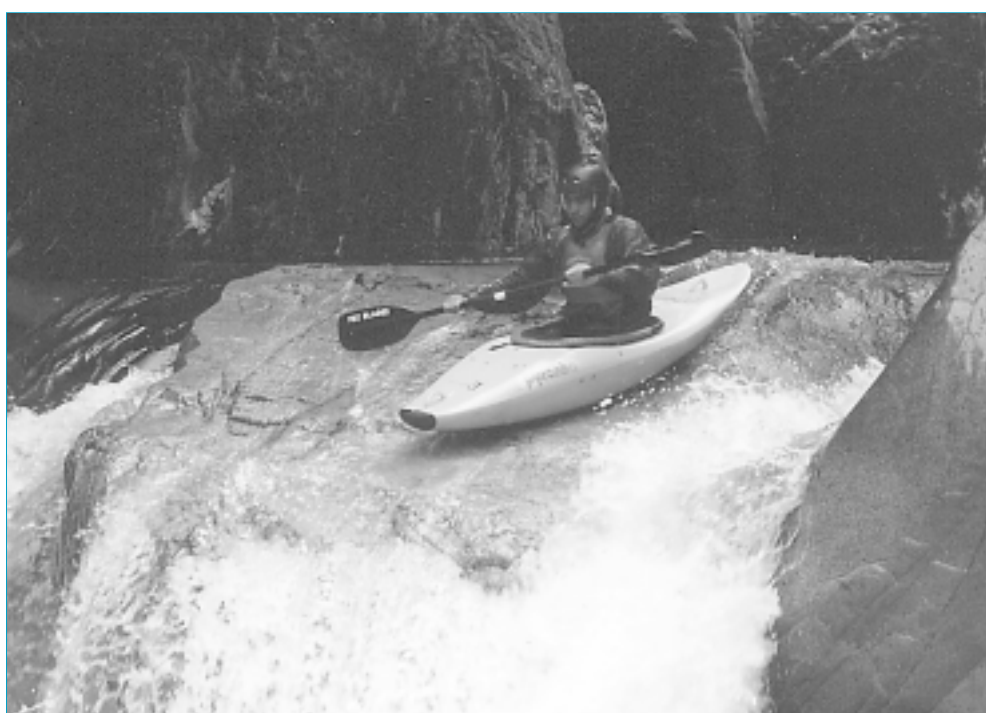
The closing date for material for the August edition is 30th July 1999. Please send your epics, photos and ads to: [editor@rivers.co.nz](mailto:editor@rivers.co.nz) or [p.miller@clear.net.nz](mailto:p.miller@clear.net.nz)

## AGM Business

**Remits** (proposals to amend the Constitution) can be submitted no later than 26 June to the Administration Officer, 2 Kruse Place, Christchurch 5.

**Nominations** for positions on the NZRCA Executive. These must be submitted in writing with the signed acceptance of the nominee, accompanied by the signatures of the Club President and Secretary. At present most members of the Executive are available for their current positions, with the known exception of the Safety Officer, Mark Planner.

**Canoeist of the Year:** voting on this award will take place at the AGM. The award is for the individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the area of recreational canoeing, for example in river conservation, promotion of safe canoeing, service to a club, or demonstration of leadership ability. Please supply details in writing to 2 Kruse Place, Christchurch.



*Mike Abbott enjoying West Coast boating on the Kakapotahi.  
Photo: Jonathan Hunt.*



## Annual Report to Members

*Sarah McRae, NZRCA President*

**The current NZRCA Executive has had a useful and enjoyable year working to serve its member canoeing clubs and individual kayakers. The report below summarises the important watery milestones, and perhaps a little dangerously, forecasts some future priorities for managing recreational paddling in NZ.**

### *Life on the Executive*

While communication between all Exec members has not been cost-less (two full Executive meetings; and up to six phone conferences), the numerous Exec discussions have created the necessary oil to get things done. Exec members have also kept their boats in the river, and remain active participants in the sport. In between there's a huge amount of communication by email. Thank you to our Administration Officer, Janette Kear, for organising us throughout the year.

Significant progress has been made in fine-tuning internal management/administration, including drafting job descriptions for each Exec position, and the development of a consistent set of files. This work should remain a priority and be completed next year.

The workload of editing the magazine, managing the website, as well as managing the Association's publicity, is considered too much for one person, let alone a paddler who also wants some time on the water. I support suggestions that the existing Communications position be split into three: Editor; Webmaster; and Communications Officer. These positions are crucial to maintaining the services we provide for members, as well as getting the message out to the paddling community.

### *Results of membership restructuring*

Attracting and serving the Association's members has been an important focus for the 1998-99 year. This effort follows last year's restructuring of the membership categories. The Association has made at least a small splash with its "Big Ripple" strategy to build and serve both canoe clubs and individual kayaking members.

Promotion is an important topic for the NZRCA, and has been helped along significantly this year through all activities, including the website. The magazine is confirmed as an important benefit to members and must continue. The Association is also seeking to achieve a targeted approach to kayakers at events, including recreational releases. Expect even more next year.

### *External Networks*

My vision at the start of the year was for the Association to rekindle its networks with outside organisations, and efficiently participate in larger efforts on safety, education, access and river conservation issues. We have now established solid links with Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ), the Outdoor Instructors' Association (NZOIA), and the NZ Canoe Federation (NZCF). Relationships with access and environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) including the Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations (CORANZ), Public Access NZ (PANZ), the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and the Outdoors Assembly, are also well developed. The Association is also a member of the Department of Conservation (DOC) national NGO network.

### *Access and river conservation*

Access and river conservation / Resource Management Act (RMA) issues have been a very important focus for the year. The Association's participation in the Tranz Rail / Clarence Gravel extraction hearing, appeal and consent order negotiations provided a flame-based baptismal experience of the RMA for many on the Executive.

On this issue, the NZRCA has represented members before a Canterbury Regional /Kaikoura District joint consent hearing panel, and appealed the councils' decision to the Environment Court.

Negotiations have continued with Tranz Rail over the last four months. The outcome is mostly acceptable to the Association, with vastly improved environmental and kayaker safety performance standards now binding any extraction activity.

Through the negotiation process, the NZRCA's Clarence project team displayed a solid commitment to getting the best information on which to base its case, as well as working responsibly with the applicant in seeking to achieve an outcome that was satisfactory to both parties. My thanks to Maree Baker (Conservation Officer), Doug Rankin (UCCC) and Geoff Price (Whitewater Canoe Club) in so ably supporting the Association's involvement.

The Clarence negotiations have helped measure our might alongside the corporate weight of Tranz Rail and their army of lawyers, planners and engineers. To make any progress through these types of processes, kayakers need to be able to respond to these types of issues both quickly and professionally. The Association has a significant role to play in coordinating this effort.

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# Financial Report

*Fiona MacKay NZRCA Treasurer*

The accounts show that the NZRCA has been operating at a loss over the past two years. This year's accounts show a much greater turnover than has been usual in the past few years due to funding received on behalf of the Hawkes Bay Canoe Club from ECNZ for the Waikaremoana Power Scheme Resource Consent. Independent of the ECNZ grant, revenue has increased by \$5,000 to \$14,871 compared to 1998. It is great to see increased support from both clubs and individuals in the form of membership fees and donations. We were also successful in applying for Water Safety New Zealand funding for River Safety courses and it is hoped that this source of revenue will continue into the future.

## Balance Sheet

As At 31 March 1999

### Current Assets

	1999	1998
ANZ Cheque Account	\$ 4,244.40	\$ 4,609.18
BNZ Finance Account	\$ 26,009.78	\$24,650.88
Accounts Receivable	\$ 9,056.11	\$ 1,500.00
Interest Accrued	\$ 124.84	\$ 277.07
GST Account	-\$ 6,435.02	\$ 1,105.31
	<b>\$ 33,000.11</b>	<b>\$32,142.44</b>

### Less: Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 569.93	\$ -
Grants Received in Advance	\$ 2,320.00	\$ -
	<b>\$ 2,889.93</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**Net Current Assets** \$ 30,110.18 **\$32,142.44**

Fixed Assets \$ 3,035.00 \$ 4,279.00

**Net Assets** \$ 33,145.18 **\$36,421.44**

### Retained Earnings

Opening Balance 1 April 1998 \$ 36,421.44 \$40,884.34  
 Plus Surplus/(Deficit) \$ (3,276.26) \$ (4,462.90)

**Closing Balance 31 March 1999** \$ 33,145.18 **\$36,421.44**

The NZRCA has seen increased activity in the last year, particularly with the production of New Zealand Canoeing and the appeal against the Clarence Resource Consent allowing Tranz Rail to extract rock. This has resulted in a significant increase in administration costs as Executive members work together from different parts of the country in person, on the phone and through the internet.

In the next year we need to look towards ways of increasing our revenue so that we can continue to promote the NZRCA's interests to members and the public. This could potentially be through a number of sources including increasing membership, seeking sponsorship, fundraising for special projects and advertising for the newsletter. In the meantime I would like to thank all existing members for their continued financial support and new members for choosing to support the interests of recreational canoeists by joining the NZRCA.

Conservation Officer Maree Baker is now inviting interested paddlers to join the NZRCA's *Confluence*, a new national network of kayakers interested in river conservation. It is likely that this group will continue the Association's input into the Government's planned reforms for the RMA.

## Acknowledgements

Finally, my sincere thanks to all officers on the National Executive for their work and support throughout the year. Also to those other individuals who have willingly contributed their time and support on 'special projects', including Adrienne Jones and Andy Hollings as temporary conservation officers; Mike Savory on the website and Mangahao consents; Rob Worrledge on the Waikaretaheke consent review; Paul Macey on the membership database; Jonathan Hunt on the website; Timon Maxey on the logo; and Bill Thomson on presidential support. I have learned an enormous quantity from working with you all, through the year. I am also happy to continue my involvement into next year.