



New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association Annual General Meeting 2006

Venue

Oasis Motel, Tokaanu
2pm Saturday 29 April, 2006.

AGM Business

The AGM will include opportunity to ask questions of each of the current officers of the Executive, vote in the Executive for the coming year and guide the work of the NZRCA by discussing the work you would like focused on during the coming year.

Nominations for the Executive made at the AGM must be with the person nominated being present. We are particularly keen to fill to-be-vacated positions in South Island Conservation and Education.

At the AGM there will be a vote to award the Canoeist of the Year.

Annual Report to Members, 2006

Mike Birch, NZRCA President

It has been a year of new challenges for the NZRCA. Didymo has arrived on the scene and the end of Project Aqua has seen an increase in proposed small hydro schemes and the associated threat to popular kayaking runs.

We have continued to work hard to preserve access to our rivers, and regain access to Ngawapurua. Our website and newsletter have been our main points of contact with the paddling community. Our executive and active members also are effective in communicating our work to the paddling community through their member clubs and by simply talking to fellow paddlers while out on the rivers.

The NZRCA executive have continued their hard work to:

- Preserve New Zealand's rivers and lakes.
- Ensure public access.
- Promote safe, enjoyable paddling.
- Foster the paddling community.

Changes to the Executive during the year:

We welcomed two new members to the executive at the AGM in Taupo last year. Guido Wassink took up the editor position and has capably edited *NZ Canoeing* during the past year. Bruce Webber took on the role of Education officer. Having volunteered to be on the executive in a communications role, he found himself taking over from Steffan Lamont as the Education officer. Unfortunately, he found himself in unfamiliar territory, dealing with NZRCA river safety and river rescue courses. He will not be standing again this year, but has volunteered to assist the NZRCA in other ways such as promotions.

This year, our conservation officer, Duncan Catanach, may be overseas for some time and we are hoping to include a South Island Conservation position to the executive to assist him.

Conservation

This year has again been busy for Conservation. It has also been a year of change on at least two key fronts:

First, 2005 was the year the *Didymo* hit our waterways. Much discussion and liaison has taken place with Biosecurity NZ to establish as kayaking-"friendly" recommendations for paddlers as we could and also gave recommendations for their campaign. We are continuing to liaise with Biosecurity NZ and others (e.g., local councils) to make sure that kayakers do as much as they can to protect our rivers. A special thanks goes out to those who are completing the "Check, Clean or Dry" routine. Please continue this whenever you are paddling and encourage other paddlers to do the same – *Didymo* is unlikely to be the last nasty to hit our waters.

Second, the predicted post Project Aqua onslaught of *smaller hydro and irrigation schemes* seems to have started. Proposals for schemes on the Kaituna, Arnold, lower Mohaka, Nevis, Matiri, Mokau, Waingongoro (also known as "the loop" in Taranaki), Wairau and Hurunui Rivers are all in various stages of development and this is probably just the tip of the iceberg. To make things worse, we've had yet another dry summer, which only augments the cries from Government, business and electricity companies that we need to build more dams to increase generating and irrigation capacity.

One implication of this trend is that if we put equal effort into saving every river there is a significant risk that we'll spread our resources too thinly to be really effective. What might this mean?

- a) We may have to increasingly rely on the *local community* to lead the fight. The great thing is local paddlers and interested parties (e.g., Andy England around the Arnold, Craig Peters, Nick Collins and others around the Mokau, Donald Calder, Kenny Mutton, Andi Uhl, Steffan Bennett, Forest and Bird and others around the Kaituna) are already leading the charge on a number of campaigns. The NZRCA, and paddlers in general, are really appreciative of their efforts.
- b) We may have start making some potentially *unpalatable choices* around which are the most important "battles to fight" i.e., what sections/rivers/catchments will the NZRCA fight tooth and nail for and put significant resources into saving and what will we put less or no resources into (with the consequence that decision-makers may favour power and/or irrigation demands over recreational or environmental concerns).

Another implication is that up-to-date, robust, comprehensive *river use survey data* becomes extremely important:

- If you're potentially not going to fight every fight equally then you want to make sure you pick the "right" fights to fight. Robust survey data would give a good indication about which whitewater resources are most highly valued by paddlers.
- If you're going to fight fewer fights then you want to make sure you give yourself the best chance of "winning" them. Credible survey data is essential for kayakers to have any reasonable chance of defending free-flowing rivers or successfully negotiating hydro consent renewals before planning hearings or the Environment Court.

While we have some data, it is certainly not as comprehensive and up-to-date as is necessary. Unfortunately despite considerable effort by the NZRCA Exec and others (particularly Martin Unwin from NIWA) in putting together a submission to the Ministry for the Environment to obtain funding for a River Use Survey, we weren't successful. We will revise the current application and seek to resubmit in the near future.

Some of the other conservation issues that the NZRCA has also involved in, including the current status, are indicated below:

- Kaituna River - Bay of Plenty Electricity's (BOPE) proposal to dam the lower Kaituna (Awesome and Gnarly) Gorges gained momentum late last year with its application for a concession in order to flood some of the Department of Conservation's (DoC)

scenic reserve on river left. Presently no decision has been made on the concession yet – a decision is due in early May. Note that even if DoC see sense and decline the concession, the fight is NOT over as power companies have their eye on other sections of the Kaituna (e.g., Smokey Falls) which do not involve DoC land.

- Mokau River – No resource consent hearing date set yet for the proposed scheme that would permanently destroy some of Taranaki's best whitewater.
- Gowan River – No firm decision has been made on this important battle to keep the Buller Water Conservation Order and Water Conservation Orders more generally intact. We've lost some battles so far (and even been stung for legal costs) but the glimmer of hope is that the Minister has accepted Fish and Game's application to amend the WCO in respect of the Gowan to include fishing.
- Arnold River – Andy England in Greymouth is leading the charge here. Negotiations are continuing between the power company and local paddlers.
- Wairehu Playhole – After securing funding from NZ Community Trust for the \$30K funding shortfall, new engineering difficulties have placed this project in doubt. We are currently considering options with Genesis and OPC.
- Other: Submission to Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment on West Coast water quality; Letter of support to political parties and Conservation authority backing Forest and Bird and Federation of Mountain Clubs bid for "Six Pack of Parks"

Access

Releases have continued through out the year and in the main well supported.

The releases as part of the Tongariro Power Development Scheme resource consents (Tongariro and Whakapapa rivers) have gone well. We are very grateful to Genesis Energy for their support.

The Mangahao release in March 2006 was postponed due to no water in the dam (no fault of the dam owners). This is now the third time an autumn release has been postponed due to the lack of water.

There has been some positive news with access to Ngawapurua (Fulljames rapids). Thanks to some research by Peter Sutcliffe of Turangi, we have learnt that the land in question should be open for public access. We have written to the Ngawapurua Trust, expressing this opinion and we are now awaiting a reply.

Membership

Total Club membership remains similar to previous years at just under one thousand members affiliated through thirty different clubs. However, regional representation has increased with Auckland University CC, Wairarapa Paddlers and Otago Polytechnic (No Limits) now on board. On the down side, Different Strokes, Manukau CC and Wanganui's River City CC appear to have ceased functioning.

Our stalwart clubs remain the backbone of our membership – Christchurch Whitewater, Otago Canoe & Kayak, University of Canterbury, Nelson, Kupe, Ruahine, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Palmerston North and Northland clubs account for the majority of affiliated members. But other smaller clubs are also providing important support and representation. These include Kamai, Central Otago, Huka Falls, New Plymouth, Environmental WW Park, Otago University, Porirua, Rotorua, South Taranaki, Southland, Waikato, Westland, Victoria University and Whitewater Slalom NZ.

A number of clubs have competing disciplines such as slalom and canoe polo as well as general river running and we are grateful for their continued support.

Individual and Associate membership has increased slightly to around 45 and this year we have gained 15 new individual members including several instructors as well as support from several secondary schools and kayak and gear manufacturers.

Our newsletter, NZ Canoeing remains the focus for member information and most of our new members and even renewals subscribe using the membership form on the back page.

Membership is important for financial reasons but is also vital to demonstrate representation when NZRCA is making submissions on river issues so we must continue to seek wider support and more members. Bruce Webber has suggested that we target beginners, and those who prefer to paddle easier (grade 2) rivers. Currently, the most effective way to increase our membership seems to be by word of mouth, so make sure you let other kayakers know about NZRCA and why they need to support clubs.

Safety and Education

This year has been a quiet one, fortunately, due a lack of incidents.

Ongoing issues we are still attempting to resolve are:

Maritime NZ

During the last year MSA rebranded themselves and became Maritime NZ. Our correspondence with Maritime NZ has been very scarce over the past year. To date they have still not committed to an ongoing relationship, which will ensure that high quality accident investigations are carried out.

On a positive note, they are looking at a sensible approach to a long-term solution to the ridiculous section of Maritime Rule 91, which makes all our PFDs illegal. They are drafting an amendment to the Rule which will allow overseas certified PFDs and possibly fit-for-purpose, non-certified, PFDs allowable. They have made no indication, however, that they will attempt to address the other issues with Rule 91, which make it virtually illegal to kayak on rivers.

Jet Boating New Zealand (JBNZ)

This year has seen some positive improvements in our relationship with JBNZ, with whom our relationship has always been fairly acrimonious. This year JBNZ posted a fantastic article on their website, highlighting the need to be wary of kayakers in the river, and highlighted the signals we use which are very contradictory to those used by jetboaters. Later in the year we hope to attend the JBNZ national conference and speak to their members.

Incident / Accident Database

The database has had some input over the year. However, we are still keen to see this used more. Spread the word about logging all accidents and near misses on the database; they can be posted anonymously.

We have continued to subsidise River Safety and River Rescue courses for our members with funds granted by the Water Safety Council (WSNZ). Unfortunately, as in past years, we haven't distributed much of the funding provided, and this will need to be addressed this year. No funding was applied for from WSNZ for 2006/2007.

Jonathan Hunt Provided feedback on a draft SFRITO/WSNZ River Safety Instructor qualification, with Matt Cant (NZOIA). This qualification was later abandoned by SFRITO.

Communications

The NZRCA website www.rivers.org.nz and *New Zealand Canoeing* newsletter are our main ways of keeping members up to date with our work and breaking news on the kayaking and rivers conservation.

Jonathan Hunt has continued to keep our website at the forefront of New Zealand's white water paddling sites.

There has been a steady stream additional of news items and articles, events and releases, and incident reports. The site now has more than seven hundred pages. Site enhancements included RSS 2.0 feeds for news, forum posts, events, and search results. Significant new pages include Didymo and Promotions. News (on the home page) and new articles have been shifted to the drupal (<http://drupal.org>) content management system. This is in preparation for a wholesale migration to drupal. This should shift rivers.org.nz to a solid publishing framework that will support multiple users, user generated content, upgraded forums, and many other features.

Work has started on a New Zealand River Database, based on drupal, and incorporating guide information, along with data from the River Use Survey and other datasets. This will be a major focus of work for the next year.

Usage:

Website usage currently shows only a minor increase compared to the same months last year. Audience is steady around 7,000 unique visitors per month making the website a very significant communications channel for the NZRCA. The Buy, Sell & Swap forum continues to be very popular, and the other forums see steady use, with a combined total of approximately 26,000 messages to date.

Jonathan has also developed the NZRCA Promotions process for distributing free stuff to Members.

Guido Wassink released two more issues of *NZ Canoeing*, bringing the total publications to three magazines and one annual report for 2005. Conservation, risk management and legal liability issues have featured strongly as the executive believes these issues are likely to be very important to kayakers in the years to come.

We wish to express our gratitude to Rapid Sensations, Day Two, Hydraulics, Bliss-Stick, Rasdex and Riot for their continued support. Support from advertisers is invaluable in ensuring the newsletter is not less of a drain on our finances. When buying gear, please consider repaying the support these advertisers have shown for our organisation.

Jonathan Hunt updated the "Guide to the Whanganui River" to edition 16.

Finances

Simon Callaghan has efficiently kept track of our financial processes this year, and has provided useful financial reports for all executive meetings.

Operating Result

Operating surplus of \$2,710 was down \$630 on the previous year. Donations were down \$2,000 - largely due to a fall in extraordinary receipts over the previous year. Administration costs were up \$500, with travel costs increased as the result of good attendance at the AGM and the mid-term executive meeting. Web site maintenance costs were up \$350 - \$200 being a one off charge to reserve some alternative addresses. Offsetting the negative influences on operating surplus was an increase in annual subscriptions of \$600 and a \$1,600 improvement in net profit from publications - mostly through sales of the Whanganui River Guide. Our thanks go to Anne, who again worked on a voluntary basis and drew no honorarium.

Balance Sheet

NZRCA net wealth was \$28,733 at the end of the financial period. Assets and liabilities were much higher than last year, \$30,000 being a grant from the New Zealand Community Trust, held on account pending a progress decision on the Wairehu play hole project. Accounts payable and receivable were down \$7,350 and \$4,600 respectively through favourable timing of receipts and payments relative to last year's closing position. Liability to Water Safety New Zealand was reduced via payment of \$480 in river safety course subsidies to members.

Financial Planning

Annual operating surplus appears to be relatively steady. The NZRCA enjoys almost 100% liquidity in its net wealth and members should be confident that contingent funds are available if needed. Nonetheless, such funds can only be used once and careful consideration should be given to the source of funds for any non-essential project work or unusual operating activity.

Annual Audit of Accounts

Approval for an audit of the 2005/06 accounts will be sought at the AGM in April 2006.

Thank you's

I would like to particularly note my thanks to Tony Ward-Holmes, who has taken over the difficult role of NZRCA representative on the NZ Canoeing Federation. Tony also applied to the Lion Foundation for funding for our AGM costs and we are grateful for the assistance we received, that has covered our costs for accommodation. Thanks also to Anne Smith, who has continued, in her voluntary role as administration officer, to keep our mail and meeting minutes in order and up to date and has also fully taken over the distribution of the "Guide to the Whanganui River".

Mike Birch
President

Annual Accounts 2006

New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association (Inc)

5-Apr-06

Operating Statement for Year Ended 31 March 2006

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Revenue				
Hillary Commission	-	-	2,659	935
Donations	1,014	2,990	70	2,237
Subscriptions	9,155	8,582	8,069	8,151
Other Revenue	-	-	-	3,938
Advertising & Sales	-	1,643	1,473	4,817
Advertising	2,608	-	-	-
Whanganui River Guide	1,930	-	-	-
White Water NZ	175	-	-	-
Interest Received	731	458	523	409
Total Revenue	15,613	13,672	12,793	20,486
Expenditure				
Administration	4,319	3,819	7,650	7,213
Conservation	2,644	2,749	77	4,402
Instruction/Safety	266	398	515	629
Publications	-	3,088	4,624	4,128
Newsletter	4,300	-	-	-
Whanganui River Guide	449	-	-	-
White Water NZ	138	-	-	-
Website	507	152	315	107
Membership	99	125	50	268
Depreciation	180	-	184	145
NZCF	-	-	300	300
Total Expenditure	12,903	10,331	13,715	17,192
Net Operating Surplus/Deficit	2,710	3,341	(922)	3,294

New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association (Inc)

5-Apr-06

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2006

	31-Mar-06	31-Mar-05	31-Mar-04	31-Mar-03
Assets:				
Current Assets				
National Bank Current Account	4,507	14,524	4,139	-
National Bank Cash Fund	-	17,801	17,356	-
National Bank Term Deposit	58,500	1,018	1,005	-
ANZ Cheque Account	-	-	-	13,603
BNZ Finance Account	-	-	-	14,886
Accounts Receivable	954	5,558	3,981	593
	63,961	38,900	26,481	29,082
Fixed Assets				
Software	361	541	-	184
	361	541	-	184
Total Assets	64,321	39,441	26,481	29,266
Liabilities:				
Current Liabilities				
Water Safety New Zealand	5,588	6,068	3,798	3,003
Grants Received in Advance	-	-	-	2,658
New Zealand Community Trust	30,000	-	-	-
Accounts Payable	-	7,349	-	-
	35,588	13,418	3,798	5,661
Total Liabilities	35,588	13,418	3,798	5,661
Net Assets:	28,733	26,022	22,682	23,605
Retained Earnings:				
Opening Balance 1 April	26,023	22,682	23,605	20,311
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	2,710	3,341	(922)	3,294
Closing Balance 31 March	28,733	26,022	22,682	23,605