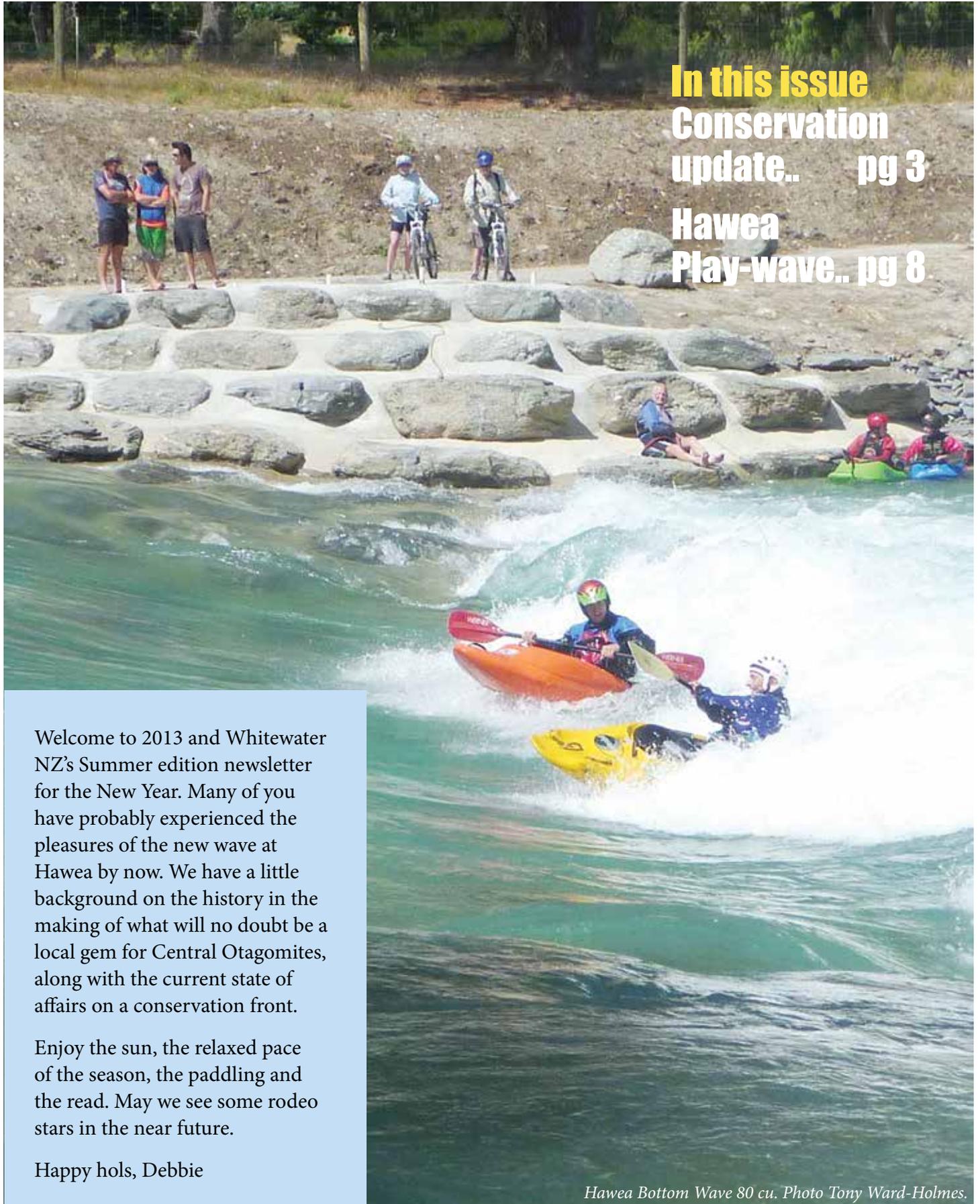




New Zealand Canoeing



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Welcome to 2013 and Whitewater NZ's Summer edition newsletter for the New Year. Many of you have probably experienced the pleasures of the new wave at Hawea by now. We have a little background on the history in the making of what will no doubt be a local gem for Central Otagomites, along with the current state of affairs on a conservation front.

Enjoy the sun, the relaxed pace of the season, the paddling and the read. May we see some rodeo stars in the near future.

Happy hols, Debbie

Hawea Bottom Wave 80 cu. Photo Tony Ward-Holmes.

About **Whitewater NZ Executive & Officers**

New Zealand Canoeing

New Zealand Canoeing is the official newsletter of Whitewater NZ Inc. *New Zealand Canoeing* is published quarterly and distributed free to around 1,200 members of Whitewater NZ throughout New Zealand/Aotearoa. The views expressed in *New Zealand Canoeing* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Executive of Whitewater NZ.

New Zealand Canoeing welcomes advertising from organisations associated with recreational canoeing. Please contact us for our advertising rates, and find out how to show your products and services to kayakers around New Zealand.

Thanks to contributors and advertisers and the myriad of e-mail correspondents for their contributions to this issue of *New Zealand Canoeing*.

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Conservation Update

Doug Rankin and Miriam Odlin

Canterbury Water Matters

A number of issues have been hotting up in Canterbury. These have become especially significant since the intervention by the National Government by the passing of the ECan Act in 2010. At this point the Commissioners at Environment Canterbury (ECan; the Canterbury Regional Council) were installed and charged with delivering on the government's desire to expand irrigation and dairy development in Canterbury. Recently the commissioners' term has been renewed, rather than elected representatives replacing them in 2013 as the government had previously promised, much to the dismay of many Cantabrians.

Against this backdrop there has been feverish activity which has tried to sort out a new regional land and water plan for future management of Canterbury's fresh water. Ten Zone Committees have been set up throughout the region to find out what the local communities all want to do with 'their' water. I use the term 'their' water, because most of the committees are populated by locals within the Zones and it seems that this is the attitude of many of the local farmer representatives on these committees. For example, some committee members have been positively hostile to the notion that other community members, such as kayakers and other river users from Christchurch, might have legitimate rights or interests in rivers that they use throughout the regions. Two plans have recently been notified and a hearing heard on one. The plans are not appealable to the Environment Court so we have some real reservations about the outcomes from these processes.

In addition, dairy conversions occur apace across the Canterbury region. They are frightening in their scope. If you haven't been down to Canterbury recently you might be surprised to see how many shelter belts have gone and to see all the irrigation systems covering the landscape. It appears the dairy industry is continuing its practice of business as usual. The Waikato is knackered. Stringent rules and regulations need to be adopted to ensure Canterbury Rivers are not next.



Dairy conversions occur apace across the Canterbury region.

The problem is twofold; there is contamination from intensive farming practices and from cows peeing urine patches onto the ground (most of which the grass can't use) and this ends up as nitrates in ground water and surface water. Faecal coliforms also getting into ground and surface water.

For example, as a result of long term, and the intensification of dairy farming in the Waikato, 70% of the water in the catchment outside the Waikato main stem is unfit for stock to drink because of faecal coliforms and 75% of the waterways outside the Waikato main stem are unfit for contact recreation, such as swimming or kayaking.

16% of the groundwater aquifer samples in the Waikato region have nitrate levels exceeding the World Health Organisation drinking water standards (about 11ppm) and the trends show a rapid rise in the past 10 years which are still increasing. Look out Canterbury and the rest of the country! Groundwater nitrate levels and faecal coliform levels are already climbing throughout many parts of Canterbury. Mick Hopkinson can already tell you plenty about the effects dairying is having in the Murchison region and its impact on their local rivers, including the Buller River, which has a Water Conservation Order on it. All other countries around the world with intensive dairying have experienced the same problems.

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The Hurunui and Waiau River Regional River Plan Hearing and Other Hearings

Whitewater NZ and the Whitewater Canoe Club presented submissions on this plan. A team of 11 river users (Mick Hopkinson, Doug Rankin, Graeme Boddy, Ian Fox, Nixie Boddy, Rob Gerard, Graeme Wilson, Hugh Canard, Al Moore, Eddie Murphy and Steve Gurney) presented evidence to a hearing held in November and December on the plan, particularly on the value of the Upper Hurunui and Upper Waiau Rivers to kayakers, river buggers, rafters and jet boaters. Our evidence was well received. However, it remains to be seen whether our pleas that development options on the Upper Hurunui above the Mandamus be denied to one irrigation consortium (the Hurunui Water Project) that still wanted leave left in the plan to dam Lake Sumner and the South Branch in the future if their current plans don't work out. Currently HWP have applied for resource consents to take water from just below Maori Gully and pump it over the hill into a storage lake to be created in the adjacent Waitohi Valley. However, the scheme will potentially reduce the flows in the run down from below Maori Gully to the Mandamus confluence. We have opposed one aspect of this application and hearings are set down for some time in February 2013. We'd like to express our sincere thanks to all those witnesses and others who have helped with evidence preparation and submissions.

The Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (CLWRP)

This overarching plan from ECan is to set the planning framework for water use and allocation within Canterbury over the next 40 years. The Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan will be inserted into this plan in the future. The CLWRP is a very permissive plan in its current form, similar to those elsewhere in the country that have led to problems with not being able to effectively deal with non-point source pollution from farming.

The plan also does not protect our rivers and their values (white water values and water quality) even though it has objectives and policies aimed at doing so.

We have also submitted on this plan and are preparing evidence to present on our values and river flows needed to protect them, at hearings next year. Fish and Game are presenting a mature case on this matter. We are joining and supporting them. The hearings will run over five months and start in February 2013, a rather large event. It is very important we are involved, as the mechanisms used here in Canterbury to set up these plans and engage with the local community may be rolled out elsewhere throughout the country.

The Waitaha River

Andy England reports that West Power is continuing with its investigation of their proposed power scheme on the Morgan Gorge on the Waitaha River south of Ross.

They are aware of our intense interest in protecting the outstanding values of this 'Everest' of rivers gorge. We'll keep you updated.

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The Nevis River Environment Court Hearing

Maree Baker-Galloway and team of Dave Ritchie, Roy Bailey, Peter Simpson, Gordy Raynor, Keith Riley and Glenn Murdoch appeared in front of Judge Jackson and two Commissioners in late October and presented evidence on the kayaking values of the Nevis River that flows into the Kawerau down in Central Otago. The case was presented alongside that of Fish and Game, who initiated the change to the Water Conservation Order. Maree was very pleased with the evidence presented at the hearing and the subsequent cross examination, so fingers crossed for a good decision that protects the values of the river and prevents any dam in the future. A big thanks to everyone involved.

The Land and Water Forum

Hugh Canard has recently completed a lengthy river journey in the corridors of government. Hugh has been involved over the last five years as a representative of recreation interest groups in numerous committee and public meetings in this government supported NGO trying to look to future options for water management of New Zealand's fresh water. They produced their final report in November 2012 and have produced a blueprint for effectively managing New Zealand's fresh water resources.

Hugh Canard reports:

What does all this mean to kayakers?

If this all seems full of bureaucratic language and processes, you're right. Water management for minorities like us used to involve a series of hearings, where we would hear about some evil plan to dam or divert one of our favourite rivers, frantically organise ourselves, write submissions and present this to a hearing or the Environment Court. Most often we would be explaining (a) that we exist; and (b) that we had values, that we then needed to explain why we objected to people with no knowledge of our activities, nor sometimes any real interest in our values.

The change that is underway is a move to greater reliance on Plans. The capital 'P' is relevant. Some of this shift is due to the Land & Water Forum, and some to societal progress. The presence of kayakers on the regional planning committees and the L&W Forum is a sign that we are engaged in water management as a stakeholder. Not necessarily an

equal one, but at least we're there. Before we didn't exist, and developers were genuinely surprised to find out we existed, kayaking suddenly mattered, and were a feisty but basically reasonable bunch.

The process for us increasingly will be;

Representation. *Ensure we are represented on community forums, zone committees, water management working groups and the like. Other stakeholders such as farmers and hydro and regional council people will then know us as people, not a mysterious pressure group who do dangerous stuff in rivers.*

Inform. *Assume everyone involved in water knows absolutely nothing about kayaking and rivers. Invite decision-makers on your local rivers in rafts.(not jet boats, not Topo Duos. "Let the river do the talking". Give them good food. This really works.*

Flow Setting. *Get involved in Flow Setting. This means document all kayaking rivers by section in your region and what they are like at different flows. You want to see your preferred flows set in stone in Regional and (Zone) catchment Plans. This is a negotiated process, so it's important to get to know Fish & Game staff, jet boaters, Forest & Bird, local iwi, irrigators and hydro staff.*

Regional Plans. *Follow up to see Kayaking, recreational Flows, Minimum Flows and so forth set in Regional Plans that we can live with. Keep the Planners honest.*

Legal avenues as a last resort. If you don't get your values acknowledged in these planning processes, you will be faced with expensive and scary legal avenues later. This is not always a bad thing as it earns us some respect in items 1,2,3,4.

If our values are expressed in a Plan, there is a fair chance it will be secure from development. Plans that have been through a whole lot of consultation, collaborative development etc. are hard to change. That works both ways, so get into the process early. "Late" is expensive.

Collaborate early. Go and see your regional council planners. Tell them you want to contribute to

water management. You don't need to be an expert professional, just be passionate and reasonable, fair-minded, and firm.

Ask Whitewater NZ for guidance.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Hugh for this massive effort and commitment.

LAND AND WATER FORUM

Land & Water Forum = 75 days of meetings in Wellington, Taupo, Ngaruawahia and Waiheke Island.

A roadshow of evening meetings in 17 cities, and about a metre high stack of reading.

Was it worth it? Hugh thinks so. "Kayakers can't preserve our most valued waterways on our own. We need to work with conservation-minded people and with those who want to develop water resources for economic gain. The mutual understanding and social interaction over all this face-to-face time is probably the greatest and most lasting benefit from LAWFP".

The Wairarapa Water Use project (WWUP)

Mike Birch reports that the National Government is actively supporting the Wairarapa Water Use project (WWUP; for those interested see <http://www.times-age.co.nz/news/2-5m-boost-for-further-water-study/1655730/> and <http://www.gw.govt.nz/wairarapa-water-use-project/>).

At present, from a white water viewpoint, there is little to concern us as the dams are planned for tributaries of the main rivers (not the main rivers themselves) and not in the Tararua Forest Park. The region's white water is mostly in the main rivers: Waiohine, Waingawa and Ruamahanga Rivers, upstream from any abstraction by the scheme.

The Mokihinui River

Meridian finally withdrew from their project and so the Environment Court hearing planned for September last year was cancelled. We owe a significant debt of gratitude to Tony Ward-Holmes and many others including Hugh Canard, Robin Rutter-Baumann, Graeme Wilson, Bill

Parkes, Dave Kwant; witnesses Andy England, Dave Ritchie, Ken Hughey, Sylvia Allan; and legal counsel Helen Atkins. Many hundreds of hours were put in from the first submissions through to the Consent hearing, making a film showing alternative power schemes in the area that were far more viable and less destructive, organising publicity and visits to the river to raise awareness of its outstanding values, to securing funding and preparing evidence for the Environment Court hearing. DOC are now looking at including this river in Kahurangi National Park.

This is a fitting testament recognizing the values of this river.

Tony Ward-Holmes was also awarded the Canard Cup Canoeist of the Year Award for 2012 by Whitewater NZ for his outstanding contribution to river conservation in recent years, which is very justly deserved.

EVENTS AND RELEASES

Wairoa River Release from McLaren Falls

3, 10, 17, 24 February 2013	10:00 - 16:00
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March 2013	10:00 - 16:00

Piripaua River Release

24 February 2013	09:00 - 15:00
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Tongariro Release (Access 10)

2 February 2013	09:00 - 15:00
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Tongariro Release (Access 14)

3 February 2013	08:00 - 16:00
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Pukaki Release

24 February 2013	10:00 - 16:00
10 March 2013	10:00 - 16:00
19, 26 March 2013	14:30 - 17:30

Buller Fest

1, 2, 3 March 2013	Back on!
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Refer to our website (rivers.org.nz/events/) for the latest release schedules, including flow information.

The Ngaruroro River

After a successful mass descent of the upper and lower Ngaruroro Gorges over Labour Weekend 2012, by kayakers from Whitewater NZ and from canoe clubs from Canterbury to Auckland as well as other rafters and catarafters, a decision was made and Game in their application for this outstanding North Island Catalyst Group, who was also on Johnson, CEO of Fish and Game, application. The river is a very We have evidence from the New (NZCA) 1991 River Use Survey that the Upper River above in the country for scenic beauty for overall importance. The below Kuripapango down to but still show how important canoeing community. There are to jet boaters and local iwi, who hopefully a sound case will be outstanding river recognised and



Doug prepares for an unwanted back surf in Barrier Falls. Photo by Brian Megaw.



Whitewater NZ Patron, Hugh Canard and Ross Whiteman in one of the last of the Grade 3-4 rapids. Photo by Brian Megaw.



Whitewater NZ Conservation Officer, Doug Rankin watches Bryce Johnson, CEO of Fish & Game NZ tackle a nice drop in the Ngaruroro. Photo by Brian Megaw.

Conservation Network

We wish to keep people interested in supporting conservation matters locally, and across the country, in touch with what is happening and with each other, and also keen to help keep Whitewater NZ in touch with local issues, so that we can support you and local clubs when needed.

To this end we would like anyone who is interested in being involved in a network of like-minded souls to register with either of us (Doug Rankin at conservation@rivers.org.nz or Miriam Odlin at niconservation@rivers.org.nz) so that we can facilitate contact and action on local, regional and national issues. Any suggestions as to how this can be most effectively done would also be welcomed, given that we are all bombarded with too much email at times.

I think it's time for a paddle. Thanks to everyone for your help since we have taken over the conservation officer's roles.

How to Build a World Class Play-Wave

Tony Ward-Holmes



Introducing Aidan Craig, Whitewater NZ's new (co-opted) Education Officer. Here he is winding up for a cartwheel, top-wave on the Hawea. Photo by Tony Ward-Holmes.

Building a play-wave seems easy at first thought. You need some water for a start, and some gradient to make that water flow. To shape a wave you need a ramp or a constriction to speed up the water, preferably both. An eddy or two are needed too.. a one-shot wave isn't much use.. and Bob's your uncle, right?

Well, not quite right in many cases. Where does that water come from? Unfortunately rivers with lots of water and gradient are the best rivers for hydro-power, so many of the best river sections are already drowned or de-watered along with some fantastic natural play-waves. Most paddlers weren't even born when that whitewater was taken from them.

Imagine the Waioa flowing EVERY day. Or Rainbow Reach on the Waikato.. a multi-day section of grade 4 big-water, like a dozen Chinese Doglegs, flowing past geyser fields and silica terraces. Along with the Grand Canyon and the Zambezi this was one of the wonders of the kayaking world, but nobody knew that in the 1950s when it was drowned. How good would the Tongariro and the Whakapapas be with year-round natural flows, different every run? The Waitaki rivers.. Tekapo and Pukaki.. scenic, but no big deal - right? Wrong. They're a shadow of their former selves as their biggest boulders were

taken out and used in construction, and the Ohau was better than either of them. As for the lower Waitaki gorges.. they contained rapids that made Nevis Bluff look small. In the Clutha catchment Molyneaux Falls, Golden Falls and other major rapids vanished under Lake Roxburgh in 1956, followed by The Gap, Bannockburn and the mighty Sargood's Weir under Lake Dunstan in 1992.



Hawea bottom wave under construction, top wave 100m behind. Photo by Bryan Moore.

Oops, this is turning into an elegy. So let's move on — to the brand new Hawea play-wave. Designed by Scott Shipley, paid for by Contact Energy, but how did it happen? One key event was in 1972 in Stockholm, where the UN held a conference on Environment and Development. Subsequently, the OECD audited each member country's environmental management, including New Zealand in 1980 for which we received a need-to-improve rating. In response in 1988, the new Labour Government began work on an integrated resource management statute. In 1991 this was then passed by the next, National government. 78 previous statutes and regulations were repealed and numerous others modified in this ground-breaking regulation. The concept of sustainable management underpins the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and includes (amongst many points) providing for people's social, economic and cultural wellbeing; avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment; and maintenance and enhancement of amenity values.

Historically, under earlier legislation than the RMA, some adverse effects had been mitigated, e.g. releases were negotiated on the Waioa, Tekapo and Pukaki. In the case of the Clyde Dam, the Planning Tribunal refused the water permits, so in the spirit of "Think Big" the Government bypassed the laws of New Zealand and passed the Clutha Development (Clyde Dam) Empowering Act 1982 in order to authorise its construction. No mitigation for loss of whitewater recreation was provided. All water permits expire and require renewal under the RMA however. So in the case of Central Otago, in March 2001 Contact Energy applied for consent to continue operating the Hawea, Clyde, and Roxburgh dams, and that's where building the Hawea wave really started.

- Otago Canoe and Kayak Club (OCKC), Whitewater NZ (then known as the NZRCA) & Central Otago Whitewater (COW) opposed the Clutha consents and made submissions at the Otago Regional Council (ORC) hearings between October 2002 and February 2003.
- As seems to happen far too often, the consents were approved with minimal mitigation for kayakers, so Whitewater NZ & COW appealed the ORC decision to the Environment Court.

- Evidence for court was prepared by Maree Baker-Galloway, Mick Hopkinson and Jon Hunt. Contact Energy then entered into a lengthy negotiation process prior to court action. Agreement for a mitigation project on the Hawea was reached in March 2004.
- COW obtained the various resource consents (10) for the Hawea project from ORC and Queenstown lakes district Council, a management agreement with DOC in respect of the car parking area, LINZ consent in respect of the riverbed and an easement agreement with the neighbour for the driveway to the car park. The last of those consents were granted in November 2009.
- Contact Energy obtained a variation of the ORC consent last year extending the construction period enabling the project work to commence on 1 October 2012
- Maree Baker-Galloway, Roy Bailey and Gordy Raynor were the most involved in the original submissions to the ORC and the work leading to the Contact agreement. Gordy's firm Checketts McKay law limited did all of the resource consent work and subsequent agreements enabling the project to commence. During the construction phase Roy Bailey represented COW looking after designer Scott Shipley. Scott was 3x World Cup Slalom Champion, World Freestyle Champs' Silver Medallist and designed the London Olympic slalom course. He and Gordy liaised with Contact Energy regarding the many issues that arose.

So there you go, some ground-breaking legislation, national and local volunteers willing to fight for kayakers even as far as court, strong local community, a sympathetic power company willing to take a chance, reaching out to the best in the world for design, and the result is an amazing community amenity enjoyed not only by kayakers but also boogie boarders, surfers, SUP boarders, swimmers, and families just picnicking by the river. It still isn't a patch on what has been drowned, but along with the Tongariro and Whakapapa releases, it is the most significant mitigation yet achieved by kayakers under the RMA.

A small aside here.. the original RMA legislation was created by successive governments in broad

agreement on the concepts, mostly by Sir Geoff Palmer for Labour and then Simon Upton for National. The current government however is unilaterally planning major amendments to water-down environmental and amenity protections, in the guise of simplifying and streamlining the RMA. In fact the proposals would do the opposite as 20 years of case-law would be out the window, not to mention undermining every regional plan in the country, resulting in legal chaos. The Hawea wave

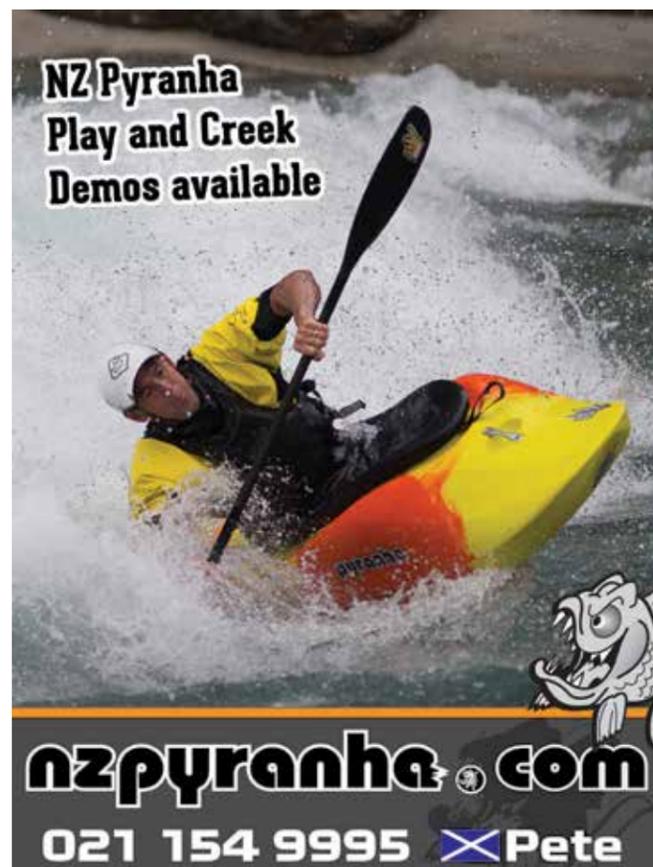
would probably not have been possible under the new proposals. Anyone with an interest in RMA outcomes, and that includes anyone that enjoys the likes of the Hawea play-wave, should keep up with these proposals and consider what they can do to help. This may include support for advocacy organisations like Whitewater NZ or Forest & Bird, writing to their MP, letters to newspapers, and if necessary acting at the voting booth.

Anyway, you may ask, how is the wave? I'd say "Awesome, the best play-wave in the South Island."

In fact there are two, with different height drops to suit different tastes and flows. There is something at any flow even down to 12 cumecs, but optimal flow is from about 40 upwards.

There will be an official opening event on 10 March in conjunction with the National Freestyle Championships, everyone very welcome, keep an eye out for details of what's on.

Check flows out @ ORC: <http://water.orc.govt.nz/WaterInfo/Catchment.aspx?r=UpperClutha>



YOUR HERITAGE, YOUR SAY - Tōu Taonga, Tōu Whakaaro

Conservation Management Strategy – He mahere rautaki hei tiaki te taiao mō ngā tupuranga whakaheke – a strategic plan to care for the environment for generations to come.

A Conservation Management Strategy is a 10 year strategic document that describes how the treasured places, and native plants and animals DOC cares for on your behalf will be managed.

On 5 December 2012, the Department of Conservation invites public submissions on draft Conservation Management Strategies (CMS) for its Northland, Auckland and Waikato conservancies. These will guide the management of the areas DOC manages in these regions for the next 10 years.

This is the first time DOC has released three draft conservation management strategies together. We want the public to see how these strategies fit together to paint a picture about conservation across the upper North Island and New Zealand.

We encourage you to have your say.

Visit DOC and download the submission form for Auckland, Waikato and Northland.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/conservation-management-strategies/make-a-submission-on-a-draft-strategy/>



Date: 02 July 2012

To: Clubs, Schools, Organisations, members of public accessing the Rangitaiki River from the Aniwhenua Hydro Power Station

Subject: Restricted Aniwhenua Power Station access areas

Following a kayaking incident at the Aniwhenua Hydro Power Station, involving two members of the public, we wish to advise you of prohibited access areas to help prevent kayakers from placing themselves at significant risk.

The incident occurred when two kayakers launched from the hydro stations tail-bay and then, as a result of turbulent discharge water from the stations generators, became trapped under the tail-bay. Power station employees assisted in the kayakers' rescue. Fortunately no injury occurred, however the risk to their safety was significant and the incident highlights the danger to kayakers attempting to launch from the tail-bay.

Under the recently government introduced Public Safety legislation for Electricity Generating companies, Bay of Plenty Energy has a legal responsibility to protect members of the public from hazards created by our assets and activities, such as the generator turbine discharge water. Consequently, warning signs and barriers have been erected to warn kayakers/members of the public of this danger and to discourage them from launching from this area.

We ask that you assist in communicating the prohibited launching area and warn club/public members who access Aniwhenua Hydro Power Station for kayaking through your club/organisation, of the associated danger.

Our immediate concern is for the protection of public and Bay of Plenty Energy does not wish to prevent kayakers from accessing the Rangitaiki River in the proximity of the power station and Aniwhenua falls. We have looked at identifying engineering solutions to assist with launching; unfortunately this is proving difficult as any structure erected will be damaged by logs/debris that descends the river during flooding.

Several launching methods have been adopted by river users. One successful method observed that keeps kayakers away from the turbulent waters of the tail-bay was to place matting over the rocks to the side off the tail-bay, facilitating a safer slide entry. Please assess this or alternative launching methods prior to arriving at the site.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours Sincerely,

Tristan Maunsell
Generation Manager
Bay of Plenty Energy

David Bradley
Manager, Health, Safety and Community
Todd Energy



Preferred launching area for kayakers. A launching aid is recommended.

It is prohibited for kayakers to access and launch from the tail-bay.

WHITEWATER NZ

Our purpose is to preserve New Zealand's White Water resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

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E-mail: whitewaternz@rivers.org.nz
Website: www.rivers.org.nz/membership

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Donation \$.00
Additional support for our work in Conservation, Access, Safety and Education is gratefully appreciated.
Total \$.00
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