



# Annual Report

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## The NZRCA Annual General Meeting

The New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of August in Wellington.

**Date:** Saturday 4th Aug 2001  
**Time:** 10.00 am - 4.00 pm  
**Place:** Wellington  
**Venue:** To be advised

Members are invited to eat at a local restaurant in the evening. If you are interested in dining, please contact either:

Polly, e-mail: [communications@rivers.org.nz](mailto:communications@rivers.org.nz) or Ph: 04 3899-177  
Sarah, e-mail: [vice-president@rivers.org.nz](mailto:vice-president@rivers.org.nz) or Ph: 04 971-4118

## AGM Agenda

- Minutes of last AGM (5th Aug 2000)
- Matters arising from these minutes
- Financial report and balance sheet
- Executive reports
- Election of Patron and Officers
- Notified motions and remits
- General Business
- NZRCA nomination for NZCF 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 sent to members on **1 October 2001**. The closing date for material for the Spring edition is **5 August 2001**.

Please send your stories, photos and ads to Polly Miller ph: 04 3899-177 e-mail: [communications@rivers.org.nz](mailto:communications@rivers.org.nz) or post to NZRCA, PO Box 284, Wellington.

## AGM Business

### Remits

As previously advised to members in *NZ Canoeing*, remits (proposals to amend the Constitution) can be submitted no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> to the Executive Officer, PO Box 284, Wellington.

### Nominations for the Exec

As advised in *NZ Canoeing*, nominations must be submitted in writing with the signed acceptance of the nominee, and be received no later than 16 July 2001. At present most members of the Executive are available for their current positions.

### NZRCA Canoeist of the Year

The NZRCA nomination for the NZCF Canoeist of the Year will be awarded 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 PO Box 284, Wellington.

### Accommodation

The NZRCA may be able to help find accommodation for those paddlers coming to the AGM from out of town. Please contact Polly on ph: 04 3899-177

The NZRCA would particularly like to thank **Earth Touch Adventures (Christchurch)** and **Wilderness Adventures (Taupo)** for their continued support of *NZ Canoeing*. If you need some kayak instruction, or have a guided trip in mind, give them a call.

# Annual Report to Members

*Robin Rutter-Baumann, NZRCA President*

Reflecting on the 2000/2001 year, it seems that it has been one of consolidation. At the end of 1999/2000 despite many successes we were looking at a rather unhealthy balance sheet, we had dwindling membership numbers, and had our greatest number of drownings ever in a season. We said at the AGM we would work to address these areas and I believe we have. Working between 4-6 hours a week each the ten members of the Executive team have devoted over 2500 hours of volunteer time ensuring whitewater kayaking is enjoyable, safe, accessible, and viable for years to come.

This amount of work requires the support of their partners, friends, workplaces, and I thank them all for aiding us in our work. Thanks also to the members who gave feedback, made submissions, raised issues and offered assistance – it's great to know that such commitment and enthusiasm is out there as sometimes it can seem like a lost cause without getting feedback from around the country. So, was it all worth it? What were the results?

## Conservation and Access

Although the NZRCA represents all kayakers on conservation and access issues the number of kayakers making their own submissions appears to be increasing. This is great, not only does it give our voice more volume it also helps convey the depth of feeling about the threat proposed to our whitewater resources.

Imagine, if you will, the people on conservation boards or councils who have to consider a proposal that could negatively affect kayaking. Faced with only a submission from the NZRCA they could possibly be forgiven for thinking that the views expressed are from a bunch of "greenie do-gooders" with nothing better to do than interfere in the workings of the Resource Management Act. Then imagine the same group facing the same NZRCA submission, along with six submissions from kayak clubs in the region, and 30 submissions from kayakers who are also builders, teachers, engineers, fathers, mothers, and even accountants. Now this same group of people sit up and take notice; these submissions are not just from a bunch of "leftie-greenies" but people they can identify with. It is surprising what can be achieved if one gets off one's bum and does something.

This year the NZRCA has spoken out on:

- Preprogrammed recreational releases and flows on the rivers of the Central Plateau (Tongariro Power Scheme)
- Obtaining a compensatory release for the Mangahao river
- Objecting to the damming of the Hurunui River
- Objecting to commercial jet boating and huge earthworks on the Kawarau River
- Maintaining helicopter access to the Karamea River and other rivers in the Kahurangi National Park.
- Objecting to further hydro exploitation on the Arnold River
- Supporting a National Water Conservation order for the Rangitata River
- Limiting irrigation extraction from the Rangitata River
- Improving the controlled flow regime of the Waikato River power schemes (i.e., Ngawaaparua)
- Progressing Buller National Water Conservation Order to its gazettal
- Developing the Tekapo rodeo and slalom facility
- Restoring access to the Karangarua River

And what did we achieve? The release on the Mangahao went ahead, the threats to the Kawarau are on hold, the final wording of the Buller NWCO has been checked by NZRCA, and promoters of all the other threats have been put on notice that kayakers are determined to have their rights upheld. In addition, Sarah and Maree spoke for kayakers in front of the Parliamentary Select Committee considering amendments to the Resource Management Act, and the Tekapo facility is due to open in the new season.

Much of the above falls within the Conservation portfolio, and is a lot of work for one person to manage. The NZRCA therefore seeks two people to assist the Conservation Officer in providing support to kayakers making their own submissions and to ensure that the NZRCA has structures in place to effectively monitor and speak out on issues in both islands. Please contact Maree Baker (Ph 06 343 8800) if you would like to be either the North or South Island Conservation Coordinator, or contribute in some other way

## Safety and Education

The Safety and Education portfolios were combined at the last AGM and this has streamlined much of what happens in this area. There were no deaths this year, however the increase in reported incidents and the down turn in kayakers taking up the NZRCA subsidy on safety courses gives us cause to be concerned about the future. We are seeking additional funding to promote these courses and an increase in the level of subsidy.

Following the release of unsubstantial Maritime Safety Authority reports into last summer's drownings we have strengthened links with the MSA and obtained an agreement to ensure the use of expert kayakers to assist future MSA investigations.

## Newsletter and Website

The NZRCA is committed to keeping members up to date with developments and in helping members share their experiences with others. *NZ Canoeing* has continued to be our prime method of communicating to members. The number of contributors is increasing and response from readers is good. We have worked hard to reduce the cost of this without compromising quality, as this is our single biggest item of expenditure each year.

The continued support of Earth Touch Adventures and the Wilderness Adventures through placing continuing advertisements in the newsletter has been of great assistance. I ask all members to support all the advertisers in *NZ Canoeing* as they are supporting saving your rivers.

The website is increasingly popular with the "buy/sell/swap" page attracting lots of traffic. We hope in the next year to use the site to build the sense of community amongst kayakers with the addition of discussion forums and the promotion of regional mailing lists.

## Members

We have had a marginal increase in total membership numbers and the affiliation of three more clubs, which is great considering that last year we had a 20% drop. The proposed stakeholders meetings to investigate the blocks to membership and develop NZRCA strategy are in the planning stage.

Despite a membership drive, offers of free T-shirts and the direct mailout of posters and membership forms to over 100 kayaking businesses nation-wide the biggest challenge faced by the NZRCA is how to increase membership numbers. This directly links to our ability to be an effective, credible lobby group for all paddlers.

Though it seems like most clubs are having a down turn in numbers

we are concerned about those clubs who are choosing to declare less than their full membership. If these clubs believe that the NZRCA does not warrant their full support then I ask that they contact us to tell us why so we can endeavour to rectify things.

If you would like to assist in increasing membership perhaps the most effective thing you can do is be proud of your status as a member, tell others you are supporting the NZRCA, let them know what we are doing to keep rivers flowing, then give them your copy of the newsletter and drop us a line if you'd like a replacement.

## Money

Despite our coming out ahead financially this year, the NZRCA's outlook longer term is far from assured. Following the last AGM we firmed up procedures to cut our expenditure with particular success slashing the cost of telephone meetings. We have not had to fight any costly conservation battles this financial year but, as noted earlier, these are "on hold" rather than "sorted". Should we be required to make in-person submissions, attend hearings and so on, then it will drain our savings, as we cannot expect to meet the costs of professionals from current cash flow.

Financial viability goes hand in hand with membership when it comes to saving rivers, so obtaining funds has become a priority and will continue to be so for at least the next year. Members' subscriptions, donations, the administration grant from the Hillary Commission (delivered to us via the New Zealand Canoeing Federation) and advertisers in *NZ Canoeing* are our only sources of income at present. We are investigating methods of securing grants and the establishment of a Rivers Charitable Trust as ways to help assist our situation. Creation of a Trust focused on river conservation may encourage more donations as well as better support applications for funding from other sources. In the meantime thank you for those donations received from our supporters. Every dollar counts

## Farewells & Thank You's

This year we lost our financial wizz Fiona MacKay and our membership maniac Chris Sinclair to work in Sydney and London respectively. Their time and expertise was a great contribution to the work of the NZRCA and their support greatly appreciated.

Alan Bell of Lower Hutt has been appointed as Membership Officer and Lynne Fuggle of Christchurch has moved into the Treasurer role. As Lynne was the Administration Officer, another vacancy was created which we are in the process of filling; in the meantime Lynne wears both hats. Thanks Lynne for all your dedication, efficiency and enthusiasm.

Thanks also to Perception NZ for promoting the NZRCA in their Owner's Handbook and including a NZRCA membership form with every new kayak.

Lastly thanks to all the paddling people out there who make this a sport worth fighting for. Thanks to all the people who encourage new participants, push the limits, have fun, and share their passion with others – without you none of what we do would make a difference.

Share the passion – Save the rivers!

Robin Rutter-Baumann

# Financial Report

Fiona Mackay, our recently departed Treasurer, sent us the final balance sheet for the 2000-2001 year from Sydney while racing around factories making chicken nuggets...

The NZRCA made money for the first time in at least three years. This is due to the work by the Executive to cut costs, and as Robin mentioned, we didn't fight any conservation battles this year. Membership subscriptions, sales of the *Whanganui River Guide* and advertising in *NZ Canoeing* all increased slightly. The Hillary Commission funding was the biggest contributor to our healthy balance sheet, but even if you exclude this, the NZRCA broke even for the 2000-2001 year.

The key points to note in the financial report are:

- Publications (including the production of *NZ Canoeing* the *Whanganui River Guide*) costs are substantially down. Many thanks to Polly, who has managed to produce a high quality newsletter for less than half the cost of previous years, and to the Oamaru Mail, who print *NZ Canoeing*.
- Administration costs are only slightly down. This may be due to the fact that some costs from other portfolios such as newsletter distribution and materials for publicity have been included in the Administration portfolio. This was probably because Lynne (our new Treasurer) did these jobs – many thanks Lynne.

## New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association

### Balance Sheet

As At 31st March 2001

Year ended  
31st March 2001

Year ended  
31st March 2000

#### Current Assets

ANZ Cheque Account	\$ 11,381	\$ 4,925
BNZ Finance Account	\$ 14,271	\$ 13,579
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,620	\$ 1,896
Interest Accrued	\$ -	\$ -
GST Account	\$ (295)	\$ (530)

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**\$ 26,978**

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**\$ 19,870**

#### Less: Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -
Grants Received in Advance	\$ 7,703	\$ 5,410

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**\$ 7,703**

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**\$ 5,410**

#### Net Current Assets

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**\$ 19,275**

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**\$ 14,460**

#### Fixed Assets

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**\$ 374**

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**\$ 494**

#### Net Assets

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**\$ 19,650**

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**\$ 14,954**

#### Retained Earnings

Opening Balance 1 April 1998	\$ 14,954	\$ 33,145
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 4,696	\$ (18,191)

#### Closing Balance 31 March 1999

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**\$ 19,650**

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**\$ 14,954**

# The NZRCA in Cyberspace

*Jonathan Hunt, NZRCA Webmaster*

## Current features

If you haven't visited the NZRCA site at <http://www.rivers.org.nz>, you may not be aware of the range of information available. The main page provides news of interest to whitewater kayakers, and a link to the popular (and free) Buy, Sell & Swap forum where kayakers trade in kayaks and equipment. There's information on the current NZRCA Executive and Constitution.

There over fifty articles relating to the NZRCA portfolios of Conservation, Access, Safety and Education, including submissions on various resource consents, accounts of epic trips and rescues, river rescue course syllabi and course providers. NZRCA membership forms and a list of recreational canoeing clubs in New Zealand are online.

The site also offers order forms for New Zealand Whitewater (by Graham Charles) and Guide to the Whanganui River. (NZRCA members can purchase these guidebooks at a discounted rate), along with tables of contents and errata. The Whitewater Gallery features some awesome whitewater images from New Zealand's rivers.

There's also a search facility and sitemap for finding your way around, and a growing set of links to other kayaking or outdoors websites in New Zealand and around the globe.

The most recent content added to the site includes four trip reports on the Karamea, an article on public liability and clubs, a Tekapo article with images, the NZRCA response to the DoC survey re Kahurangi National Park, and the NZRCA's submissions regarding jetboats through Smith's Falls, Rangitata Diversion Race and Rangitata National Wwater Conservation Order

## Who uses it?

As expected the majority of users are from New Zealand, though the site is visited by 'surfers' from Australia, USA, UK, Sweden, Canada and many other countries. Approximately 30% of visitors arrive at the site from bookmarks or typing in the URL directly (ie. from newsletter, word-of-mouth, etc) and the rest from search engines or other sites. Usage has increased dramatically over recent months.

## Future plans

As with any volunteer endeavour, progress on new initiatives is always constrained by the lack of 'spare' time to make things happen. There has been steady development of an extensive database of river information and related bibliographic information (for example, articles, submissions, images, newsletters and books) that will be launched later this year. A move to a new hosting service is likely, and the opportunity for a complete site re-design will lead to a more dynamic and interactive site where kayakers can 'meet' to discuss their sport.

The site is increasingly popular, but we are always keen for new ideas and new content. If you have some stories to tell, email [webmaster@rivers.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@rivers.org.nz). If you have graphic design skills or can code PHP there's also plenty to do!

# Releases

All flow dates are on the NZRCA website – see [www.rivers.org.nz](http://www.rivers.org.nz)

## Mangahao

Two 30 cumec, 7 hour releases a year from the No.2 dam in the natural riverbed. One release is in spring (usually the last Saturday in October) and one release in Autumn (usually the first Saturday after 15th March). This year there was two releases in Autumn (the second in mid April) as compensation for a cancelled release last year.

Releases of about 12 cumecs for 8 hours through the slalom course for a four day championship event, two 2 day national events and six local events each year.

## Pukaki

Our consent allows for two 4 hour days at 140 cumecs on the Pukaki river below the Pukaki dam between November and March. By negotiation with the parties involved we have usually taken this water all in one day to provide flows of up to 250 cumecs about the middle weekend in February.

## Tekapo

Our consent allows for eighteen 6 hour days of between 65 and 40 cumecs on the Tekapo river below the Tekapo dam between Labour weekend and January. By negotiation with the parties involved we have usually taken one of these days in February to coincide with the Pukaki.

## Wairoa

26 days of flow each year. The dates are organised by the Kaimai Canoe Club – see the NZRCA website for a list of flows for the 2001-2002 season.

**More flow information on the back page.**

# New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association Inc.

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

PO Box 284 Wellington • Ph/Fax: 03 384 9301 • nzrca@rivers.org.nz • www.rivers.org.nz

## **Waikaretaheke**

There will be releases on the Waikaretaheke river (flows out from Waikaremoana) this year for the first time (trial releases were held last year). Note: No flow releases means there is no flow due to course maintenance being carried out by Hawkes bay Canoe Club. Whakamarino releases are the grade 3/4 upper section and Piripaua releases are the lower section (includes the slalom course).

September 2001	Piripaua Release	Sept 1st - no flow (maintenance) 9am-3pm Sept 2nd - 34cumecs 9am-3pm
October	Whakamarino Release Piripaua Release	Oct 20th & 21st, 9am-3pm - 20 cumecs Oct 20th & 21st, 10am-4pm - 12 cumecs (The slalom course will be running at between 34 – 40+ cumecs dependant on inflows)
November 2001	Piripaua Release	Nov 4th - 28cumecs 9am-3pm
December 2001	Piripaua Generation	Dec 1st - 28 cumecs, 9am-3pm Dec 2nd - 34 cumecs, 9am-3pm