

NZOIA Quarterly

Number 29

Newsletter of the New Zealand Outdoor Instructors' Association

June 2004

2004 NZOIA AGM

**Saturday 11th September
CHRISTCHURCH**

in conjunction with the

Outdoors New Zealand AGM & Forum

Friday 10th & Saturday 11th September.

The programme for the weekend is currently being planned, however at this stage, indications are that the programme will include the NZOIA AGM at 4pm on Saturday afternoon, a dinner on Saturday night and a "**NZOIA Training Day**" on Sunday 12th. Full details will be issued to all members with the formal AGM notice.

The theme of the ONZ Forum is:

SucceSSeS in the Outdoors

with Structure, Strategy, Standards
and Surprise

being the topics for the key presentations.

If you are interested in making a presentation on one of these topics, please contact Mike Sim at ONZ via email: mike@outdoorsnz.org.nz

The ONZ forum will commence at 10am on the Friday morning and run until 5pm. Saturdays programme will run from 9.30am until 3pm, with the ONZ AGM set for 3pm.

Attendance at the daytime forum sessions is free, but for seating / catering purposes **PLEASE** advise Anne at ONZ - 04 385 7287; email - anne@outdoorsnz.org.nz, if you wish to attend on Friday and/or Saturday.

There is also the **ONZ Industry Dinner and Awards Presentation** on the Saturday night (7pm) for which there is a charge of \$35.

Nomination forms for the various ONZ Awards, including the NZOIA Emerging Instructor Award may be obtained from: anne@outdoorsnz.org.nz

2004 TALL TOTARA AWARD

Nominations are requested from the membership for this year's Tall Totara Award. This award is presented at the AGM to a member who best fulfils the aims and objectives of our association, recognising the outstanding quality of their instruction and their contribution to the development of outdoor education.

Last year Jo Straker was presented with the Tall Totara Award, and previous award holders have included Mick Hopkinson, Don Paterson, John Davidson, Ray Button, Hazel Nash, John Skilton, Lyndsay Simpkin and Bev Smith.

Please send your nomination in by 31st August with supporting evidence to: Steve Scott, NZOIA Administration Officer - email: ao@nzويا.org.nz

NZOIA Annual Subscriptions

Yes, your annual subscription is now due and your invoice is included with this issue of the Quarterly. You can pay by cheque, or ONLINE via the NZOIA website:- www.nzويا.org.nz

AND please don't forget there is a 10% discount for payment by 31 August.

NZOIA
New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association

The NZOIA Quarterly

Number 29

June 2004

ISSN 1175-2068

Publication:

The *NZOIA Quarterly* is published four times a year by:

New Zealand Outdoor Instructors' Association Inc.
PO Box 11090, Manners Street
Wellington 6034, New Zealand.

Contributions:

The *NZOIA Quarterly* welcomes articles, letters, news and bits and pieces from all readers. All submissions may be edited. Opinions expressed in the *NZOIA Quarterly* are those of the writers and may not necessarily reflect those of the NZOIA Executive or the editorial team.

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Subscriptions:

The *NZOIA Quarterly* is distributed free to members of NZOIA.

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www.safeoutside.org

From the Presidents Wine Glass



Well then, lets talk about vintages. You might say that the vintage I came from was committed to giving time and personal commitment to voluntary service. In recent times we have seen a decline in this attribute due to many contributing factors such as the demise of the working week, pressure for both partners to work, pressure to do personal trips to stay current, pressure of this and that. NZOIA exists on the good will of members putting up their hands to contribute on a voluntary basis and for what reward?

Well, for me it's the pleasure of seeing the organization grow and develop. To be part of developing closer relationships with other outdoor organizations, to see projects mature, and to meet lots of great people in our industry.

I've been around the industry for a while now, through from the time I taught outdoor education at two secondary schools in South Auckland, to my time as a Programme Manager with NZ Mountain Safety, then as an independent contractor working in a variety of roles. I seem to have been on many committees (EONZ in its infancy, ONZ as a board member, and on and off the NZOIA committee for many years).

So it may not come as a surprise to many that its time for this vintage to kick back and have a rest! To this end, I'm looking for someone to take over my role as President, and I suspect we will need some new Executive Committee members as well – hence my occasional pleas for interested people to contact us. You don't have to be a whiz kid to be on the Exec, just have the desire to contribute, work towards achieving our strategic goals, and be committed. We all started somehow in this way.

So come on, come forward, contact us and be part of this great organization!!!!!! Enough on that!

In a couple of weeks I'm off to Italy to firstly compete in the World Masters Orienteering Champs. At last glance there were 218 people entered in my age grade alone – yikes, looks like there will be lots of competition. Then its off to the Dolomites to explore the mountains, and then down to Tuscany (no surprises here) to inspect the Italian vintages. It will be great to come back refreshed and revitalized to prepare for the Industry Forum in Christchurch, and NZOIA AGM.

So, the committee looks forward to hearing from a few of you in the meantime.

Cheers

Jill Dalton

NZOIA Members.....

Does your business have a website? and does it have a link from the NZOIA website?

Contact the Administration Officer for details - email: ao@nzoi.org.nz

Member Contact Details ~ Instructor Search ~

Within the "member contact details" of the NZOIA database, there is the ability for you to enter your website address, which will then show as part of the information provided with the "Instructor Search" contact information.

Current NZOIA members may access this via the "Members Only" section of the NZOIA website.

NZOIA NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE & ELSEWHERE

🏔️ At a recent committee meeting we decided to produce two display stands (which have in fact been donated to us by Jim Hepburn), so all we have to do is the artwork. We are looking for some photo contributions from members on a range of subjects to reflect the range of awards and nature of our organization. If you think you might have some exciting shots, please contact Jim.

🏔️ Our dealings with SKOANZ on the joint Sea Kayaking awards are nearly complete. It looks as if there will be the Level 1 Guides Assessment, with a one day Instructional add on option, plus a Level 2 Sea Kayaking Award. We are currently working out the administration details.

🏔️ Stu Allen of Christchurch has been reviewing our assessment programme, structure and methodology and presented some initial findings at our recent Assessor Weekend. You will have seen an email from Stu inviting member input/feedback, so here is your chance to help us improve our assessments. Please make sure you take this opportunity to have your say.

🏔️ Due to a large number of enquiries for training in rock and kayak, we will be offering some training courses again this year. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for Rock Training). We will soon have some dates for Kayak training available. A reminder also that any current Level 2 award holder is encouraged to offer training for people aspiring to sit NZOIA Level 1 awards, or for those who want to be upskilled. If you have a training course planned, let us know and we will advertise it for you.

Continued on page 4 

NZOIA NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE & ELSEWHERE

🏔️ Plans are underway for this year's AGM and ONZ Industry Forum in Christchurch (see elsewhere in this newsletter for details). We look forward to seeing you there. Remember the Forum is free.

🏔️ Ian Nicholson, NZMSC, attended our Executive committee meeting which was held this time at Outward Bound School, Anakiwa. The two organizations are looking at ways of working together on areas of common interest that we can identify.

🏔️ The annual Assessor Conference was held in Christchurch recently. It is a requirement that all assessors attend this workshop (at least biannually) in order to remain current and as part of our moderation process. The Rock assessors went up to Rapaki to discuss rocky things, and the Kayakers got together to revise the Kayak 1 & 2 syllabus, and move towards developing a Multisport Kayak Instruction Award.

🏔️ Jenni Pethig and Tricia Pooley from SFRITO held a session on developments within their organisation, including the new Minimum Instructor Requirements for unit standard assessment.

🏔️ Due to popular demand we are going to do another run of Beanies, but with a smaller logo (!). We will also have Thermal Mugs for sale via the website.

🏔️ Our lease on the office space has expired and we have been investigating options for either shifting or staying put. Mike Sim of ONZ has done plenty of good work in searching for suitable office space, which maybe shared with other national organizations.

Contributions to the NZOIA Quarterly ~

The *NZOIA Quarterly* welcomes articles, photos, letters, news, details of coming events and bits and pieces from all readers. Submissions may be edited.

Please forward all items to:
Administration Officer PO Box 11-325
Manners St Wellington
or by email to: ao@nzoi.org.nz

International Instructing Opportunities with NOLS

NOLS is the National Outdoor Leadership School of the United States. We are a not-for-profit school that teaches wilderness expeditioning and outdoor pursuit skills along with risk management, leadership, environmental studies and ethics. The NOLS mission is to be the leading source of wilderness education in the US. Students who take NOLS courses receive university credit through the University of Utah. NOLS has 11 branches worldwide including a new branch in NZ – so we are looking for Kiwi instructors!

There are around 600 field instructors working for NOLS worldwide. NOLS instructors normally work in teams of 2-3. As an instructor you are responsible for co-teaching between 10 and 18 students in remote areas for periods of 14 to 80 days. The work locations range from deserts to icefields to temperate rainforest, mountains, rivers and coastlines.

If you have the following; a background of wilderness missions of over one week in duration, teaching or instructional experience, excellent skills in either off-the-track tramping, mountaineering, climbing, whitewater, seakayaking, sailing or backcountry skiing and most importantly excellent communication skills – we are interested in talking to you.

You need to be prepared to work in the US and other international locations along with NZ and to spend multiple months in remote areas with little outside contact.



NZOIA, NZMSC, SKOANZ, NZRA, NZMGA or other outdoor qualifications are a definite plus.

The NOLS induction process happens in the US in the form of a one month long instructors course. Once you are qualified as a NOLS instructor your schedule can be very flexible. You can shape your work to fit in with the ski season or work with other companies for example. Because of the flexibility, in-house training and diversity of NOLS work our staff retention is very high.

Applications for the next round of instructors courses are due by Christmas 2004.

For further information, please contact Rob MacLean (NZ Programme Supervisor) and David Summers (NZ Branch Director) at: new_zealand@nols.edu.

Further information about NOLS and becoming a NOLS instructor can be found on our website at: www.nols.edu.

Congratulations ~

to the following members who recently gained NZOIA Awards

Bush 1

Bridget Janse
Guy Johnstone
Jan Kirkpatrick
Pieke Mestrom
Ruth Odlin
Nigel Sandri
Craig Smith
Simon Tuck
Andrew White

Rock 1

Darren Ashmore
Sara Baird
Tracey Bean
Jeanne Cocks
Renae Dixon
Khan Francis-Smith
Sam Hayden
Martin Hess
Guy Johnstone
Christina McGrath
Pieke Mestrom
Tony More
Gemma Parkin
Mike Philpott
Adam Reece
Scott Sambell
Megan Smith
Darrin Worsfold
Meredith Young

Canoe

Paul Chaplow
Mark Johns
David Mangnall
Darren Rooney

Kayak 1

Michael Abbott
Jessica Brown
Jeanne Cocks
Kristen Cooley
David Goldsworthy
Bruce Inwards
Andre Robichaud
Toby Wild
Chris Wynn
Robert Wynn

Letter to the Editor (see also page 8)

Dear Editor

What an excellent article from Mark Jones in the NZOIA Quarterly - "**Anchor Sling Breaks, Climber Plummets..**" Great to read some analysis behind gear failure rather than pontification from the hip!

I felt, however, the conclusion and / or recommendations could have been stronger. From my read of the analysis there are two issues which arise from the sling failure:

A) Fat people shouldn't go climbing

B) Where there is the possibility of slack working its way into the rope – a static rope (which presumably includes the essentially static sport ropes) should not be used.

The key figure from Mark's analysis is the stretch distance of the rope. Jonesy estimates that after the climber had fallen 4M the rope must have stretched about 0.43m before the fall was arrested. It is this figure that highlights the important difference between static and dynamic ropes. An increase in the stretch distance of only 5% (i.e. about 2.2cm) would have resulted in a fall force within the breaking strain of the sling (i.e. 11.5kN) – the sling wouldn't have broken.

I appreciate that Jonesy's figures are estimates and a number of factors haven't been worked into the formula – but the recommendation for Outdoor Centres, Outdoor Educators, Scout groups, school groups anyone that takes people climbing is important: when there is the possibility of slack being generated in the climbing rope, static ropes should not be used. In Jonesy's case study the climber fell 4M – which is a long way; however, (i) with first time belayers, (ii) a long climb and (iii) an inattentive instructor (or the instructor simply can't see what's going on), then the potential for a long top rope fall is not impossible to imagine.

The white static Hawsler laid ropes were once a common feature in many outdoor centres' climbing programmes. Being relatively inexpensive some people may have continued to use them. Jonesy's article, however, provides great food for thought and the numbers to suggest that these and other static ropes should be quietly retired from top roping use.

Regards

Marcus Waters

Marcus Waters is a NZOIA Member and Assessor, with numerous NZOIA Awards.
- Ed.

Rock Instructor Training - August 2004

Covering - running a fun, safe and effective rock climbing day with students. Building solid, simple placed pro anchor systems. Constructing and running an efficient commercial/experiential abseil site. Toprope and abseil rescues. An appraisal/self appraisal of where you're at and what you need to work on.

You need: - a rope, a rack, personal climbing gear inc. helmet.

Locations:

Long Beach – Dunedin - 19th August 2004
Castle Rock - Christchurch - 21st August 2004

Maximum number - 8 persons (min. 3)
\$100 per person (\$50 deposit paid 1 month in advance - refunded if cancelled).

Registration, including deposit cheque and contact details (full name, address phone numbers and email address) to:

Lizzard Climbing, 669 Gloucester Street, Christchurch

Trading a Lab Coat and Books for an Apron and a pair of Skis

with *Richard Dunn*

(NZOIA Award holder & member of the NZOIA Executive)

Last year my partner and I were fortunate enough to receive leave from our schools and spent the first half of the year fulfilling a dream and living the lifestyle of seasonaires in a French ski resort.

Leaving New Zealand in the warmth of late December temperatures, 40 hours of travel placed us in the heart of the French Alps. A job was soon secured that involved cooking, cleaning and driving guests for an upmarket ski company.

I cooked full English breakfasts, squeezed numerous jugs of fresh orange juice by hand, baked cakes, biscuits and muffins. In the evening I was cooking multi-course meals of local Savoyard flavour. Cleaning chalets, chopping firewood, driving (on the other side of the road) and shovelling fresh snow were all part of the job too.

Our job meant that we were free by midday and didn't need to be back in the chalet until after the lifts closed. Just enough time for a hard afternoon of skiing. As I finish scrubbing the last pot from breakfast, I gaze out the kitchen window – a panorama of 3 000 + metre peaks covered in fresh powder surround me. I ascertain which areas haven't opened yet from the vantage point of the chalet, as Ski Patrol are still doing avalanche control from last night's dump. Just time to fill a fresh bagette with some French cheese and any other delicacies from the fridge, ready to eat on the chairlift.

Although not getting paid a lot, it is the overall package that is attractive. Free food and accommodation, ski gear and a season pass to the largest ski resort in Europe. Six days on, one off.



Dale At Meribel Sign

After 20 minutes of riding chairs and telecabins, I arrive at the top of a favourite area just as Ski Patrol open the run. Perfect timing. I drop over the lip of the black piste "Face" into knee deep powder. As I carve the first tracks down the slope with a friend, a bow wave of powder engulfs my pounding thighs.

The resort comprising three large valleys and 600 km of piste is so big that it takes the whole season's day's off plus the afternoon runs, to ski all of the pistes. Some days it would take an hour and a half of skiing just to get to a new area for the day!

Just time for one last ski down the favourite home run and then back to the chalet for evening meal preparations. Canapes are prepared and the champagne bottle popped. Starter, main, dessert, cheeseboard and petit fours follow.

Dirty dishes are filed in the chef's 'best mate' dishwasher, pots are cleaned by hand and the kitchen scrubbed down and lights turned out for the day.

This is just one day in the life of a seasonaire working in a ski resort.



Mitch & Rob On Telemarks



Dale Above Glacier

Sanitising Our Wild Places

I'm following with fascination the corollary to the two drowning tragedies at the Rock A-B rapid that have happened on the Rangitaiki River in recent years. The MSA, after conducting an investigation into the drownings, has advised Environment Bay of Plenty that preventative action must be taken. It made recommendations that river users be informed about the danger, and, if possible that the hazard be eliminated, (the hazard being the underwater gap between two rocks which trapped and drowned the two rafters). EBOP has interpreted the latter recommendation as moving the van-sized rock and is seeking support for a digger to change the hydrology of the rapid.

The proposal involves a thirty tonne excavator smashing its way to the site through native bush, building itself a platform out into the river from the surrounding terrain and shifting the rock in question out of the main flow of the current. Apart from the obvious environmental destruction that will be wrought by this intervention there are legal and philosophical implications that make this a dangerous precedent for our recreation lands.

Rock A is a nasty trap for the unwary, no doubt about it - a double killer. But I question EBOP having any legal or even moral obligation to manage this hazard, or others on undeveloped wild land, on behalf of outdoor adventure seekers.

Rock A is one of many rocks on the Rangitaiki that have the potential to trap and drown. The very next rock downstream, Rock B is also a sieve with the same potential. And if the next rapid, "Jeff's Joy" is paddled unchecked and contains a tree strainer, this would almost certainly end in a fatality. There are countless submerged logs down-stream of here that could catch a swimmers life jacket and hold them beneath the water such that they would drown. All are hazards that are part of paddling down a wild river. This is what the Rangitaiki is, a wild river, untamed and unmanaged, not one hundred percent safe to paddle. There is no problem here - this is the case for every river in NZ. The Rangitaiki River is not a man-made concrete channel provided by EBOP for public recreation, it is a piece of nature with inherent hazards and dangers.

White water rafting and kayaking are adventure activities and the hazards and dangers are part of the attraction for those that undertake them. It is the public's right to choose the level of risk they wish to be exposed to - this is not something for bureaucrats in distant offices to determine. Rock A is a problem for the recreational paddlers and rafting companies to deal with. Both can make an informed choice about paddling this rapid or not. A convenient portage track exists on river left for those wishing to avoid it. Reducing the grade of this rapid, which will happen if Rock A is moved out of the main river flow, is a poorly considered response - a tragedy for the Rangitaiki and for adventure.

The MSA's recommendations are not impractical or hare-brained. Signage to inform naive river users of this hazard and it's potential is a good idea. If possible, blocking up the hole in a lowered flow is a sensible response. The landscape has always been altered to mitigate hazards. However, when government agencies, and other land managers, extend this intervention to destroying the very recreation resource and removing the challenge on our behalf, where does it end? Will Rock B be next? Will Marlborough Council remove the boulder that resulted in the double drowning tragedy on the Clarence River?

Will more deaths on Cook result in via ferrata cables to mitigate the hazard of falling? It must not begin for it can have no end.

EBOP, in bold print on their request for consent, state *"EBOP also have the option to close this section of river completely to all river users due to the current high risk to public safety and their legal obligation to local council to manage this known hazard."* This threat of closure is a disturbing interpretation of EBOP's duty and jurisdiction. Will similar authorities close rivers and mountains and anywhere else that claim lives and are deemed a risk to public safety. No one is made to undertake adventurous activities. When they do so voluntarily, by implication, people accept the inherent risks. When officials assume risks on our behalf in these places there begins a serious erosion of the personal responsibility that has always been esteemed by outdoor recreationalists. It's esteemed because looking out for ourselves is the thing most likely to keep us out of trouble.

I'm unsure under which legislation EBOP believes they have a legal obligation to manage wild lands under their charge? Whatever the stick being wielded, surely it is a departure from the intent of the law as it opens a can of worms; in accepting responsibility for Rock A, does EBOP then also acknowledge its responsibility for every other rock that poses a danger on the river, and for every tree that falls into the river creating a hazard.

Our recreational wildlands are the last preserve of personal accountability - a place where we gauge the risks and wager as we will, accepting the consequences of our actions or inactions. We should fight to preserve this as a right, not a privilege that can be taken away by bureaucrats. Hand in hand with that right to adventure is the responsibility to avoid recklessness and to respond proactively to tragedy. If we don't do this, people who have little understanding of outdoor values or for the ideals of adventure, will continue to make these decisions on our behalf. The decisions, like this one will make little sense to recreationalists. For bureaucracy understands neither the beating heart of the wilds, nor enchantment with adventure. It understands the lowest common denominator, the refuge of closure, and artless blanket-rulings.

EBOP claims to be the caretaker of our natural resources for present and future generations, but its wrecking-ball response belies its mission: ***"Working with our communities for a better environment."*** A thirty tonne digger should not be part of a vision for creating such an environment on the fragile banks of the Rangitaiki, nor should removing the natural challenge and risk associated with paddling our wild rivers. Real adventure is a scarce enough commodity without our government agencies trying to sanitise our wild places.

Mark Jones

Senior Lecturer
Division of Sport and Recreation
Auckland University of Technology

The above item by Mark Jones, a NZOIA Member and Assessor, also appears in the May issue of Wilderness Magazine. - Ed.

A reply to Mark Jones Article -**Anchor Sling Breaks,
Climber Plummetts...**

I read with interest the article in the March '04 NZOIA Quarterly and subsequent discussion by Mark Jones on the failure of the tubular sling in a top roping incident. This was a well written article however I believe the conclusions can be questioned.

Mark points out that a force of 12kN would need to be generated by the falling climber to break the sling. This is based on the test results on the remaining sling material and also the manufacturers specifications for the sling material when you allow for the reduction in strength due to knotting the sling. This is a fair enough assumption.

Mark then continues his analysis by calculating the stopping distance (stretch in system) that would be required by a 130kg body to generate a 12kN force. This distance has been calculated as 0.43m which I have no problem with. The major assumptions that I disagree with are:

- 1) Would the system as described have stopped the falling climber in a total stretch distance of 0.43m?
- 2) Would the system described, even if it had stopped the falling climber in 0.43m have generated a force on the sling of 12kN?

Let me investigate each of these assumptions further.

Stretch distance in the system.

We are told that the climber was attached to a sport rope, "designed for top roping, but are essentially static in nature. They are not well designed to absorb larger fall factors being essentially inelastic in nature." Further to this the climber was not tied to the ground through an anchor, but was a large person who was held down from behind.

The first thing that must be dispelled is the concept of a synthetic rope being equivalent to a steel cable. While there is less stretch in a sport rope than a dynamic climbing rope (and even a little less stretch in a static rope) there is still stretch. For example the Bluewater Rope website states that the stretch characteristics for their sport ropes (only recommended for top-roping) are between 3 – 5.4% (depending on type of rope) under a static bodyweight of 80kg. I would assume this range of stretch would be similar for other manufacturers ropes that are classified as "Sport Ropes".

As you increase the force on the rope the stretch increases. The force generated by a 130kg person falling 4m can be considerable, and as Mark discusses in his article, depends on the stopping distance or stretch in the system.

I have asked Mark how much rope he estimates was out between the belayer and the climber. The response was over 20m. With this much rope out, even under a bodyweight of 130kg, the rope is likely to stretch over 1m. With the dynamic forces generated by the fall, combined with the belayer being pulled towards the fall, cinching in the system, etc., I would be surprised if there was not a stretch distance generated by this system to absorb the force of greater than 2m. This indicates there is no way the force generated by the fall would come close to the 12kN required to break the sling.

Force on Sling.

Let us assume for a moment that the fall was arrested by the system in the 0.43m suggested by Mark in his article and 12kN of force was generated in the system. Would this have resulted in a 12kN force being applied to each part of the sling? In his article Mark describes three, "Relevant Anchor Principles". All of these are quite correct but the third principle has been misapplied in this case. Principle one states that when a sling is passed around a tree to act as an anchor, the force applied to the anchor is shared between each side of the sling. Therefore 12kN on the anchor will have 6kN on each side of the sling. To get a 12kN force on all parts of the sling, Mark then correctly indicates in principle 3, that assuming no friction (a big ask in itself), that the top-roping system acts as a 2:1 mechanical advantage device. Therefore if a 12kN force is generated by the falling climber, this is balanced by a 12kN stopping force from the belayer, meaning 24kN is generated at the anchor. This gives the necessary 12kN in each side of the sling around the tree leading to the failure of the sling.

The problem with this analysis is that the belayer was not anchored to the ground. Sure, the belayer was held from behind, but this will not allow a 12kN force to be developed and is a strength of such a system as it makes it dynamic. For those who have experienced holding a big fall, you will realize that what happens is that the load comes on your harness and if it is large enough you are physically moved in the direction of the force i.e. you are dragged towards and even up the cliff by the force generated. This has the effect of increasing the "stretch distance" of the system and reducing the force on all parts of the system – a good thing. While it may not feel as comfortable to the belayer and can result in some scratches, the forces generated are much less on the system than belaying directly to the ground through an anchor. The greatest force that would be imparted to the system in this case before the belayer and back-up belayer moved, would be equivalent to their combined mass multiplied by the acceleration due to gravity ($F = MA$). Assuming they are both big people (130kg each) this would be a total required force of 2.6kN. Therefore, the system described would not double the force on the anchor due to the 2:1 mechanical advantage generated.

The maximum force on the sling before the system moved would be $12\text{kN} + 2.6\text{kN} = 14.6\text{kN}$. This combined force would be shared by the two parts of the sling and therefore each part of the sling would only be exposed to a load of 7.3kN and should hold.

Conclusion:

I have shown in the discussion above that the arguments presented leading to a 12kN force being generated on any part of the sling to cause failure are erroneous. I believe the force generated would have been significantly less than this due to the dynamic nature of the rope and other parts of the system. The significant issue is that despite this the sling did fail. The mystery still remains – why did it fail? Without knowledge of the history of the sling, I can only suggest that there may have been either prior damage (Physical or chemical), there was a manufacturing problem with that sling, or it was lying against sharp edges. We can only speculate...

The critical issue remaining is what we should do to reduce the future likelihood of a similar incident occurring with worse consequences. Mark suggests the need for redundancy to be built into any anchor system to provide a bigger safety margin. I think this is a wise move, especially for the novice climber. However I don't think this is the panacea for all our problems. I see NZOIA suggesting two krabs at all top rope focal points. If two are better, surely three would be better still! Where will this end? The specifications for a single krab show that it is completely capable of holding any forces generated in a normal climbing experience. This is assuming the karabiner is managed well, gate kept closed, free from obstacles and it is maintained correctly. We don't want to replace good management of a situation with an engineered solution as this can lead to problems of its own. That is what may have happened here!

When I read the article, what left me shaking my head was how was it possible for someone on a top rope able to get into a situation where they were exposed to a four metre fall, especially when they were being belayed by two separate people on different ropes? The answer probably lies in the complexity of the situation created and its apparent safety. If one top rope is good, wouldn't two top ropes be better? It may not be! The management of the exercise becomes more complex.

Who is the primary belayer? Who is giving instructions? Who is ensuring the ropes are being taken in properly? Who is accountable? While the second rope, when it finally came tight, saved the climber from a ground fall – would the incident have occurred at all if the more experienced person had been standing beside the bottom belayer and ensuring that the system was being operated correctly.

We may be putting too much emphasis on the equipment as a way to prevent incidents than on good management practices that would prevent those incidents occurring in the first place.

Grant Davidson

Grant Davidson is a NZOIA Life Member, with numerous NZOIA Awards, and Director of the Sir Edmund Hilary Outdoor Pursuits Centre at Turangi. - Ed.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS from MARK JONES

"Grant makes some good points. I never sighted the rope and wasn't able to determine its make, so for all I know it was some old, stiff, cable of a rope that has lost a lot of stretch one way or another. The short stopping distance required by the theory for failure still seems fantastic though I agree. It's possible the falling distance was greater than what was estimated or the climber was heavier, but I think chemical damage is an unlikely factor. The sling broke at the knot and was considerably trashed where it passed around the tree.

From tests I've done with severe fall factors it was almost impossible to get something to fail in a system on the first drop. The knot cinching that takes place generally dissipates the peak energy lowering the peak impact force that occurs at the peak force. Perhaps the system had taken some big falls earlier...

It certainly seems to be something else operating in this case for failure to have occurred, and if there had been better management of the clients we wouldn't have a case at all."

It seems this topic is a little like the old question - How long is a piece of string? - but a little more technical! - How much weight / force will the piece of string take - and a lot more critical for the person on the end of the string! - Ed.

FREE - JASONS ACCOMMODATION AND OUTDOOR TRAVEL GUIDES FOR 2004/05

Jasons has free accommodation directories available to be mailed at no cost to you - plus a comprehensive web site for travel/trip planning; www.jasons.com. Jasons 34 travel guides include comprehensive New Zealand Campground and Motel Directories plus a new Guide, Jasons Encounter, which lists many of New Zealand's tourism outdoor adventure and eco tourism businesses, all DOC visitor centres & more (content also available at www.encounter.co.nz). Free copies of all Jasons Guides can be ordered online at: www.jasons.com/orders plus browse or book detailed accommodation, activity and transport options for NZ, Australia and the South Pacific at www.jasons.com

National Sea Kayak Award Update

Quietly but positively we are moving forward in this process. To date we have been through an initial grand parenting. This is how the history goes;

History re-cap

1. 2002: Initial meeting between SKOANZ, NZOIA & KASK in Nelson.
2. 2003: Meeting in Christchurch, advertised and invitations sent out via email and posted to existing SKOANZ & NZOIA assessors, KASK representatives, presidents of associations. Meeting established award structure and many other issues. Minutes and recommendations documented and sent to both SKOANZ and NZOIA Executives for approval.
3. 2004: Two email memos sent out to Christchurch meeting participants for further discussion points on structure and administration of award.
4. 2004: Call for grand parenting applications for level 2 Sea Kayak Award via emails, NZOIA and SKOANZ newsletters.

National Award Structure

Proficiency Award

For recreational sea kayakers seeking formal recognition of their skill and knowledge, and for those who are starting on the pathway to higher-level awards.

Sea Kayak Guide

For professional sea kayak guides working in a commercial environment who take clients on kayaking trips involving coastal, lake or open water paddling. SKOANZ Sea Kayak Level 1 will be *competent* and familiar with the use of both single and double sea kayaks in a guiding environment.

SKOANZ Sea Kayak Level 1 shall be able to demonstrate the required skills outlined in this award in *adverse* conditions

Sea Kayak Level 1

For those who instruct clients to become competent sea kayakers with the skills and knowledge contained in the Proficiency Award.

Sea Kayak Level 2

For those who lead expedition sea kayaking, train guides and instructors, and are capable of overseeing sea kayaking programmes within an organisation.

NB: final naming to be decided

Future Steps

1. 2004 July: Continue with grand parenting process to establish Level 1 and Level 2 award syllabus content, how these awards are to be run and through peer assessment who will be assessors for the instructors award by people who were on the grand parenting Christchurch meeting and written grand parenting applicants.
2. 2004: Both executives decide on certificate printing and administration strategies and operating costs.
3. 2004: Advertise the syllabus for each assessment, advertise assessment dates and run an assessment in 2004.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What if I have the Guides award already? *Front up and do the Instructors day assessment.*
2. Will this make my guides award obsolete? *No, the guides award still exists within the Level 1 Sea Kayak award.*
3. Well I am keen now! And I am an assessor further more!! *Come to the grand parenting practical meeting in July, - Contact Andy Thompson at andyt@tekotago.ac.nz or ring him at work on 03 4793739 and register your interest - now!*
4. If I have no sea kayak award and I just want to instruct sea kayaking do I have to do sea kayak 1 (guide)? *Yes.*
5. What standard should be presenting myself at for the instructor level 1 award assessment? *The instructor level is considered to be at role model standard, hence to sit this you will have been hitting scores of 4/5 in previous sea kayaking assessments, only then should you consider sitting this section of the award.*
6. When is the first assessment proposed? *We are aiming for November 2004.*

Andy Thompson
Dunedin

Tracking the Action: South Island Conference July 2nd - 3rd 2004

The South Island Conference has traditionally provided teachers of physical education with professional development and has steadily grown in popularity since its beginnings in the mid 1980's. This year, the South Island Conference, "**Tracking the Action**", has been extended out into the outdoor education and sport coaching fields. It is a joint initiative between Christchurch College of Education and Sport Canterbury and is being held at the Christchurch College of Education on the **2nd and 3rd July**. Traditionally there have been approximately 200 participants at this conference and this year there will be several streams of workshops designed especially for outdoor education teachers, **sport coordinators and coaches** and as well as **physical education teachers**. The conference will have a strong emphasis on responding to professional development needs of the participants and disseminating new knowledge, as well as providing opportunities to meet with colleagues and establish closer working relationships. Keynotes will be presented by Don Tricker, Coach of the Black Sox, Celia Lashley and Dr Carol Strensrud, while Marcus Waters of Adventure Philosophy will be presenting their very popular slide show "The first traverse of the Antarctic Peninsular by sea kayak".

The following workshops are being offered at the conference in the Outdoor Education stream;

Making yourself redundant - Leadership development and adventure: Eric Schusser - Dunstan High School, Project Adventure New Zealand Associates.

Outdoor Recreation Review and Minimum Assessor Requirements: Jenni Pethig - SFRITO

Environmental Education, Guidelines in action "Coast to the High Country": Andrew Hamer / Fay Wilson-Hill – Christchurch College of Education

Who took the magic?; the law and running safer outdoor education programmes, Ray Goldring – Outer Ring Consulting and Auditing Services

An update on current N.Z.O.I.A instructor qualifications, Linda Wensley and Marcus Waters - New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association.

Outdoor One: a national qualification for teachers and those who lead groups. Arthur Sutherland - Kaiapoi High School

Integrating Unit standards and Achievement Standards in OE and PE: Greg Jansen - Kaiapoi High School

Outdoor Education at Nelson College for Girls: Symon Claridge - Nelson College for Girls

An Outdoor Education Degree – an attractive option for senior students: Dave Bailey & Jo Straker, Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology - C.P.I.T.

Outdoor Education as a holistic learning medium: practical ways to make it more meaningful. Jean Cory-Wright - C.P.I.T.

Experiential approaches with challenging adolescents: Chris Jansen - Christchurch College of Education, Project Adventure New Zealand Associates.

Project R – National Certificates in school outdoor education and sport, Arthur Sutherland - Kaiapoi High School

Reflections on first year Outdoor Education teaching: Rob Hutterd – Henderson High School, Sian Roscoe - Rutherford College, Jeremy Campbell – Tihoi Venture School

Outdoor Education on the Coast: Ben Louie – Greymouth High School

Delivering a successful outdoor education / adventure education programme. Dean Tuckey - Horizons Unlimited.

Fun with maps and orienteering: Jean Cory-Wright - C.P.I.T.

Developing Youth Leaders – The Gap Year, Dean Tuckey - Horizons Unlimited.

Registration costs for the conference are detailed on the website and brochure with individual registration prior to June 6th being \$120, and \$150 thereafter, with organisational and student discounts also available. For more information, the following link to the website is available: <http://www.cce.ac.nz/conferences/pe/> or email chris.jansen@cce.ac.nz or contact Chris on (03) 3482 059 ext 8398 if you would like an enrolment brochure to be sent out to you.

The Outdoor and Environmental Department of the Christchurch College of Education is a leading trainer of outdoor educators in New Zealand. Currently there are 12 Outdoor Education majors enrolled in the one year Graduate Diploma programme, along with many other students who take Outdoor and Environmental Education as an additional teaching subject. These Outdoor Education majors bring a wide range of outdoor qualifications, undergraduate degrees and extensive experience in outdoor education both within New Zealand and from countries around the world such as Ireland, Australia, Canada, England and Japan. The College also has courses focussed in the areas of Experiential Education and Education for Sustainable Development, as well as offering a Masters Degree in Environmental Education in partnership with Griffith University in Australia.

Project Adventure: Haven't they closed down in New Zealand... ?

Towards the end of 2002 Project Adventure New Zealand (P.A.N.Z) closed its Wellington office and the original Trust that had guided and developed the use of Adventure Based Learning and use of the modern Challenge Ropes Course in New Zealand wound up. At this time the three main areas of PANZ's involvement was then picked up by several new organisations. The community development projects were taken on by B.G.I. in Wellington and Com.Action in Alexandra. The ropes course construction and maintenance went to Changing Altitude and a group of the original PANZ trainers set up a company called Project Adventure New Zealand Associates to diversify and develop the training and development area.

Project Adventure New Zealand Associates (P.A.N.Z.A.) has continued to develop and deliver training to professionals such as teachers, counsellors, youth workers, outdoor instructors, social workers, corporate trainers and occupational therapists and even an MP!. In the last 12 months PANZA has worked with nearly 400 participants by implementing 23 workshops around New Zealand. Eight of these were the public workshops including 'Safety Skills and Standards, (SSAS)' and the two new workshops 'Experiential Approaches with Challenging Adolescents, (EACA)' and 'Processing the Experience, (PTE)'. The other 15 were customised workshops commissioned by specific organisations such as schools, polytechnics, private training establishments, outdoor centres, alternative education providers and community groups.

The EACA and PTE workshops are New Zealand developed, grass roots workshops that are designed to address the needs and struggles of leaders like ourselves who are working with adventure in a wide range of settings. The '**Experiential Approaches with Challenging Adolescents**', (EACA) workshop focused in particular on those who work with resilient young men and women who present a significant challenge to traditional techniques and practices. Content includes tools and strategies for engaging challenging adolescents in group settings, a review of current research into effective therapeutic approaches and a rationale for using experiential and adventure-based approaches with these groups. The workshop also includes an overview of methods that can be used to integrate these approaches within existing programmes and case studies of programmes adopting experiential approaches both in New Zealand and overseas.

The '**Processing the Experience Workshop, (PTE)**' on the other hand is for those who are wanting to expand and develop their repertoire of techniques to make the most of "teachable moments". Content includes a tool bag of active debrief methods and models, a series of models for selecting and sequencing debriefs, skills for handling conflict and complex group dynamics and an opportunity to participate in experiential activities and to design effective debrief strategies. Both of these new workshops have been developed with the help and feedback of participants. PANZA also offers other workshops such as the Advanced Facilitation Skills, (AFS) as well as customised workshops designed with elements of the above workshops integrated into a package to meet an individual organisations needs.

Project Adventure New Zealand Associates is directed by Liz Penman, Chris Jansen and Claire Wyatt and they can be contacted at 0800 4PANZA and training@panz.org.nz or on www.panz.org.nz.

Project Adventure Equipment and books are available from Sports Distributors, Ph. 0800 656 735 and orders@sportsdistributors.co.nz

Ropes course construction and maintenance is available through Project Adventure – Changing Altitude Ltd changing.altitude@xtra.co.nz

Thoughts of an Instructor.....

Adventure, Journey, Epic. Whatever you like to call it, they were having it. A bunch of 16 year old girls from Waikato were in amongst it - 8pm in the dark crawling under logs, scratching themselves on gorse bushes, climbing on all fours over wind fallen trees, torch batteries getting low. They were having an adventure near the Wanganui river in the central plateau. 9.15pm a halt was called, a group decision to set up camp and carry on in the morning. Tents pitched on pine needles, the cooker giving the only bit of flame and a bunch of girls sitting around a pot waiting for their food to cook laughing about the predicament they were in.

Another journey, another adventure. Staunch 17 year old boys from Westlake/Auckland trying for a late mission up Mt Tongariro. At 7.30pm we were on the summit in whiteout, they couldn't see a thing but let out a cheer. Five minutes on top and it was off down the other side to look for a camp spot. Their tents were quiet ten minutes after they'd gone to bed. Tired boys who'd put in a hard slog.

A snapped tent pole on top of Ruapehu; crammed in a tent, spindrift whipping around. 1 am in the morning and no one was getting any sleep; a long slow night; waiting for the sun to come up and the wind to die down. Taradale student's with only their eyes peeping out their jackets standing on the edge of the crater lake in the cold morning sun. The night had been worth it.

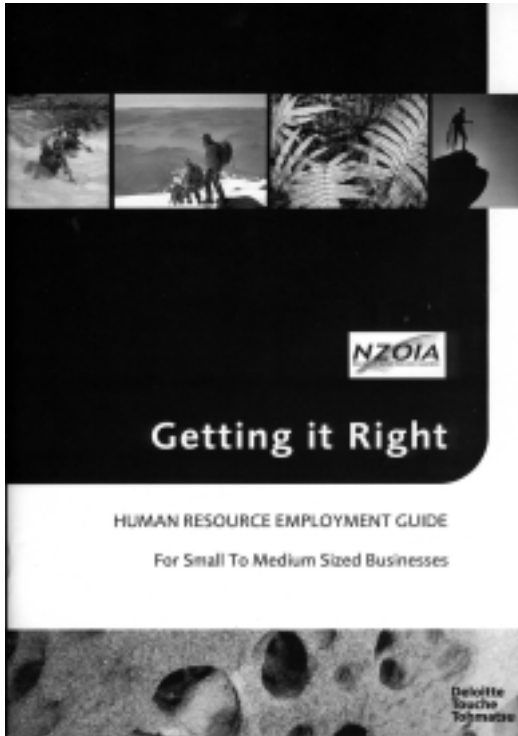
Outdoor instructing like any other job has its highs and lows, one of the highs -has to be overnight journeys. Stripped down to basics in the outdoors - food, shelter, warmth, kids forget about the problems/peer pressures of life.

You can give students all the quick adrenelin activities they crave for, but it's the overnight journeys that they'll truly remember; especially if they have what they perceive is an epic.

Whether they come from wealthy upper class or lower income areas, every New Zealand kid should have the opportunity to experience the New Zealand outdoors, to understand what their meaning of "adventure" is all about.

Heather Tate

ITEMS available from NZOIA



“GETTING IT RIGHT”

This is a Human Resource Guide for small to medium sized employers - a NZOIA resource written by Marcus Waters of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu.

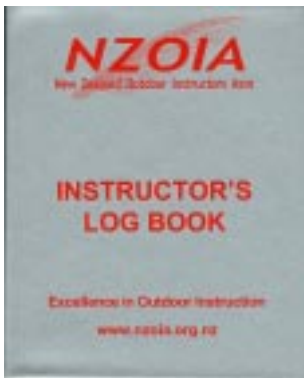
This manual has been written for **employers in the outdoor industry**, employers such as adventure tourism providers, outdoor education providers, guiding and trekking companies. The information is structured for the busy employer who is grappling with taking on their first employees or for the small company that employs a few staff, most of them seasonally.

Contents include chapters on recruitment and selection of employees, employment agreements, performance management and leadership, induction and training, remuneration and rewards, health and safety, and much more.

By providing quality information through this employer resource, NZOIA hopes to continue to add value to businesses and help ensure a safe and healthy outdoor industry.

Priced at \$30 for members (\$50 non members) (Inc. P&P)
 Order: *via the NZOIA website ~ www.nzoia.org.nz*
 or: *from the NZOIA Office, PO Box 11-090 Wellington*

NZOIA Logbooks



The format is an A5 plastic ring-binder (with the standard 2 ring).

Members - \$20,
 Non-members - \$23
 5 or more copies - \$18
 (Inc. P&P)

Order *via the NZOIA website,*
or from the NZOIA Office
PO Box 11-090 Wellington



NZOIA Information Brochure

~ **outlining NZOIA the aims and activities, including the Award Scheme.**

email: ao@nzoia.org.nz,
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NZOIA ASSESSMENT CALENDAR for 2004

Course & Location **COURSE DATE** **Closing Date**

Kayak FW

Auckland October 30-31 October 1
Christchurch November 11-12 October 11

Kayak 1

Christchurch October 15-17 September 17
Central NI November 19-21 October 22
Christchurch November 26-28 October 29

Abseil 1

Auckland November 21-22 October 22

Canoe

Christchurch November 13-14 October 15

Climbing Wall On request

Cave 2 On request

Kayak 2 On request

Course

& Location **COURSE DATE** **Closing Date**

Rock 1

Christchurch September 18-19 August 20
Dunedin September 23-24 August 20
Auckland October 16-17 September 17
Christchurch Nov. 6-7 October 8

Rock 2

Whanganui Bay Nov. 12-14 October 15

Bush 1

South Island Oct. 6-8 September 9
South Island Nov. 27-29 October 29

Bush 2

North Island Nov 16-18 October 15

Alpine 1

North Island September 4-6 August 5
South Island September 11-13 August 13
South Island October 16-18 September 17

Alpine 2

South Island September 16-19 August 13

NOTE: PLEASE check the NZOIA website for additional assessments that may have been scheduled since the publication of this Quarterly.

Booking for a NZOIA assessment !

Booking Routine - You must have completed the prerequisites before applying for assessment; check the syllabus - they are all available on the NZOIA website at: www.nzoia.org.nz. You must also be a current member of NZOIA as at the date of the assessment. To apply for a place on an assessment, obtain an assessment application form from the website (or the administration officer) and forward it to NZOIA by the closing date with:

- a \$100 deposit;
- a **copy** of your log;
- a **copy** of your current first-aid certificate, (and the application form).

APPLICATIONS close 4 weeks before the assessment date.

We allocate places on assessment courses a on first-in, with deposit, first-accepted basis. After the closing date, we will send you confirmation of your booking. You must pay the balance of the course fee before the assessment. If we cancel the course, we will refund all fees.

If you withdraw before the closing date, we will refund your deposit, or in the event the course is cancelled, the course fee will be reimbursed in full. If you withdraw within three weeks of the course start, the deposit will be retained by NZOIA. If you withdraw within two weeks of the course, fifty percent of the course fee will be retained.

Course fees: Two day - \$370
Three day - \$495
Four day - \$640

Assessment by special arrangement - It is possible to arrange assessments on dates other than those scheduled (generally subject to the availability of assessors). Contact the Assessment Co-ordinator (email - assessment@nzoia.org.nz) or Steve Scott, telephone 04-385 6048.

If you are intending to participate in a particular assessment, don't be disappointed - please secure your place early - don't delay in forwarding your deposit.

NZOIA Cave 2, Kayak 2 and Climbing Wall Assessments

These assessments are conducted "on request". If you are interested in participating in one of these assessments, please contact the NZOIA Administration Officer at: ao@nzoia.org.nz. When we have sufficient interested persons, we will organise an assessment.

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adventure

bivouac/outdoor

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