

NZOIA Quarterly

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND OUTDOOR INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

Issue 40

March 2007

IT'S ALL ABOUT NUMBERS - OR IS IT?

By Steve Chapman

Most outdoor instructors believe student numbers/ratios are an essential and crucial element of ensuring the delivery of safe and enjoyable outdoor learning experiences. On the surface this appears so, as many if not most outdoor instructors are well versed in the commonly quoted instructor – student ratio of 1:4 for teaching and experiencing many pursuits. However examining the historical development of these ratios, it is clear they started out as a 'suggested guideline', and have developed into present day 'golden rules' and become an accepted industry norm. Despite many believing there are mandatory ratios no legislated or formalised ratios are obligatory. Although to operate outside the guidelines can be perceived as irresponsible. Some believe you are placing yourself and your clients at risk, this can include the outdoor sector's reputation.

Learning through outdoor experiences will always involve risk; the question is do the benefits outweigh the potential loss? The law requires us to eliminate or reduce the possible negative effects of risk on our clients, paradoxically we use risk as a tool to achieve the goals of outdoor education. Exposure to risk is seen as undesirable by the general public and must be removed. Society in general tends to believe outdoor adventurers are foolhardy, even somewhat crazy to partake in outdoor activities with risk as an essential element. In a sense society thinking has become risk averse, although unconsciously many blindly accept risks in their daily lives without another thought. Many question why we expose ourselves and our clients to risk, not understanding the connection between risk exposure and risk gain, even though society in general lives daily with the benefits of risk, e.g. driving to work or play. This viewpoint is reinforced anytime an accident or death is reported (misreported) and encourages the uninformed critic to down cry outdoor experiences and call for more government intervention.

In a bid to manage these risks many organisations apply 'blanket' rules as a technique to protect their organisation and support their young minimally experienced instructors. To advocate working strictly to 1:4 ratios in all situations is a limited approach to a complex problem. To counteract this unknowing societal perspective and those organisations who predominately operate from a philosophy of 'set ratios' the outdoor sector need to question the validity of this sole approach. Outdoor professionals would be wise to examine ratios as part of a wider range of factors which

should be identified through two key processes; risk and learning assessment. In order to progress past simplistic strategies, organisations and instructors need to ask a wide range of questions with critical thinking to produce alternative methodologies. Possible questions to consider are;

- What is the purpose of this experience?
- What level of skill, knowledge and experience does this group possess?
- Where will this instruction take place?
- What are the age, ability, experience and maturity of these learners?
- What competence, skills and experience does the instructor have?
- What degree of real risk is inherent in the activity?
- What is the frequency and severity of exposure to these real risks?
- What level of control and supervision is required?
- The standard and level of the equipment available?
- The climate, other environmental factors and the time of year?
- The nature and availability of emergency support?

I'm advocating a change in the way we regard ratios. There are many tools that we can use to manage our students safety. The use of student ratios should be seen as one possible solution to managing risks and improving learning in a particular environment, not the sole tool. Higher or lower ratios may be required as dictated by the likely affects of the dynamic factors above; here are some current white-water kayak practices that support this thinking.

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Executive Report

NEW TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

Janette Kear It is with great pleasure that we are able to welcome Janette to our staff as Training and Assessment Coordinator. Janette will be well known to many of you through her long association with the NZ Recreational Canoe Association and as the booking coordinator for the NZ Kayak School, a role she continues to fulfill. Janette brings a range of skills and attributes to the job, not least of which are her interest and commitment to the position. The role is not an easy one and it is sure to take Janette a while to settle into the job and become familiar with our systems, staff, assessors and members. Please be understanding of this and if applying for training or assessment help her out by getting your documentation in early. We look forward to working with Janette and hope that she will find the role interesting and enjoyable.

Dale, our departing Coordinator, has now moved on to a teaching position having completed his teacher training last year. We thank Dale for the contribution he has made and wish him all the very best in his new career.

TRAINING

Our 2007 expanded training programme is now under way. Some courses have had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers while others are over subscribed. An early trend is people booking training immediately prior to assessment. This is NOT recommended for 2 reasons: Firstly it's often the same trainer and assessor and this conflicts with our policy that you can not be assessed by the person who trained you within one month. Secondly, training often shows up gaps in skill, knowledge or experience that need to be sorted out prior to assessment. This may take some time and for this reason we recommend you allow about 6 months between your training course and assessment.

There's another copy of the training calendar in here so you can plan ahead, and remember if you or your organisation have a specific training need just let us know and we'll see what we can do.

Those members and organisations who wish to offer specific instructor training courses can forward this information to me directly for inclusion on the calendar and website. Certain criteria do need to be met and a small charge applies so please contact me to discuss this. Those of you who hold Level 2 awards are invited to contact us if you wish to be employed by NZOIA to instruct on the training programme.

ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION

In the last Quarterly I explained why assessment fees had increased. Part of this was due to increased administration costs. It would be fair to say, and rather disappointing, that many members are far from professional in their administrative preparation for assessment. We regularly cancel assessments only to receive late applications a few days after the closing date that would have enabled the event to take place. This is incredibly frustrating not just for us but for those members who got their application in on time and who have been doing the hard yards in preparation only to have their hopes dashed. The other common situation is members who apply on time but fail to get their log books and other documentation to us in a timely manner. The repeated phone calls and emails we make in an effort to get this information all cost time and money... YOUR MONEY. It's a waste. So, part of being a professional and being seen as a professional is acting accordingly. If you are guilty of the above please try and do better, save us the grief and save us all some money. Thanks to all those who plan and act ahead of time and make our jobs so much easier.

JOINT SEA KAYAK TRAINING WITH KASK

The sea kayak training courses funded by Water Safety NZ with Nigel Foster have been a tremendous success. As part of the programme KASK ran workshops with Nigel for recreational paddlers and we ran advanced instructor training primarily targeting existing sea kayak award holders and assessors (so as not to conflict with existing sea kayak instructor training already advertised and also funded by WSNZ). Having said that the courses were a success it was rather disappointing that attendance was less so. KASK did well and ran 2 day workshops in Christchurch, Tauranga and Auckland and 4 days of training at their annual forum at Anakiwa. We ran a one day workshop in Taupo at the request of Tihoi with OPC staff making up the numbers, and another in Auckland, but had insufficient numbers to make it happen in Christchurch and Wellington. I've had some great feedback from those who did attend which certainly makes all the effort worthwhile, but it would have been more encouraging to see others take advantage of the opportunity and put in the effort to travel. Thanks to those in the South who did express interest and who were disappointed not to be able to participate in this valuable training.

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LIAISON

As many of you are aware there have been tensions between NZOIA and the NZ Mountain Safety Council for some years. While resolution of our concerns is unlikely in the short term we were pleased our suggestion that they undertake a review of their constitution was passed unanimously at the recent Council meeting. Apart from our frustration at the unnecessary duplication of awards, we have been at odds with MSC because of a concern that their strategic and business plans are not aligned with their constitution, and furthermore work against our interests as a member organisation. MSC is governed by a representative council of which we are a member. While we support MSC we can not allow them to move in a direction that competes with us and which is contrary to the interests of our members. The constitution is their founding document so hopefully a review of this will lead to our other concerns being addressed.

At the end of last year MSC's Executive Director and NZOIA member Ian Nicholson resigned and has taken a new position with Scouting NZ. His replacement Darryl Carpenter is also a NZOIA award holder and former Outward Bound instructor. We welcome Darryl to his position and look forward to working with him while wishing Ian all the best in his new role.

It seems incredible that we are well into March already and I see the first snows on the ranges already. I hope that your summer work season went well and that 2007 will continue to be a challenging and rewarding year.

Matthew Cant – Chief Executive
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OPC *discovering, together.*

CENTRE MANAGER OPC TONGARIRO

The **Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre of New Zealand (OPC)** is the leading provider of residential outdoor education programmes for secondary school students in New Zealand. Other programmes offered are tertiary courses, corporate training, industry training, adult skills courses and a range of other programmes. OPC is a values-based organisation whose mission is to develop people's potential while creating environmental awareness.

Because of growth and diversification, OPC is creating an exciting new position to take overall charge of their centre located adjacent the Tongariro National Park.

YOUR SKILLS

The successful applicant will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Tongariro Centre and will be responsible for all staff, equipment and facilities involved in delivering programmes from this site. This position reports directly to the Chief Executive.

OPC is looking for someone who has excellent people skills, demonstrated experience in a number of outdoor skills areas, organisational skills, results oriented, has a systems approach, can articulate the benefits of outdoor education and can motivate and inspire a group of talented outdoor professionals.

If you believe you are the ideal candidate for this position
contact Karen Bainbridge for an application package.
email karen@opc.org.nz , ph 07 386 5511, fax 07 386 0204

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SCENARIO 1

While NZOIA doesn't have a specific 'kayak guiding' award for guiding clients down class 4/5 river runs, there is a well established and accepted current practice amongst many NZOIA kayak II award holders, that as your experience develops and you become familiar with specific class 4/5 river runs, then you should be able to guide clients down some of these rivers. In effect this award provides a foundational platform by which kayak II instructors endorse informally this practice.

Guiding on the West Coast rivers of the South Island will always be risky, there are hazards that while known generically, will be hidden, furthermore immediate instructor intervention may not be possible, yet clients and instructors alike seek to paddle these rivers for many reasons. Instructors operating at this level do so consciously; they know the risks and the 'moves', they understand intimately the river drainage, they know the hazardous spot and the effects of local weather. They actively screen their clients competence before going into the backcountry and are prepared to say sorry you can't come today. They often double guide and at times operate with 1:2 ratios dependent upon each individual river run and the client's abilities / experience. Reckless or responsible innovative practice? Certainly not practice based upon set ratios!

SCENARIO 2

NZ is full of excellent class II river runs. These rivers provide numerous opportunities for learners to experience outdoor education through kayaking programmes provided by schools, tertiary institutions and commercial kayak operations. Learners are introduced into the wonderment of white-water and all its beauty, thrills, skills and pleasures.

The nature of class II river runs can be described as mainly straight forward, especially if an instructor knows the river thoroughly and provides clear directions to their learners. The rapids are easily runnable, (although learners may perceive this differently) there will be a 'line' down the rapid that's uncomplicated, with little or no obstacles obstructing the pathway. The key feature will be large flat-water eddies above and below these rapids, whereby novice kayakers can be stopped, parked and relax while watching their mates, and then run the rapid as signaled. This is common practice called 'traffic lighting' and I've observed many an instructor working effectively with student numbers in excess of the golden rule, simply by controlling the number of learners who are likely to need rescuing or assistance, in effect lowering the ratio to 1:1. Sound or poor learner management, or perhaps just another valid and at times appropriate method?

There are numerous approaches which are valid and without doubt something unexpected can always occur at anytime, even on a class II river run. The outdoors always has hidden hazards, and 1:4 ratios still don't

guarantee absolute safety, nor does proper planning and assessment. Instructors need to stay alert, current and consider alternatives when situations dictate.

A good recent example of alternative practice occurred this kayak season with the high spring rainfall in late 2006. Flooded rivers prevented many kayak courses from running ideal programmes, and while canceling kayak courses in this situation is one option, it was refreshing to see instructors with their client groups being supported by their senior instructors, yes the boss came out to work (instruct) client's to ensure their instructors were well supported in less than ideal conditions and that the learners received quality learning experiences with appropriate safety measures through challenging river flows for novice clients.



The other side of the coin though, involves student learning; in today's educational climate where the learner pays for education (creating high expectations of successful completion no matter what) and educational institutes struggle for adequate government funding, there is an ongoing balance between what makes a course financially viable and the quality of learning made possible through group size and adequate resourcing.

It can be argued that group size impacts upon an instructor's ability to create quality learning for students. I would argue that groups can be either too small or too large; too small can create the lack of a 'dynamic' that supports learning from each group member and too large a group can become impersonal and cumbersome... group size in part depends on what the intended learning outcomes are.

Whatever the outdoor experience, ratios affect the outcomes and remain a dynamic factor in the successful and safe delivery of outdoor learning. Rigid parameters can help support minimally experienced instructors and organisations, still there is no guarantee that every outdoor experience will be safe and quality learning occur just because ratios are 1:4., its time to broaden our approach and thinking.

STEVE CHAPMAN

Steve is a NZOIA award holder and tutor on the CPIT - Bachelor of Adventure Recreation and Outdoor Education. As a tutor and NZOIA assessor Steve regularly comes across members who seem to be hung up on old thinking about fixed ratios. His article is a challenge to these people and follows on from the article by Mick Hopkinson 'Ratios... An Elastic Band?' in June 2005 that covered this issue. Steve welcomes further debate so please send in your views. 'Outdoor Activities - Guidelines for Leaders' available through Outdoors NZ offers further information and what is current accepted practice in this matter." Ed.

Passion for Adventure - Kayaking in Eastern Tibet

by Zak Shaw



Recently an international team of whitewater kayakers spent their days exploring the massive river catchments of Eastern Tibet.

The team of six included NZOIA member Zak Shaw. Collectively meeting in Lhasa (3600m) the spiritual centre of Tibet, Eden Sinclair NZ, Dave Kwant NZ, Jason Shepherd USA, Matt Tidy UK, Sam Hughes UK and Zak spent their first week acclimatizing to the altitude, visiting Buddhist monasteries and interacting with prostrating pilgrims that circulate around the Jokhang temple.

Spread out over a five week period the expeditions focus was to complete a journey from Lhasa to Chengdu, China's largest western city.

Tibet's landscape was far more diverse than expected. Traveling through vast alpine expanses, autumn colours, 7000m mountains towering overhead, huge violent rivers descending abruptly off the Tibetan plateau, our environment was constantly changing.

During their first three weeks, seventeen of those days were spent kayaking. The whitewater in Eastern Tibet is unlike anything in NZ because of the rivers' sheer size, the volume of water flowing and very steep gradients. "The best way to prepare for Tibet would have been to park up at the put in for the Kawarau river and do laps, it's the only style of river in NZ comparable." On most of the sections of whitewater we paddled you could put them side by side with the flow of the Kawarau running at 200- 300 cumecs but significantly increase the gradient and throw in lots of house sized boulders. The moves were continuous and combined with freezing cold water meant we tired after 5-6 hours on the water most days. During these first three weeks the team descended two rivers, which had never been paddled before.

With a vision of completing the first ever full descent of the Parlung Tsangpo the kayakers pushed off the shore of a high altitude lake. Resting at 4300m the air was thin and 210km of freezing cold whitewater lay in store downstream. Thirty kilometres of this lay in a deep canyon that no team had attempted previously. "Because the whitewater was so big and powerful we all doubted whether it was even possible to descend."

We managed to break it down, systematically biting off chunk-by-chunk, day-by-day. The flow was right; all class 5+ rapids had the option to portage. Twelve days later, six exhausted paddlers with aching backs and strained limbs emerged at the confluence of the Yiong Tsangpo thrilled

with success. The Parlung Gorge itself took three long days; some huge rapids were compulsory as vertical cliff walls removed any chance of portaging the kayakers. "One rapid on day 9 stretched 200m, all the way through the rapid was littered with huge recirculating holes big enough to swallow school buses. I was so nervous before paddling the rapid I almost threw up!"

With nine days remaining for the expedition the team then focused their attention on a river called the Zang Chu. However this river crosses the border separating Tibet from India and as predicted police and military officials denied access to the area. A forty kilometre zone either side of this border is basically a not go area for westerners.

The kayakers Tibetan experience wrapped up with crossings of the Salween, Mekong and Yangtze rivers, and the 5000m remote high elevation passes that separate them. These massive liquid highways are some of the biggest and longest in the world, their headwaters all originating in the desert like highlands of Tibet.

"I really believe in having your own adventures, it's a must. I've always kept that as a priority. It's what inspires people, it's how I am continually inspired by others. My energy comes from getting out there pushing myself and taking risks, it's what keeps me fresh.

Being professional for me is directly related to my own on the water performance. In kayak instruction today a lot of it has to do with presenting a technically correct visual image, one a student can easily see and run with, I've put a lot of time into that. Personally understanding your topic is connected to teaching progressions. How to explain and breakdown technique is so much easier if it intuitive. "I'm also incredibly emotionally sensitive" hahahaha.

Above all, having your own adventures reminds you of the whole reason you started in the first place. The enjoyment of getting out with your mates and having a blast on a river is what it's all about, and why kayak instruction is what I choose to do. "Exposing people to the good of the river".

Zak spends his summers teaching for the NZ Kayak School in Murchison. An expedition documentary is currently being edited and will be first screened at the Wet West Film festival from the 4th-7th January next year. Zak updates his website regularly; you can find all of his expedition photos and comments surrounding the expedition at www.passion4adventure.blogspot.com.

Zak's article highlights the terminology of today, currency and competency. Instructors need to be operating at a personal level well above where they are leading their clients. Practise what you preach. Ed

Aspects of Leadership:

LETTING GO OF THE LEASH

by Ray Hollingsworth

The roar of Aniwhenua Falls made it hard for people to hear, so I waved the group in tightly around me. The faces that looked at me were reflecting a whole range of emotions, from “Oh my god, please don’t make me do this” to “Yeah baby, bring it on”. Of the three days they had been paddling, I had spent only one day with them, yet in that time I felt I could assess the competence level of most of the group. I wanted them to make a decision. A fully informed, carefully thought out decision, not some rash adrenaline-fuelled, spur of the moment ‘I’ll do it if you do it’ thing.

“Before you decide to do this,” I said, “There’s a few things you need to know”. Then I told them about the student who had hit the wall in the chute above the falls and became wedged upside down across the channel. How the instructor who jumped in, managed to right the boat and push the student off the waterfall but then found themselves swimming the falls – without a helmet! How, on another trip, a kayaker had not paddled hard enough and had fallen so steeply that they hit the bottom of the river and the skin on their shins was peeled off as their feet burst past the footpegs. How I’d seen people struggle to swim in the aerated water at the bottom of the falls. But that I’d also seen lots of people with a wide range of abilities, successfully paddle over the falls.

“You need to know that you can get your boat lined up in that slot. And what might happen if you don’t”. And with that I left them to make up their own mind.

As an outdoor leader, I am keenly aware that the decisions I make are enriched by the experiences I have had in the past, whether adventuring in my own time or instructing novices in the finer points of... whatever. My own judgment has evolved from having had experiences, both good and bad, and at some point processing them. John Dewey, the renowned American educator, summed it up eloquently by saying that “experience plus reflection equals learning”. This is as true today as it was a century ago when he wrote it.

Those who operate professionally teaching in the outdoors will realize the inherent risks in the activities that they instruct or guide. These risks may be able to be managed, but most can never be eliminated – and nor would we want

them to be. After all that is a big part of why outdoor activities are so rewarding. However, at some point, the controlled situations that we adopt to teach in the outdoors – top rope climbing, on-track tramping, guided sea kayak trips – must give way to experiences that are less controlled in order for our wards to fully benefit from the consequences of their actions. For it is these consequences, both good and bad, together with reflection, that help to build judgment.

If teaching leadership skills is a continuum, from tightly controlled by the teacher at one end, to delegating the tasks and decisions to the group or individuals at the other end, at what point do we allow the people in our care to take responsibility for their decisions? How do we recognize that they are ready to have more control?

In kayaking, how do we know that someone is ready for a harder rapid, a higher grade river? When do we take the leash off and say “It’s your call”.

Perhaps the answer is that there is no answer. Or rather that the answer is a complex beast. It involves the leader having an awareness of the group and of the individuals, of knowing how they are likely to react in stressful situations. It involves knowing the skill competencies of the students and whether they are at the right technical level for the challenge. It involves knowing just how much experience that group or individuals have had. And it involves the leader knowing, that if the shit really does hit the fan, then they would probably be able to help.

“When they are ready” is probably the glibbest answer, and yet it rings of truth as well. Them believing that they can, is as important a factor as you believing that they can. Perhaps the guiding thought behind an outdoor leader’s thinking, should be “What sort of experience do I want my clients to have?” As Colin Mortlock pointed out in ‘The Adventure Alternative’, there’s a fine line between peak experience and mis-adventure.

Ray Hollingsworth teaches a variety of outdoor subjects at AUT University. He loves playing guitar, retro boating, multi-day tramping, placing his own gear on lead, reading, philosophizing over wine with good friends, and watching his children grow.

THE RUNGWAY

Queenstown Via Ferrata.

A description of the climbing facility

The Rungway is the first and only commercial Via Ferrata in New Zealand, and probably the only operation of its type in the Southern Hemisphere. Equipping mountain routes with climbing aids began in Europe in the late 19th century for the following reasons:

1. Reduction of difficulty in hard sections of popular climbs.
2. Routes of access for military through mountainous areas.
3. To reduce access times to popular climbing areas.
4. To allow mountain walkers the possibility of accessing areas previously requiring a high level of skill and risk.

Travel in the mountains using Via Ferrata has now become a popular activity in its own right, with purpose built facilities springing up all over the European alps.

STANDARDS

Via Ferrata (Italian) = The iron path

The design and standard operation of a Via Ferrata is well documented, and many are now purpose built to different grades of difficulty offering the user a more or less adventurous situations as required. The primary travel is carried out on rungs which are drilled and cemented (using commercial adhesives) into the rock face at regular intervals, the 'rungs' may differ in size and shape to suit hand and foot movements but all of the same strength and method of attachment. The Queenstown Rungway is designed to be an all weather facility, and while natural rock ledges are used occasionally, more than 95% of travel is directly on rungs for both hands and feet providing security and consistency for climbers on any given day.



SAFETY AND SECURITY

While a virtual 'ladder' has been created it is possible a participant may fall from the rungs. It is a dynamic climbing activity and there is some degree of risk, and with this in mind a second tier of safety is included. A steel cable is attached by stanchions to the rock face running adjacent to the rungs, and runs from vertical to horizontal in position to suit travel on the Via Ferrata. The cable is fixed in sections of 2.5 +/- metres, with a bight of cable left at the low point to form a 'catch loop'. Only one climber is allowed per section of fixed cable at any time. This safety procedure eliminates a climber falling on to another climber causing a 'domino effect'. Should a participant fall they are supported by a climbing harness and attached by two lanyards to the cable, the fall will come to rest as the double locking carabiners arrive in the cable catch loop. In addition the harness and lanyards are equipped with a destructing shock absorber system which will greatly reduce any forces on the participant and equipment.



OPERATION

The Rungway provides introduction, training and constant supervision to all the clientele using the Via Ferrata. All participants and guides wear climbing helmets to protect from falling debris and 'bumping' on rock and iron work. All participants and guides wear certified sit harnesses, designed for climbing use. All harnesses are equipped with a shock absorber, two lanyards with locking carabiners and a 'rest' (snap link) carabiner for security when stopped and during transfer of lanyard carabiners around cable stanchions.

If necessary a guide can belay a client by 'top rope' for additional safety and the chance of a fall by slip or panic is eliminated. Foot wear and clothing are specified for the nature of the weather on the day and season. I have observed people of all ages, fitness and ethnicity successfully using the Rungway Via Ferrata. The Rungway Via Ferrata has a no accident, no injury record to date, (approximately 2 years of commercial operation.) One fall has been recorded, however the fall and forces at the time failed to activate the shock absorber and the participant was uninjured.

GUIDES

The Rungway was developed from the vision of a New Zealand mountain guide, and consequently the standard of Rungway guides and guide training has always been of a high priority. It is paramount in the introduction and supervision by guides that the ability of the guide to present safe and efficient techniques and maintain a diligent watch is the key to safe operation. As there are no formal or industry qualifications specified for Via Ferrata in New Zealand the Rung way trains all guides in house. All Guides are encouraged and training assistance given to gain NZOIA qualifications at Rock I and Alpine I levels in addition to specific Via Ferrata training. All guides hold a first aid certificate at NZQA work place first aid level, and are given rescue training specific to the Via Ferrata and environs.

OPERATION

Rungway have built and run an effective and efficient climbing operation that fits the international criteria for safety in this activity. The Rungway has been built entirely on private land to maintain security of the facility and to limit activities to guided parties and qualified persons. They have greatly enhanced the site close to Queenstown with good walking tracks open to the public and improved access to new areas for rock climbing.

For further info, training and employment please contact Dave@rungway.co.nz

Chris Prudden



NEW ZEALAND OUTDOOR INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

2007 Training Calendar

Course & Location	Provider	Course Date	Application Closing Date	Accommodation & Meals Included	Cost to Full & Associate Members	Cost to Non-Members
Kayak FW						
Auckland	NZOIA	15 October	3 September	No	\$60*	\$100*
Christchurch	NZOIA	5 November	24 September	No	\$60*	\$100*
Central North Is.	NZOIA	16 November	8 October	No	\$60*	\$100*
Kayak 1						
Queenstown	NZOIA	14-15 April	5 March	No	\$120*	\$200*
Central North Is.	NZOIA	21-22 April	12 March	No	\$120*	\$200*
Tongariro	OPC	3-4 November	None	Yes	\$445	\$445
Kayak 2						
Queenstown	NZOIA	14-15 April	5 March	No	\$120*	\$200*
Central North Is.	NZOIA	21-22 April	12 March	No	\$120*	\$200*
River Rescue						
Tongariro	OPC	10-11 Nov	None	Yes	\$445	\$445
Sea Kayak 1						
Auckland	NZOIA	31 Mar – 1 April	19 February	No	\$100*	\$175*
Dunedin	NZOIA	31 Mar – 1 April	19 February	No	\$100*	\$175*
Picton	NZOIA	19-20 April	12 March	No	\$100*	\$175*
Central North Is.	NZOIA	3-4 May	26 March	No	\$100*	\$175*
Sea Kayak 2						
Picton	NZOIA	19-20 May	9 April	No	\$100*	\$175*
Risk Management						
Tongariro	OPC	16-20 April	None	Yes	\$995	\$995
Tongariro	OPC	2-6 July	None	Yes	\$995	\$995
Tongariro	OPC	1-5 October	None	Yes	\$995	\$995
Ropes Course Safety / ABL						
Tongariro	OPC	1-5 October	None	Yes	\$950	\$950
Outdoor 1st Aid						
Tongariro	OPC	28-29 April	None	Yes	\$445	\$445
Tongariro	OPC	29-30 Sept	None	Yes	\$445	\$445
Cave 1						
Nelson	NZOIA	10 June	30 April	No	\$175	\$225
Waitomo	NZOIA	17 June	7 May	No	\$175	\$225
Nelson	NZOIA	24 June	14 May	No	\$175	\$225
Waitomo	NZOIA	1 July	21 May	No	\$175	\$225
Cave 2						
Nelson	NZOIA	9-10 June	30 April	No	\$275	\$375
Waitomo	NZOIA	16-17 June	7 May	No	\$275	\$375
Rock 1						
Auckland	NZOIA	19-20 May	9 April	No	\$275	\$375
Christchurch	NZOIA	13-14 October	3 September	No	\$275	\$375
Tongariro	OPC	3-4 November	None	Yes	\$445	\$445
Queenstown	NZOIA	24-25 November	15 October	No	\$275	\$375
Rock 2						
Christchurch	NZOIA	21-22 April	12 March	No	\$275	\$375
Central North Is.	NZOIA	27-28 October	17 September	No	\$275	\$375
Abseil 1						
Auckland	NZOIA	22 April	12 March	No	\$175	\$225
Bush 1						
Central North Is.	NZOIA	14-15 April	5 March	No	\$275	\$375
Central South Is.	NZOIA	28-29 April	19 March	No	\$275	\$375
Central North Is.	NZOIA	17-18 November	8 October	No	\$275	\$375
Central South Is	NZOIA	1-2 December	22 October	No	\$275	\$375
Bush 2						
Central North Is.	NZOIA	17-18 November	8 October	No	\$275	\$375
Central South Is	NZOIA	1-2 December	22 October	No	\$275	\$375

Alpine 1

South Island	NZOIA	21-22 July	11 June	No	\$275	\$375
South Island	NZOIA	4-5 August	25 June	No	\$275	\$375
Central North Is.	NZOIA	11-12 August	2 July	No	\$275	\$375
Tongariro	OPC	18-19 August	9 July	Yes	\$445	\$445
Central North Is.	NZOIA	25-26 August	16 July	No	\$275	\$375

Alpine 2

South Island	NZOIA	11-12 August	2 July	No	\$275	\$375
Central North Is.	NZOIA	18-19 August	9 July	No	\$275	\$375
South Island	NZOIA	18-19 August	16 July	No	\$275	\$375

* Water Safety NZ funding subsidy has been applied to this course (applies to all Kayak, Canoe and Sea Kayak courses run by NZOIA)

NZKS - NZ Kayak School, Murchison. Accommodation and cooking facilities provided on site. Full gear hire available at reduced rates to participants.

OPC - Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre of NZ, Tongariro. Accommodation and all meals are provided on site. All gear is also supplied at no additional cost.

NZOIA - Accommodation and meals need to be organised by participants. Participants generally need to supply their own gear. If gear hire is available it will be advised in the pre course information after you have enrolled.

Application closing date - Applications for enrollment need to be received 6 weeks before the actual course date, however applications will be accepted beyond the closing date until the course maximum is reached. Places on training courses are allocated on a first in (with completed application form, summary sheets and course fee) first accepted basis.

Course cancellation - If minimum numbers are not achieved the course may be cancelled and you will be advised of this soon after the closing date for applications.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Ideally there should be a period of about 6 months between training and assessment. This allows you time to work on any gaps you need to fill that have been highlighted by the training course.

In many cases training courses are run by assessors. It is NZOIA policy that no person shall be trained and assessed by the same person within a period of one month. Please be aware that booking training and assessment with less than a month gap is not recommended and may lead to disappointment because we generally cannot confirm who will be doing the training and assessing until just after the application closing date. Plan ahead and allow time both to prepare for assessment and to avoid the problem of the trainer being the assessor.

Instructor training courses are just that, they are designed for those who wish to qualify as an instructor. In general terms you should be already working as an instructor under supervision or guidance. Your technical skills should be close to the standard expected on assessment (see individual award syllabi on our website). The course should provide you with new knowledge and skills and will help you identify any gaps you need to fill before your assessment. They are not introductory courses.

COURSE COSTS

All courses run by NZOIA are discounted for members; this includes Full, Student and Associate members. Kayak courses are substantially discounted because we receive funding support from Water Safety NZ. This funding is targeted by Water Safety as part of their overall aim of reducing water sports incidents and drowning. If you are not already a member it is probably worth joining to access discounted training.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND COURSE APPLICATION

Details of courses run by NZOIA, prerequisites, application forms and online payment are all available on the NZOIA website.

Where courses are run by other providers you'll need to contact them directly for enrollment and direct payment of course fees. You'll find links to them from the NZOIA website.

WHO ARE THE COURSES FOR?

Instructor training courses are just that, they are designed for those who wish to qualify as an instructor. In general terms you should be already working as an instructor under supervision or guidance. Your technical skills should be close to the standard expected on assessment (see individual award syllabi on our website). The course should provide you with new knowledge and skills and will help you identify any gaps you need to fill before your assessment. Ideally you should be aiming to complete your actual assessment within 6 to 12 months. They are not introductory courses.

EXISTING AWARD HOLDER AND NEED TO REFRESH YOUR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE?

Perhaps you are an existing award holder and either you've not instructed in a particular discipline for some time, or perhaps it's a long time since someone had a look at your skills? If this is the case you can come along on an instructor training course and treat it as a refresher or update to ensure that you are working to current accepted practice.

DO YOU REQUIRE A CUSTOM COURSE?

If you have specific training needs or require a course for your staff on a particular date or location we'll be happy to put something together for you. Cost will be much the same as our advertised courses unless such items as instructor travel costs are excessive. Get in touch and we'll be pleased to quote.

DO YOU RUN COURSES OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS?

These could be specific courses related to awards eg Alpine 1 Instructor Training, or they could be in a related field such as River Rescue, a rolling clinic or Outdoor First Aid.

In order for your course to be included on the calendar and advertised by NZOIA you must meet the following criteria:

- If the course is instructor training towards an NZOIA award you, or the staff you employ to run the course, must be Level 2 award holders in the relevant discipline and must be full financial members of NZOIA.
- If it's a technical course not certified by NZOIA such as River Rescue or Avalanche Awareness, you need to satisfy us that you hold the relevant qualifications or authority to run the course, and you must also be a current full financial member.
- Some other courses such as Outdoor First Aid we're happy to advertise without the membership requirement, as a service to members.
- The course needs to be scheduled for a specific date rather than 'on demand' (however we will provide a link to your website where you can advertise your full range of services).
- We encourage you to discount courses for fellow members to encourage others to join our association.

Web: www.nzoi.org.nz

Email - Administration: ao@nzoi.org.nz

Email - Training: training@nzoi.org.nz

NEW ZEALAND OUTDOOR INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

2007 Assessment Calendar

	COURSE DATE	Closing Date **		COURSE DATE	Closing Date **
Kayak FW			Rock 1		
Auckland	October 13-14	Aug 27	Dunedin	31 March-1 April	Feb 19
Christchurch	November 3-4	Sep 15	Auckland	May 5-6	Mar 22
Kayak 1			Christchurch	May 19-20	April 5
Murchison	March 24-26	Feb 10	Christchurch	October 27-28	Sep 13
Central NI	March 30-April 1	Feb 19	Auckland	November 10-11	Sep 26
Central NI	October 26-28	Sep 12	Christchurch	November 17-18	Oct 3
Christchurch	November 9-11	Sep 25	Central North Is.	November 24-25	Oct 10
Murchison	November 23-25	Oct 9	Sport Climbing 1		
Kayak 2			On request		
Murchison	March 16-18	Feb 1	Sport Climbing 2		
Multi Sport Kayak			On request		
Auckland	On request		Abseil 1		
Christchurch	On request		Auckland	October 27-28	Sep 14
SKOANZ Guide & Sea Kayak 1			Rock 2		
Christchurch	May 10-13	Mar 27	Christchurch	April 27-29	Mar 13
Auckland	May 24-27	Apr 10	Bush 1		
Auckland	October 4-7	Aug 23	Central North Is.	30 March-1 April	Feb 14
Christchurch	October 11-14	Sep 1	Central South Is.	March 24-26	Feb 12
Sea Kayak 1			Central South Is.	October 5-7	Aug 22
Christchurch	May 13	Mar 27	Central South Is.	October 26-28	Sep 12
Auckland	May 27	Apr 10	Central North Is.	November 2-4	Sep 18
Auckland	October 7	Aug 23	Bush 2		
Christchurch	October 14	Sep 1	South Island	April 20-22	Mar 8
Canoe			Central North Is.	May 4-6	Mar 21
South Island	November 30		South Island	October 12-14	Aug 29
	-December 2	Oct 18	Alpine 1		
Cave 1			South Island	31 August	
Central North Is.	April 14-15	Mar 1		-2 September	July 17
Nelson	May 11-13	Apr 1	Central North Is.	September 14-16	July 31
Cave 2			South Island	September 21-23	Aug 7
On request			Alpine 2		
			South Island	September 6-9	July 23

Closing Date ** ~ assessment applications, associated documentation and assessment deposit (\$100) must be received by closing date. Assessment applications received after closing date may be declined.

NOTE:

- It is always possible to run assessments on other dates, either by special request or if sufficient candidate are available.
- There are a minimum number of candidates required for each assessment.
- If you are interested please register your interest with our office.
- We will contact you if there are sufficient numbers.

Website: www.nzoia.org.nz

Email Administration Officer: ao@nzoia.org.nz Assessment Co-ordinator: assessment@nzoia.org.nz

Postal address: PO Box 11-090, Manners Street, Wellington 6142. Telephone: 04 385 6048, Fax: 04 385 9680.

BOOKING FOR A NZOIA ASSESSMENT

BOOKING ROUTINE

You must have completed the prerequisites before applying for an 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 logbook
- a copy of your current first-aid certificate
- application* form

*APPLICATIONS normally close six weeks before the assessment date.

We allocate places on assessment courses on a first-in, with deposit, first-accepted basis. After the closing date, we will confirm that the assessment will run. You then need pay the balance of the course fee before the assessment. If we cancel the course, we will refund all fees.

The deposit will be refunded in full if you withdraw from a course four weeks or more before the course starts, (or you can transfer to another course). Deposits will not be refunded where the withdrawal is within four weeks of the course, but may be transferred to another course. Where a withdrawal occurs within two weeks of the course 50% of the course fee will be charged.

COURSE FEES:

- Two day \$425
- Three day \$570
- Four day \$735
- Sea Kayak Guide/Instructor
Please contact the NZOIA office for fees

ASSESSMENTS BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It is possible to arrange assessments on dates other than those scheduled (generally subject to the availability of assessors). Please contact either the Assessment Co-ordinator (email - assessment@nzoia.org.nz); or Administration Officer (email - ao@nzoia.org.nz). Phone 04-385 6048.

Keep It Clean - The Easy Way to Fight Didymo

Between every river in New Zealand, all kayakers should CHECK, CLEAN and DRY. Here's how a carload of paddlers should treat their gear to help prevent the spread of Didymo – for less than the cost of a mince pie.

CHECK

Remove any Didymo matter from your kayak and gear (throw this on land away from river).

CLEAN

Put 10 or 20 litres of water in a tub (try the one you carry wet gear in).

Mix in 5% of household disinfectant.
10 litre tub: use 2 large cups (500ml)
20 litre tub: use 4 large cups (1 litre)

Drain boats and squeeze water out of wet gear as thoroughly as possible.

Soak all gear in the tub for at least a minute, squeeze excess solution back into the tub.

Pour remaining solution into kayak, slosh around to wet the entire inside (try to get spillage from cockpit back into the tub or next kayak).

Drain from first kayak into the next and so on until insides of all boats are wetted with solution.

Use remaining solution to sponge down the outside of kayaks and paddles.

Dispose of excess solution well away from river and if you have to rinse gear do so in tap water not the river water.

DRY

If possible, leave your boat and gear to dry as an extra precaution. If you don't clean your gear you must dry all of it thoroughly and then keep it dry another 48 hours. Given the difficulty of completely drying wetsuit booties and other equipment, cleaning is preferred.

TIPS

Buy disinfectant from a supermarket for about \$2 for a two litre bottle. If you use 500ml it will cost you about 50 cents every time you clean your gear. A small price to pay to protect our rivers!

Make a mark with a felt pen on the side of the washing tub to show the required water level for future treatments.

It's a good idea to mark 250 ml and 500ml on an old plastic bottle (e.g. clean one litre milk bottle) and use this to measure disinfectant.

Report suspected new finds of Didymo to 0800 809 966 and for more information visit www.rivers.org.nz/article/Didymo



 **New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association**
www.rivers.org.nz

NZOIA Research Awards - Applications are Invited

NZOIA strongly promotes research that relates to the delivery of outdoor programmes and that adds to our knowledge and understanding of this.

NZOIA believes there is a need to further develop research capacity in the outdoor sector and wants to constructively encourage such endeavours.

NZOIA has accumulated a small pool of research money and wants to support research by offering up to four NZOIA Research Awards per annum. The Awards are designed to support small scale research projects and will most likely be \$500 - \$750.

Research involves systematic and rigorous inquiry which involves the following stages:

- Identification of a significant issue
- Development of a specific focus or question
- Overall plan of research as a written proposal
- Ethics approval
- Literature review
- Data Collection
- Data analysis
- Presentation of research

These stages are not strictly sequential as the literature review for example may overlap all stages.

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE AWARDS?

Complete the proposal of interest form and send to NZOIA. This can be downloaded from our website at:

Website index item: Resources / Document Library / Document Category = General Information

This application form asks you to identify the general nature of the problem or line of inquiry you are interested in researching as well as information about who you are, whether it is as part of a requirement for a qualification, where you are based and what (if any) other sources of funding you are using.

HOW WILL DECISIONS BE MADE ABOUT WHICH PROPOSALS ARE SUCCESSFUL?

A panel will select the proposal outlines and invite successful applicants to negotiate further contractual obligations which will include some agreements relating to interim reporting and final reporting.

Awards will be granted to proposals which offer the best potential for developing a greater understanding about the delivery of outdoor programmes. Secondary criteria will include the methodological soundness and feasibility of the research design.

If you wish to discuss your ideas or for further information please contact:

Matt Cant ce@nzoia.org.nz Ph. 021 2227331



discovering, together.

MASTER THE OUTDOORS

Two exciting and unique wilderness locations, Tongariro National Park and Great Barrier Island for:

- INSTRUCTOR TRAINING**
- RISK MANAGEMENT**
- OUTDOOR FIRST-AID**
- NAVIGATION**
- SKILLS COURSES** – mountaineering, kayaking, rock climbing, bush survival, ropes
- YOUTH AND ADULT ADVENTURE PROGRAMMES**
- ACCOMMODATION** for conferencing, retreats
- TAILORED PROGRAMMES** for corporates and groups; teambuilding, leadership

For more information please contact us on:
phone 0800 688 843
email opc@opc.org.nz
web www.opc.org.nz



CONGRATULATIONS! CONGRATULATIONS!

The following members recently gained NZOIA Awards:

- BUSH 1:** Bevan Sanders.
- KAYAK 1:** Rebecca Dryland.
- ROCK 1:** Warwick Prewer, Ollie Yeoman, Guilherme Setani, Tim Perry, Matthew Quirk, Josh Burrell, Braden Currie, Anna Currie, Anna White.
- SEA KAYAK GUIDE:** Ryan MacDonald, Michael Burton.

FOR SALE

via the NZOIA website: www.nzoia.org.nz

- **NZOIA LOGBOOKS**
Every instructor needs to maintain one - its your professional CV
- **NZOIA THERMAL MUGS**
Keep that drink /soup hot for longer.
- **WATERPROOF NOTEBOOKS**
No more soggy notes after that 'wet' day outdoors.
- **GETTING IT RIGHT**
How to successfully run your outdoor business.
- **NZOIA T-SHIRTS**

LEGAL INFORMATION WEBSITE

Here is a useful link to simple, easy to use legal information for the non-profit sector.

<http://www.nzfvwo.org.nz/keepingitlegal>

AND CHECK OUT THE NZOIA WEB SITE AT

www.nzoia.org.nz

...your comments and suggestions are welcome!

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 11-090, Manners Street, Wellington 6142, or email to: ao@nzoia.org.nz

Articles should be submitted in Word format. All photographs must be supplied individually in jpg format and cannot be used if embedded in a Word document.

ADVERTISE WITH US ...

HALF PAGE: 170mm wide x 125mm high OR 85mm wide x 245mm high \$100 + gst

QUARTER PAGE: 85mm wide x 125mm high \$70 + gst

Send your advertising copy to:

The Editor NZOIA
PO Box 11-090
Manners Street
Wellington 6142

Email:

ao@nzoia.org.nz



GETTING THE ADVENTURE BACK

Waimea College Outdoor Education



Photos courtesy Mike Brien

Photo contributions are welcomed for the back page series 'GETTING THE ADVENTURE BACK'. Please submit as files of no less than 700kb in individual jpg format.

