

Wed Rāapa 17 SEPT	Thurs Rāpare 18 SEPT	Friday Rāmere 19 SEPT		Saturday Rāhoroi 20 SEPT		Sunday Rātapu 21 SEPT		
0900 - 1700 Assessor Training Workshop (for new Assessors) Youth Lodge Dining Hall 1800 Dinner (For New Assessors) 1900 Assessor Conference accommodati on check in 1900 Airport Shuttle	0730 Breakfast 0800 - 0900 Assessor Registration Open Youth Lodge Dining Hall 0900 - 1700 Assessor Conference Youth Lodge 1530 Airport Shuttle	0700 Breakfast & make packed lunch Gear Collection		0700 Breakfast & make packed lunch Gear Collection		0700 Breakfast		
		0730 Safety Hui – ALL Fri Full Day Assessors		0730 Safety Hui – ALL Sat Full Day Assessors		Clean up		
		Full Day Workshops 8am – 5pm		Full Day Workshops 8am – 5pm				
	Refresher Workshops Bush 1 (Curtis Vermeulen) Bush 2 (Don Paterson & Jo Thompson) Canoe 1 (Simon Dixon) Canyon 1 (Shanan Fraser) Kayak Flatwater (Pete Eley) MTB 1 (Alistair Matthew) Rock 1 & SCE (Loz Ogle) Rock 2 & SCE (Sam Russek)		Professional Development Workshops Alpine Snow safety / avalanche awareness (Sarah English) Minimalistic Rescue (Tim Shaw) Beyond the first pitch (Gregg Beisly) The Wild Advantage (Zak Shaw) Everyone loves Canyoning (Shanan Fraser)	Refresher & RCC Workshops Abseil and Rock Leader (Loz Ogle) Alpine 1 (Ben White) Alpine 1 & 2 (Gregg Beisly) Bush 1 (Jen Riley) Kayak 1 (Dave Moore) Kayak 1 & 2 (Zak Shaw) Rock 1 (Tim Bartholomew) Sea Kayak L, Guide, 1 (David Mangnall)	Professional Development Workshops Hot Tips for preparing for your MTB 1 Assessment (Alistair Matthew) Rock Climbing Movement (Sash Nukada) The ups and downs of caving - SRT Endorsement for Cave 1 (Kieran McKay and Pip Rees) Bush 1: The other stuff (Mark and Di Johnston)	0900 NZOIA AGM		
	Symposium Start		Half Day Professional Development Workshops		Half Day Professional Development Workshops		1045 - 1115 Karakia, Kai & Symposium Close	
	1600 - 1700 Registration Open Youth Lodge Dining Hall		AM 0900 – 1200 - The journey to ‘best’ practice: The combined role of research and reflective practice (Dr Jonathan Lynch & Dr Hannah Berning –Ara)	PM 1300 – 1600 Facilitating Therapeutic Experiences (Kelly O’Hagan, Adventure Therapy Aotearoa)	AM 0800- 1200 Navigating the Future: Mastering Nav Sessions for Orienteering, Rogaine, and Adventure Racing (Jean Cory-Wright, Ara)	PM 1300 – 1600 - Toitū te Tiriti - A Pākehā Perspective on Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Rachael Pelvin – Ara)	1115am Airport shuttles depart	
			Session A 0800 – 1000 Weaving matauranga Māori into our pedagogy and approach to EOTC safety (Dave Williams & Andrew Mount)	Session B 1030 – 1230 So, You Want to be a Technical Advisor or a Technical Expert (Stu Allan & Mike Pennefather)	0900 – 1200 Giving back - Incorporating conservation into outdoor education programmes (Neil Silverwood & Logan Laws)	1300 – 1700 So, you’ve done 1st aid now what? - Bridging the gap between immediate care and long-term survival or rescue in the outdoors (Ali Holley, Horizons)		
	1700 Assemble at the Youth Lodge			1300 – 1700 Medicinal Plant Walk and Slow Eco Pedagogy (Dr Stephen Parker)	0800 – 1200 Māori Kaupapa in the Outdoors (Shannan Miles, Karllie Clifton and Sharon Nicholas)	Session C 1300 – 1500 Adapting with Rangatahi: Youth Insights and Innovation in Active Recreation (Ella Creagh, Sport NZ)		Session D 1515 – 1715 Neurodivergence & Behaviour: Supporting Clients and Working with Your Team (Celia Hogan, Little Kiwis Nature Play)
	1730 Welcome Mihi Whakatau			1300 – 1600 Mythbusters – Rock edition (Ivor Heijnen & Dr Lindsey Alton, Ara)				
	1830 Dinner 1930 - 2100 Registration Open		1730 – Gear Return 1830 Dinner 1930 Social Time / Sector group meetings		1730 – Gear Return 1830 Excellence Awards dinner Social Time			

Friday | 19 Sept – Professional Development Workshop Descriptions

FRI - FULL DAY

Alpine Snow safety / avalanche awareness

Sarah English | OENZ | NZOIA Alpine 1, L5 ARM, Bush 2, Rock 1 Sport Climbing Endorsement

This workshop is for the Alpine 1 & 2 instructor looking to collaborate on snow safety and decision making in the alpine space. Exchanging ideas and tips for working in and out of avalanche terrain to help gain an insight to what other professionals are doing and how they’re doing it as well as look at some of the techniques and tools of the trade. Please bring your full mountain kit – crampons, ice axe, helmet, avalanche rescue kit. Optional technical mountaineering kit for A2 qual holders to be able to break out to share ideas/skill at this level. **You must have Alpine 1 to attend.**

Minimalistic Rescue

Tim Shaw | Peel Forest Outdoor Centre | NZOIA Kayak 2

How many river rescue workshops have you attended where there is an army of rescuers for a scenario? This is not that course. Spend a day on the river practicing the skills, working with the limits of human power and minimal gear. Come prepared with questions, and your favourite ways of solving river-based problems. Please bring along you full paddling kit for a short river trip with lots of swimming and getting wet. (Kayaks available to borrow). **You must be able to paddle grade 3 to attend.**

Beyond the first pitch – advanced techniques and rescue in the multi pitch environment

Gregg Beisly | NZOIA Rock 2 & Alpine 2 Assessor

In the morning we will look at contemporary multi pitch techniques from various parts of the globe; issues and potential solutions for teaching and guiding in the multi pitch environment. Followed by an afternoon of rescue techniques for a variety of multi pitch rescue scenarios. We’ll be doing some climbing, to set up, practice techniques and of course have some fun. Please bring along your harness, helmet, rock shoes, belay device - ATC Guide or similar with guide function, personal anchor system/lanyard, 120cm sewn sling, locking carabiners x 4, snaplink carabiners x 2, prusik loops x 2, 3 x Quickdraws, climbing rope (1 rope between 2 participants, so bring one if you have one and we’ll make sure we take enough to the crag on the day). **You must have Rock 1 to attend.**

The Wild Advantage – The benefits processing wild game meat on our health and our habitat

Zak Shaw | NZOIA Bush 2, Alpine 1, Kayak 2

The Wild Advantage workshop is intended to cater to those who are interested in weaving knowledge and skills related to hunting and the processing of wild game meat into educational experiences. Participants can expect to be involved in discussions relating to the limitations of the term ‘conservation’ when viewed from an indigenous knowledge perspective, the ecological impacts of introduced game species (ungulates) on the natural environment and the health benefits of hunting. The workshop will predominantly be hands on and involve the processing of wild game prior to consumption. Key skills include - Knife safety, knife techniques, meat processing, fire lighting and cooking techniques. It is hoped the workshop will be participated in by people who have limited experience with hunting or butchery. It is intended that all meat processed at the workshop will be made available (subject to supply) to be given away to friends, family and the wider community. Please bring along, a Knife - Sharp fixed bladed boning knife, Knife x2 (to be used to process materials for a fire) – Bushcraft style, fixed blade, sturdy (example - Orange handle Bacho), Fire lighting kit, Large Ziplock plastic bags (26cm x38cm) x15, Chilly bin with ice bottles for storage and transport of meat post workshop, Suitable footwear – tramping boots, Older clothing items including pants, Clean empty 10 litre paint bucket. All enthusiastic participants welcome.

Everyone loves Canyoning

Shanan Fraser | NZOIA Canyon 2

Canyoning skills and trip. **You must have your own canyoning gear to join this workshop:** full-length Steamer at least 3/4mm or equivalent. Neoprene socks AND lace up shoes (not dive booties), helmet, harness with 2x safety/cowstails, figure 8 or canyon style descender. Optional: canyon/cave pack, mechanical ascenders, extra carabiners, goggles, dry barrel/bag.

FRI – AM

The journey to ‘best’ practice: The combined role of research and reflective practice 0900 – 1200

Dr Jonathan Lynch – Programme Manager - Ara Institute of Canterbury – Sustainability and Outdoor Education

Dr Hannah Berning – Academic Staff Member - Ara Institute of Canterbury – Sustainability and Outdoor Education

Outdoor recreation and education are grounded in authentic settings and first-hand experiences. Yet, in order to remain effective and relevant in an ever-changing world, it is crucial that research can inform practice *and* practice can inform research. This workshop will focus on two aspects of professional practice in outdoor education. Firstly, we will present a series of snapshots on current research on the outdoors that has the potential to shape our practice – these will include, social media/ technology and young people outdoors, sustainable/regenerative practices (including, localism and place-based approaches). The second part of the workshop will invite participants to see how their practice can be shaped by research *but also* how they might shape research through their practice. In this workshop, group discussions and collaborative activities will provide a platform for practitioners to critically reflect on their own experiences and engage into OE issues. For example, how practitioners move from individual practice to good practice to best practice is of interest to researchers and can offer new collaborative opportunities between research and practitioners to emerge.

Session A

Championing the value of really important things. Weaving matauranga Māori into our pedagogy and approach to EOTC safety 0800-1000

Dave Williams | WINTEC | NZOIA Alpine 1, Bush 2, Canoe 1, Rock 1 – Sport Climbing Endorsement, Sea Kayak 1, MTB 1.

Andrew Mount | Whangarei Girls High | NZOIA Rock 1, Sea Kayak 2.

Part 1: How can we, as Tangata Tiriti authentically weave matauranga Māori into our teaching practice in Outdoor Education. Presenting the findings from my Masters of Education dissertation on this topic. Participants will be challenged with some scenarios and investigate what is the tikanga to consider when operating in this space.

Part 2: Explore how the **Atua Mātau** framework can deepen our connections—with ourselves, others, and the natural world—while enhancing safety in **Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC)**. This workshop examines how mātauranga Māori can guide our approach to respect, protection, and integrity in outdoor and experiential learning. Discover a fresh perspective on embedding cultural values while aligning seamlessly with the five key competencies of the NZ Curriculum. Ideal for educators and practitioners looking to create meaningful, culturally responsive, and safe learning experiences.

Session B

So, You Want to be a Technical Advisor or a Technical Expert 1030 – 1230

Stu Allan | Chair ROSA

Mike Pennefather | Audit Manager, AdventureMark

TAs are key to understanding the wider sector, providing safe programmes, and enabling smooth audits; TEs are key to the auditing scheme, which is based on good practice. We’ll talk about what they do (and what TEs shouldn’t do), how they do it, and why understanding and evaluating against good practice is so important.

What’s up with education outside the classroom - Navigating Education Outside the Classroom in Schools: A Collaborative Workshop 1030 – 1230

Fiona McDonald – EONZ

What's on Top? – A space to share and explore the biggest challenges and opportunities in outdoor education right now and what we have learnt from recent incidents. The School Perspective – What are schools struggling with? What barriers do they face in getting students outdoors? How Providers Can Help – Practical ways you can align with schools’ needs, support teachers, and create safer, more engaging experiences. EONZ's Key Messages – Updates on current good practice, supervision expectations, and what’s essential when working with schools. Time to Talk! – Plenty of time for discussion and questions. Everyone is welcome.

FRI – PM

Facilitating Therapeutic Experiences 1300 – 1600

Kelly O’Hagan | Adventure Therapy Aotearoa

This is a practical workshop that covers some of the following from our full day workshop

- Introduction to theories behind adventure and nature-based therapy
- What ‘Adventure Therapy’ is within Aotearoa and worldwide
- Experience how to put these theories into practice
- The importance and application of whanaungatanga
- How you can integrate your usual mahi into adventure therapy experiences
- Kaupapa of supporting ongoing wellbeing through connection with te Taiao and physical activity in the outdoors

Medicinal Plant Walk and Slow Eco Pedagogy Inspired by the work of outdoor educator Brian Wattchow and his slow eco-pedagogy 1300 – 1700

Dr Steve Parker Bioregional Herbalist/Backcountry Snowboard Guide. PhD, Post Graduate Diploma in Outdoor Education, Diploma in Clinical Herbal Medicine.

Join Steve for a Collaborative Medicinal Plant Walk and step into a slower rhythm and reconnect with the healing wisdom of nature. This workshop invites you to explore the landscape through the lens of traditional plant medicine, guided by Steve in a collaborative, story-rich walk with medicinal plants. Inspired by Brian Wattchow’s *slow eco-pedagogy*, the experience encourages deep observation, attentiveness, and a sense of reciprocity with the natural world. As we move gently through the environment, you’ll meet a variety of medicinal plants, learning about their traditional uses and the cultural stories they carry.

- **Part One:** A 1.5-hour medicinal plant walk, engaging with multiple plants and their stories.
- **Part Two:** A quiet, focused immersion with one plant or tree. This session encourages creative and personal connection

Please bring a journal, pencil, and pastels for reflective exploration. As well as an open mind and some stories to share about their favourite wild medicinal plant.

Mythbusters – Rock edition 1300 – 1600

Ivor Heijnen and Dr Lindsey Alton, Ara, Institute of Canterbury – Sustainability and Outdoor Education

In this half day workshop Dr Lindsey Alton and Ivor Heijnen will put some commonly used climbing gear to the test. We will facilitate a number of experiments that aim to replicate real world uses of climbing gear, incl knots, bends and hitches, to see when and how this gear fails. We also invite workshop attendees to bring their own gear and ideas for testing (note that all gear used in the workshop will have to be retired afterwards). We hope that this will give climbing professionals the chance to bust or confirm common myths/ assumptions about how to use climbing gear. The PD workshop will take place at the engineering lab at the main Ara campus, and will use the Tinius Olsen Tensile Testing machine to replicate the strain put on climbing gear. Bring along rock climbing gear that you would like to see tested to failure (e.g. rope, sling, webbing, cord, biners) that you have either retired, or are happy to retire afterwards.

Saturday | 20 Sept - Professional Development Workshop Descriptions

SAT - FULL DAY

Hot Tips for Passing Your MTB1 Assessment

Alistair Matthews | NZOIA MTB 2 Assessor

Join us for a fun, personal development, practical day at Christchurch Adventure Park designed to help you nail your NZOIA MTB1 Assessment. With three gondola uplifts and hands-on coaching, you’ll learn how to observe and improve rider technique, structure engaging lessons, and manage groups safely on Grade 3 trails. Perfect for anyone preparing for assessment or wanting to boost their coaching skills in a supportive, outdoor setting.

Key topics:

- Observing and assessing rider technique
- Modelling and coaching correct skills
- Structuring logical, progressive lesson plans
- Group management and safety essentials
- Delivering clear feedback and fostering learning

Come ride, learn, and get assessment-ready! Please bring along Mountain Bike and Personal Protective Equipment in good condition, your “guiding/coaching” backpack full of gear, snacks, water, and lunch. **Open to everyone able to ride Christchurch Adventure Park Blue trails (Grade 4).** The day will be held at the Christchurch Adventure Park. **There will be an additional \$45 cost for this workshop to purchase a 3 run tickets at CAP.** Participants can rent bike and safety gear if needed for only \$30 from CAP.

Beyond ‘3 Points of Contact’ – teaching beginner and intermediate climbing movement skills

Sash Nukada | NZOIA TSC Convenor | NZOIA Rock 2, Alpine 2, Bush 2

Want to sit Rock 2 but put off by the grade 20 trad lead? Want to lead grade 20 trad with style and grace? Want to make rock climbing even more fun than it already is? Sick of injuries stopping you from progressing to the next level? Do you want to teach beginner and intermediate climbing technique? (Intermediate being grade 16-21). Then this is the workshop for you!! Learn about movement skills for rock climbing to take you (and your students) to the next level. Please bring along: Climbing shoes, chalk bag, passion for movement! Open to everyone of intermediate climbing ability (**able to sport lead grade 16-18, boulder V2-4**).

The ups and downs of caving – SRT Endorsement for Cave 1

Pip Rees | NZOIA Cave 2, Bush 2, Rock 1 Sport Climbing Endorsement

Kieran McKay | NZOIA Cave 2, Alpine 2, Bush 1

We will be looking at how the brand new SRT Endorsement for NZOIA Cave 1 will work, while having some fun going up and down ropes. This is a chance for those interested in the vertical rope world to get out and play. The main focus will be looking at the brand new Cave 1 Single Rope Technique Endorsement, so we are hoping some cavers will turn up. Even if you are not a caver, or even if you do not teach caving this will be a very good opportunity to be part of something a little different. Not having your own up and down gear will be no excuse, we can supply up to 10 sets of SRT gear. Rain, hail snow or sun or even darkness will not stop us!! Please bring your own helmet, any rescue gear you have and a good sense of humour.

Bush 1: The other stuff

Di Johnston | NZOIA Bush 1, Rock 1

Mark Johnston | NZOIA Bush 1, Kayak 1, Rock 1 Sport Climbing Endorsement, Sea Kayak 2

In this session, we will attempt to cover a range of skills from the Bush 1 syllabus that aren’t directly related to navigation or river crossings...aka the other stuff. We’ll spend some time connecting with each other and the ngāhere, take a deeper dive into some plants and their traditional uses, get hands on with some fire lighting, campfire cooking (fire permit permitting), knife crafting, and explore how you might use these within programming. We will weave in some of the te ao Māori aspects of the syllabus and discuss how these might be integrated into practice (we’re not experts here, but we’ve been on our own journey as a whānau). This workshop would be ideal for those working towards Bush Leader or Bush 1 or those just wanting to refresh or upskill in the ngāhere. This is a workshop where we encourage ako, therefore bringing your skills and knowledge to share is welcomed. Please bring along bush knife (optional), flint and steel (optional), appropriate clothes and equipment for a day in the bush.

SAT – AM

Navigating the Future: Mastering Nav Sessions for Orienteering, Rogaine, and Adventure Racing 0800- 1200

Jean Cory-Wright | Ara, Institute of Canterbury – Sustainability and Outdoor Education

This workshop will offer valuable insights into navigation through rogaines and orienteering, focusing on course development and the technology used to design and map courses in your area. It will provide an overview of the different maps used and offer guidance on creating engaging, age-appropriate courses. Please bring along Pencils/ pens and notebook.

Giving back - Incorporating conservation into outdoor education programmes 0900 – 1200

Neil Silverwood | Tai Poutini Polytechnic Tutor of Earth Sciences & Ecology papers on the Certificate and Diploma in Outdoor Education and Guiding.

Prior to TPP I worked as a freelance photojournalist and photographer focusing on conservation issues as well as serving as the VP for Federated Mountain Clubs - advocating for the preservation of our wild spaces | NZOIA Bush 2, Rock 1

Logan Laws | Tai Poutini Polytechnic Tutor – Outdoor Ed & Ecology. His interest in this space is focused on fishing/overfishing and preserving our oceans | NZOIA Bush 2, Rock 1 Sport Climbing Endorsement, Sea Kayak 1

Recreation gives us a great deal – it teaches us about risk & reward, success, and adventure. It also connects us deeply with the natural world. Each pursuit teaches us about the world – paragliding about metrology, caving about geology, tramping – all earth sciences. But the environmental cost (carbon foot print etc) is high. Incorporating lessons about the need to protect our natural world into our roles as educators and guides can help turn the tide on the plethora of current environmental issues we face. We’ll take a deep dive into the key issues we currently face, both in NZ and overseas. Look at positive ways we can try and bring about change as well as exploring ways to reconnect clients with nature and ways of inspiring them to want to protect it. Please bring along a pen, paper and phone.

Māori Kaupapa in the Outdoors 0800 - 1200

Shanan Miles | WINTEC | NZOIA Alpine 1, Bush 2, Canoe 1, Cave 1, Kayak 2, Sea Kayak Leader, MTB 1

This workshop will explore how Māori Kaupapa can actively guide and enrich your outdoor education instruction and guiding. Together, we’ll examine how to bring Māori values to life through thoughtful practices and meaningful action in the field — deepening connection to people, place, and purpose. Please bring along a positive attitude, a curious mind, and a willingness to ask questions. You’ll also need good footwear and a warm jacket — we’ll be heading out on a mission somewhere, so come prepared for an outdoor adventure!

SAT – PM

Toitū te Tiriti - A Pākehā Perspective on Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi 1300 – 1600

Rachael Pelvin | Ara Institute of Canterbury – Sustainability and Outdoor Education

Consider how your current practice as an outdoor educator is influenced by Te Tiriti o Waitangi and how we can strengthen our understanding to take a more intentional approach. Understand our history, strengthen our relationships and ensure our sustainable future in an Aotearoa that honours Te Tiriti.

This workshop will include activities that explore:

- Tino Rangatiratanga and kawantanga | Sovereignty and governance
- Whanaungatanga | Collective relationships
- Whenua | Connection to land and place

Please bring along pencils/ pens and notebook.

So, you’ve done 1st aid now what? - Bridging the gap between immediate care and long-term survival or rescue in the outdoors 1300 – 1700

Ali Holley | Horizons - PHEC Tutor

You've administered first aid in the wild—now what? This essential course bridges the gap between immediate care and long-term survival or rescue. Learn how to make critical decisions, communicate effectively for help, monitor injuries, prevent complications, and prepare for evacuation. Ideal for hikers, campers, outdoor instructors, and adventurers, this course equips you with the knowledge to stay calm, stay safe, and stay smart after the crisis. No equipment needed but be prepared to be on the ground for scenarios.

Session C:

Adapting with Rangatahi: Youth Insights and Innovation in Active Recreation 1300 – 1500

Ella Creagh – Active Recreation Consultant at Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa

Rangatahi (youth) are constantly changing, and the Active Recreation sector has an exciting opportunity to adapt and innovate alongside them. Come along to this session to learn about recent rangatahi insights from Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa. Topics include:

- Rangatahi values and social worlds, and how we can use this information to work better with rangatahi
- Updates on rangatahi preferences for physical activity participation
- Rangatahi having a genuine seat at the table: empowering rangatahi to be decision-makers and leaders in the sector

This session will include interactive activities and discussion about how you can apply these insights to your mahi as Outdoor Instructors.

Session D:

Neurodivergence & Behaviour: Supporting Clients and Working with Your Team 1515 – 1715

Celia Hogan | Little Kiwis Nature Play | EONZ Co-Chair | Tuning into kids Facilitator, Parenting Coach, Runs Bush kindy and one day Bush school.

In the outdoors, behaviours can be amplified, whether from the challenge of the environment, the stress of the unknown, or the unique ways people process the world. This workshop will explore how to recognise and respond to challenging behaviours in neurodivergent clients, including ADHD, autism, and sensory processing differences. We’ll look at what those behaviours might be communicating, how brain development and stress responses influence reactions, and practical strategies for de-escalation, connection, and building trust.

In the final part of the session, we’ll shift focus to working alongside neurodivergent co-instructors. ADHD, for example, often brings a natural appetite for risk and a tendency towards rapid decision-making. We’ll discuss how to balance these strengths with potential challenges, develop self-awareness, and use open communication to create safer, more effective instructing teams.

Through real-world scenarios, hands-on strategies, and open discussion, you’ll walk away with practical tools you can use on your next programme, whether you’re supporting a group of students or collaborating with fellow instructors in the field.

Sunday | 21 Sept - Keynote

Keynote: Jezza Williams – Making Trax 0945-1030 (Following the AGM)

Jezza spent over 15 years leading wild expeditions around the globe, living for adrenaline and the natural world. From rafting to canyoning, he was a seasoned adventure professional—until a life-changing canyoning accident in Switzerland in 2010 left him a tetraplegic. Suddenly, the future he knew was gone. Would adventure always be out of reach? What followed was a powerful journey of mindset, resilience, and acceptance. Through nearly a year of rehabilitation, Jezza not only adjusted to his new body—he redefined his relationship with adventure. By embracing his circumstances and confronting challenge head-on, he reclaimed his identity and purpose. Determined not to sit on the sidelines, Jezza re-entered the world of adventure with a new perspective—challenging the status quo and reinventing what adaptive adventure could look like. He saw the gaps, the barriers, and the missed opportunities—and set out to transform the industry from within.