



QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND OUTDOOR INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 95 NOVEMBER 2023



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

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Photo: Matt Hanson



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Thoughts from the Board

Kia ora koutou,

it was fantastic to see so many people at the recent NZOIA Symposium. This is always a great chance to reconnect with friends from across the country and meet some new faces to add to the web of outdoor connections. It's safe to say that the room was a buzz of positive energy, with several people commenting to me that there really is no group of people quite like NZOIA people, and the term 'whānau' used to describe the collective on many occasions.

Congratulations to all this year's award winners, you can read about our recipients further on in the Quarterly. And thank you to everyone who contributed to making the weekend a success.

The 2023 AGM occurred during the Symposium. For those who couldn't attend; the remit which was circulated prior to the AGM,

to update the rules to match our current language and processes relating to membership and online meetings, was passed. Membership fees stay the same for the coming year thanks to a positive financial result in 2022-2023. And there were no changes to the Board make up as no position terms ended this year.

Now it's back to business, and while the staff team manage a course calendar that's in full summer swing, the NZOIA Board are working to finalise updates to our strategic plan to make this more defined and outcome focused. SportNZ are assisting us with this piece of work which we believe will provide clear purpose and drive for the next period. Watch this space for updates in 2024.

For now though, enjoy your summer.

Gemma Parkin, NZOIA Board Chair

Congratulations

to the following members who recently gained NZOIA Qualifications!

- Abseil Leader** Callan Tuala, Claudia Fraser, William Coulden-Lavers, Andrew Meade, Marcus Lawson, Vincent Curtis, Jeremy Bastion, Tyana Orlando, Liliith Scott
- Alpine 1** Matthew Hanson, Alex Booker, Dave Henley, Jason Bond, Nathanael Sage
- Bush 1** Anna Swanney, Oliver George, Isaac Bayldon, Nathalie Nasrallah, Patrick Seifert, Gregory Ferguson, Brogan Handcock, Melissa McArtney
- Climbing Wall Supervisor** Bailey Taylor, Jennifer Carruthers, Sarah Cooper, Adrian Braaksma, Mark Owen-Cooper, James Spencer, Ivan Rubak, Marie McDonald
- CWS – Monitor Lead Endorsement** Bailey Taylor, James Spencer
- Kayak Leader** Dominic Craw
- Kayak 1** Libby Clifton
- Kayak 2** Eddie Murphy
- Mountain Bike 1** Lisa Hill, Benjamin Cooper, Sam Durrant
- Rock Leader** Ross MacDonald, Callan Tuala, Nicole Owen, Tyana Orlando, Liliith Scott
- Rock 1** Jenny Lacey, Sophie Richards, Fletcher Phelan, Luke Shaw, Dan Cullen, Emersyn Coxhead, Ella Kayrouz, Stacey Bark Riki, Dominic Craw, Joe Keenan, Doug McCauley
- Sea Kayak Leader** Harry Series
- Sea Kayak 1** Tom Clarke, Georgia Bird, David Moseley

NZOIA OUTDOOR EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2023



WAHINE TOA CONGRATULATIONS: DIANA JOHNSTON

“ Bush Farm Trust operates in the outdoors, with clients who are neurodiverse, many with ADHD/autism/ Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia who find classroom learning, at best, challenging. We work closely with Ngāti Wheke in showcasing dual worldviews, as our role as Kaitiaki in te taiao.

Diana Johnston came onto our team, 18 months ago and in that time she has single-handedly rewritten our Health and Safety plan to be in accordance to the Worksafe Act, in a new and emerging field of Forest Schools where there is not much, if any, previous application. Within this she has created a healthy risk component that considers the whole child.

When working with ākonga, Di mentors each individual (where they are at); taking them from one level of learning to another. She engages with the children with warmth and a caring nature. On a daily basis, Di checks on colleagues' wellbeing, nurtures and engages so that each team is tight. ”

Katie Earle – Bush Farm Trust



Awarded to a NZOIA wahine, who is a highly respected leader and role model. A kaiaratahi who inspires wāhine to recreate, work and connect with te taiao.

Di embodies the true essence of a wahine toa. Displaying strong manaakitanga, she inspires all ages with her solid instructional and facilitation skills; knowledge and respect of te taiao (the natural world); and aptitude for te āo Māori in her approach.

A NZOIA Bush and Rock 1 holder for almost 20 years, Di has juggled instructing, contracting, volunteering, adventure racing, studying early childhood teaching and learning te reo, all while being a mother to two active boys.

She has strong beliefs about how to treat others and the world around us. She is a kaiarataki (leader) who influences people through her example and the way she lives life authentically, putting into practise what she believes in.

“ She has an amazing ability to think out loud and invite others to think out loud with her. When our annual eleven day expeditions needed a content re-write, Di was invited to be the main contributor for the leadership development piece. While there were lots of ideas, direction and process happening, she was super comfortable in this context and was able to share her ideas but yet remain open to the other cornerstones and seek to find the middle ground and win/win. She showed such poise, commitment and flexibility in this role.

Whenever we see each other there is always an honesty about what she is doing and how that is impacting her. Her honesty about her te whare tapawhā is often on full display. This I believe sets a great example for all of us.

That she is first and foremost able to be an inspiring mother to her boys and yet claim and demonstrate all these other amazing attributes is perhaps her greatest achievement. ”

Paul Humphreys – Colleague, Co-creator and Rogaine Teammate



She strongly values others wellbeing and will do all that she can do to support them whether it is physical, mental or spiritual support that is needed. She has a very empathetic nature and will often put others needs before her own.

She is one of the most non-judgemental, understanding women I know and is always a safe person to share any problem with. She has an ability to make people feel heard and understood in a caring way which is a continual inspiration to me. I often come away from our time together being inspired to be a kinder and more compassionate person. I love Di's attitude and kindness towards others, and it motivates me to be more like that myself. ”

Claire Stephenson – ex Adventure Specialties Trust Staff member and Adventure buddy

“ Diana trained and performed in drama and dance. She is a talented painter working across many different mediums from sketch pencils to oils.

She spent two years training and three years full time instructing at Adventure Specialties Trust (AST) doing multi-day expedition programmes, setting up and delivering programmes for clients with disabilities, teaching technical skills to high school students and supporting school teaching staff to deliver school camps.

Diana now contracts to AST, she recently completely overhauled our instructors field facilitation guide to bring it in line with our current outcome areas, and she delivers staff bush training. Her workshop at this year's Symposium came in part out of encouragement from AST that more people need to get to hear this practical but connected presentation of te ngahere.

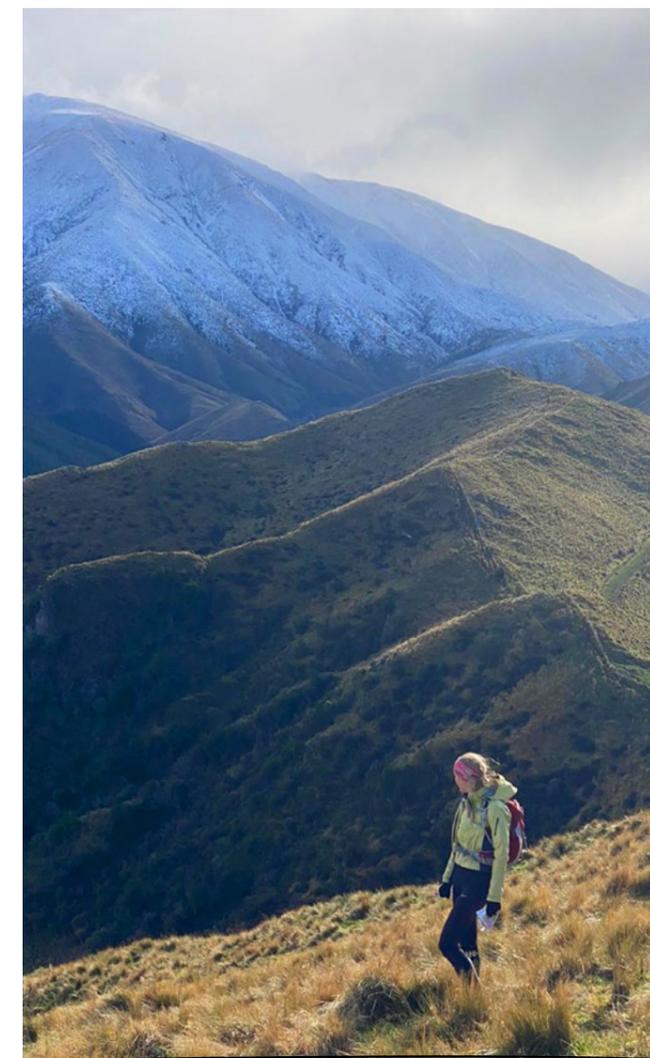
Limited time, a competitive spirt and enjoying multiple activities has led to Diana become an Adventure Racer, her teammates would say that when the going gets rough or steep there are few faster than her! She recently entered the 3hr Kaikoura Adventure race with James our eleven year old son in the family category which they won. They also took out the fastest time of all in the three hour event... her competitive spirit has passed onto another generation!

Diana is a competent, yet humble wahine who continues to have an input into our sector in a wide variety of ways. ”

Mark Johnston – Adventure Specialties Trust (plus loving husband)

“ Di is highly respectful of te ao Māori and clearly values the rich heritage and culture of New Zealand. She and her family joined a weekly 'kai and kōrero' gathering at her local whare karakia (church). As well as structured learning of te reo Māori through her university studies, Di questions those around her to further her understanding when the opportunity arises.

She is part of a committee at her local church which is dedicated to reducing their environmental footprint as an organisation. As well as initiatives within their own church, Di and her whānau volunteer at tree planting and river clean up days.



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TALL TŌTARA CONGRATULATIONS: HAMISH REID

his paragliding club in developing stronger safety culture and systems.

It has been inspirational to see him learn how to paraglide, and it has motivated myself and others to take on new pursuits and ventures of our own. One of Hamish's more recent adventures saw him take on a massive "hike and fly" paragliding race over 3 days high above the peaks surrounding Wānaka and the Southern Lakes. It seems like the perfect race for Hamish. Long. Hard. Immersive. Lots of opportunities for learning. A bit of a grovel-fest. And all about the journey. ”

Meg Ryan

“ He grew up on Molesworth station where from an early age he learned outdoor and hunting skills as well as natural history from his father and other musters. While farming wasn't Hamish's thing, the outdoor ed curriculum at Nelson College where he was a boarder allowed him to learn about other ways to find meaning and purpose in the outdoors. After a Parks and Rec degree at Lincoln which involved more adventuring (including the mountains of Pakistan), Hamish mixed his time working both for the Department of Conservation as a ranger, and the manager of the Arthurs Pass Outdoor Education Centre.

After training in Wyoming, Hamish became one of the first generation of Kiwi instructors that worked for the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) in NZ. He pioneered several new mountaineering and tramping routes for 30 day NOLS courses in Arthurs Pass, Lewis Pass, Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi. Some of the experiences Hamish had during this time were epic – bad weather, impassable terrain, funky group dynamics and limited rations. In these moments Hamish really came alive, his stoicism, positive attitude and ability to deescalate conflict became the stuff of legend. Hamish could spend hours patiently following students down the wrong ridgeline in the rain, with full knowledge of the mistake, just to extract the maximum learning from the experience. He has near saint-like levels of patience for beginners, and this showed in student evaluations of him.

Between NOLS contracts he worked for DOC as a community relations ranger, his ability to relate to people from all types of backgrounds made him invaluable in this space. He also volunteered as an outdoor first aid instructor for the NZ Mountain Safety Council where could captivate a crowd with his stories, his sense of humor and his cunning tips. For many years he was a key member of the Arthurs Pass Search and Rescue team, a St John First Responder as well a member of the fire brigade there. More than once I remember sitting in Hamish's house having a cuppa when the local policeman would call him out to go to deal with some new missing person or medical drama along Highway 73 or the adjoining mountains. Back in the day

Awarded to a current instructor or guide who personifies 'excellence in outdoor leadership'. A highly respected role model, someone who has contributed significantly to outdoor education in New Zealand through both work with clients and with aspirant instructors/guides.

Humble, unassuming and passionate, Hamish has held numerous roles in the outdoor sector and was nominated by several people. A NZOIA member for over 25 years, his contribution has shaped communities, developed people and inspired others. Instructing and guiding skills are a way of life. Regardless of the professional role he fills daily, Hamish always invests in his community to build skills and appreciation for the natural world, and the people around him.

Nowadays he wears a slightly cleaner pair of Cactus pants, in his role as Outward Bound NZ Tuakana, School Director. However, he is always chomping at the bit with a knife, a first aid kit, a pink umbrella and a sense of adventure to get out, train, coach or be out adventuring in the wilderness. Whether it be teaching the mechanics behind how lightning is formed during a thunderstorm, or sharing of his seemingly bottomless knowledge, skill, and epic stories of being in the outdoors, Hamish exemplifies what it is to be a Tall Tōtara.

Cool, calm and collected, his rever spans far and wide beyond the gates of Anakiwa not as a tōtara who would choose to stand above the rest, but one simply content to grow among the masses and enhance the mana of the team, or the person he is walking with in that moment.

“ Much like Charlie Douglas (Hamish's role model), Hamish is a person who can be described a humble, accurate, unassuming, passionate, capable of long exploratory adventures with less than desirable outcomes, and someone who cares immensely for the care and protection of the outdoors.

Taking after his mother, Hamish was known well in Arthur's Pass to share (to almost geeky lengths), knowledge about flora and fauna in Aotearoa. His passion for the littlest things in the forest is infectious and he has transmitted this to his children Tom and Sophie, and many of his students throughout the years. In Anakiwa, Hamish has continued to find ways to instruct in the wider community by giving time to both the local school to teach outdoor skills and support conservation projects, and to



before helicopter rescue became professionalised, Hamish could be found swinging off a climbing rope tied around the floor of a helicopter to rescue stranded and off route trampers on Mt Aitken or groveling around in the icy winter darkness of the Otira face looking for lost climbers.

With the arrival of his children, Hamish established his own custom guiding company @Homeinthehills and built a small but very loyal clientele of overseas adventurers who sought out Hamish's guidance in those mountains. His risk management expertise was also sought by the Coast to Coast race and by groups providing access to damaged parts of Christchurch post-earthquake.

He stays fresh and keeps pushing his own challenge line. If I was out on a scary expedition somewhere, developing a new programme, working with a tricky bunch of students or involved in managing some kind of outdoor emergency, I could not imagine a better person to have on the team than Hamish. ”

Rob McLean

“ Hamish Reid, the enigma that you never knew you needed but are forever grateful you got. A man I can only describe as having similarities to a modern-day Mary Poppins. Mary Poppins: “efficient, sensible English nanny with magical powers. With humour and good-hearted firmness, she instills in her young charges a sense of wonder, as well as a respect for limits. Her magical abilities include sliding up a banister and using her umbrella as a parachute”. With some slight adjustments to pronouns and occupation all the same rings true for Hamish.

He is often seen astutely passing through the Anakiwa community with his fluorescent pink umbrella, flying from the tops of mountains with his manicured meteorology skills put to play through paragliding. If I was to continue to draw one main parallel, it would be his remarkable ability to pull anything out the bag. Literally and figuratively. A particular nouse for creating a captivating and engaging atmosphere which encourages people to take a concept, skill or SOP and think critically of it. ”

Lacey Beadle

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LIFE MEMBER CONGRATULATIONS: MARK JONES

Awarded to a member who personifies the very best combination of an excellent instructor/ guide, a high-achieving personal performer, and an outstanding contributor to the work and promotion of the association.

One of the originals, Jonesy is a legendary jedi master and has been master of his craft for longer than NZOIA has existed. So much so, many assumed he was already a Life Member.

Mark holds numerous NZOIA qualifications: Bush 2, Rock 2 and Sea Kayak 2, Alpine 1 and Kayak 1 and has been at the centre of developing outdoor education in NZ, having inspired and influenced many up and coming instructors and guides.

A highly respected NZOIA Assessor, with a wealth of knowledge, Mark is always willing to share and is still out there pushing his own boundaries and inspiring others. Whether it be climbing grade 22 trad at Arapiles 'off the couch', or walking across the Ureweras and Fiordland with little more than a few clothes, a rifle and rod. He has the talent and determination that makes dreams attainable.

Highly intellectual and smart, he continues to engage in research of the connection between place, adventure, nature and indigenous knowledge, and continues to make important contributions to outdoor education literature and knowledge.

A Tall Tōtara recipient almost 20 years ago, it is with great pleasure that we award life membership to this humble, inspirational adventurer and jedi master....Mark Jones!

“ I was somewhat nervous to meet Jonesy for the first time, he had a Shackleton like persona and adventurer status in my mind, but he was quiet, humble and a little reserved. He would always make time to listen to us as new students and would go out of his way to nurture and support us with any adventure ideas we had, whether they were good or bad.

Two particular times stand out to me where Jonesy truly inspired and developed me as an individual. He was going down to Ruapehu, I had spoken to him about being a keen mountaineer and he said “well, have you ice climbed before?” Although I had never ice climbed before I enthusiastically replied that yep I had, and was keen as to join him. As soon as my shaky tools hit Chiming Bells on Ruapehu’s Pinnacles, I am sure Jonesy realised that I had not done this before. But with encouragement and a few tips, he made me feel bullet proof and I launched up into the ice gully.

The other time was when myself and two friends wanted to paddle the Fiordland coastline from Doubtful Sound to Milford. We floated the idea past Jonesy and although he knew we lacked

some sea kayak experience he went out of his way to help us plan and prepare for this trip by giving us energy, gear and stoke.

The unique thing about Jonesy is that in both these cases he gave enough advice and encouragement, without taking the adventure away from us, or giving all the answers. He realises the importance of self-reliance and adventures, and fosters this in a way that makes you feel capable and strong. He has provided this leadership to hundreds of students, friends and colleagues in an empathetic and selfless manner. ”

Cam Walker – Head of Outdoors, Tihoi Venture School

“ At the dawn of the new millennium, Jonsey alongside Marcus Waters and Graeme Charles started Adventure Philosophy, the super trio of mega adventure. I followed their journeys closely, as did most of the outdoor community, in awe of their skills, commitment, toughness. The Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia Island, Tierra del Fuego; I was definitely inspired to push my own boundaries of adventure and resilience from it.

When I first met Jonsey, I was half expecting him to be wearing a Jedi master cloak and hood, open doors with a wave of his hands, and ascend grade 20 trad without touching the rock. But the thing was, he was just a really humble, nice, friendly, super helpful and down to earth kind of guy. Jonesy has this amazing human quality of making everyone feel like an old friend. He is genuine, present, engaged and humble. ”

Sash Nukada – Hillary Outdoors

“ Mark and I worked together at Tihoi Venture School in 1988 and our lives and careers threaded like a braided rope into the 21st Century: via Tihoi, OPC / Hillary Outdoors, NZOIA, and AUT; via weddings and funerals and children; via shared adventures and beer drinking and rugby; via conversations about outdoor education and the increasing decrepitness of one’s knees.

As I approach the state of elderhood, I now realise that it is rare to meet someone quite as gifted as Jones. He is a man that makes things happen. I dreamed of climbing big walls in Yosemite, but Jones did it. I pictured myself going to wild places and suffering triumphantly, but it was Jones and the Adventure Philosophy crew that went sea kayaking to South Georgia and Antarctica and more. I am one of those lucky enough to have spent time with Jones and received the benefit of both his philosophy and his talents.

Mark makes things happen. He gives back. He inspires through words and deeds. He can be singularly obsessive and generously sociable. He can be calm in the face of academic complexities or the physicality of a brutal storm system. He has found his calling and others follow in his wake. ”

Ray Hollingsworth – Colleague, friend and adventurer

NZOIA TERTIARY AWARD RECIPIENTS 2023

This award is aimed at students who have a passion for outdoor instruction and show great potential for further involvement in the industry beyond their studies.



Ara – Te Pūkenga – Tristan Bennett

Driven and enthusiastic, nothing seemed to deter Tristan from performing well. Even when a broken collar bone should have slowed him down, he was seen running the mountain bike trails while his peers biked them, or one-armed climbing, all to maintain fitness and engagement.

Tristan became a leader amongst his peers but quickly took up a mentoring role to the incoming certificate students. Showing up early, commencing student-based tasks without direction, with a spice of charisma.

Tristan was always looking for the extra step to build the professionalism of his class and perform to higher standards than expected. He gained Bush Leader, then his Sea Kayak, Rock, Abseil and Mountain Bike Leader qualifications in his second year of study. He often thinks about ‘what’s next?’ and plans to continue study in the Bachelor of Sustainability and Outdoor Education at Ara – Te Pūkenga, he is motivated to make steps towards a long-lasting career in the recreation sector.



Hillary Outdoors – Amy Brown

Amy is a keen and enthusiastic person by nature. She is eager to give anything a go and is willing to put in time and effort into achieving things to a high level. She has a positive attitude and excellent work ethic. Very early on in the year she asked about all the things she could do so that she could come work at Hillary Outdoors, and she has put most of those suggestions into practice.

Amy frequently asks instructors around the centre if there is anything she can do to help, and if there are extra opportunities for work experience with our school groups. When she’s not on course, she is sure to be out missioning (white water kayaking being the pursuit she’s developed a passion for) either to better her own skills or supporting and coaching a first year student.

Her dedication to her own craft, willingness to help others, focus on self-improvement and maturity beyond her age sets her apart.



Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology – Te Pūkenga – Cared Blackham

Cared is a highly motivated student with boundless potential. He is a leader, an instigator of adventures, a motivated go getter who constantly seeks to challenge and better himself.

Cared has already made a great start to his outdoor career spending the summer between study as a full-time sea kayak guide. This experience has further strengthened his skills and abilities, shows his commitment to gaining industry experience, and led to strong performance in his chosen NZOIA leader qualifications.

His communication is excellent as is his ability to find strengths in his teammates. He is not only driven but brings great humour to his adventures. A team simply achieves more due to what Cared brings to the party. His skills and attitude will be an asset to any employer or expedition team.



Tai Poutini Polytechnic – Te Pūkenga – Sophie Aitken

Sophie is calm and soft in demeanour, and encompasses our values here on the West Coast. She is driven by progression and not ego, going about her work with a caring manner that positively influences those around her.

She grew up on the high country farms of Central Otago where hard work is a way of life. She has never let not being instantly good at something deter her from persevering. She has learned to embrace the humour in mistakes and let herself laugh.

She does not seek recognition and is intrinsically motivated to help others. She has been a great mentor to numerous students, helping them achieve their qualifications.

We are excited to see the influence Soph will have in the outdoor industry.



Wintec – Te Pūkenga – Cameron Hamilton

Cameron completed high school in the Waikato and was keen to learn and see what the outdoors had to offer in his region and the world. Having worked for a couple of years at Canoe and Kayak, and the local Avanti mountain bike shop, he decided to come study with us.

In this first year with Wintec, Cameron has completed papers and outdoor adventures with ease. Having done outdoor trips and working in the industry, he moved through lessons learnt in the field with mixed emotions but in the end the outdoors and education have taken hold.

Cameron’s key skills lie in his technical proficiency in mountain biking, rock climbing and windsurfing. He has a strong passion for these pursuits and the skills he holds are amazing to say the least. He is going to be an asset to our industry.



Awarded to an instructor who displays great potential for the future, and who demonstrates strong commitment to professional development and qualification acquisition.

EMERGING INSTRUCTOR CONGRATULATIONS: MICHAELLA WILLS

In just six years her impact on the industry has been huge and there's no sign of this drive slowing down.

In her personal time Miki's passion and enthusiasm makes it almost impossible to beat her into the surf or get in queue before her on the mountain. She is often pumping up her kite whilst the rest of us are debating whether or not it's too windy to go out.

In the 8 years of knowing Miki, I've only seen her slightly scared once. While spearing on a deep pinnacle, three Bronze Whaler sharks turned up to harass us in an attempt to take a speared kingfish.

But even then, so far out of her comfort zone, she manages to pull off a miracle and runs on water back to the boat. ”

Sam Aldrich – Acting Operations Manager, Hillary Outdoors Aotea Great Barrier

“ As well as technical ability, she has a powerful presence and the maturity to engage successfully with students and adults alike, achieving great outcomes. She commands respect with her competency and communicates in such a way that people are engaged and feel comfortable to go outside of their normal range of experiences in order to succeed.

Her peers look up to her, and she mentors younger less experienced staff with a quiet confidence that builds them up and encourages them to be their best. In the workplace she is one of those low maintenance employees that has good judgment and you can absolutely trust her decisions and judgement to be on the money. ”

Jono Maxwell – Centre Manager, Hillary Outdoors Tongariro

“ We often look up to or admire those instructors who have these amazing adventure skills. Miki certainly fits this, being confident and competent in many disciplines. This however misses the point; the truly special traits are the people skills. Watching someone like Miki work with a group of young people is truly special, building rapport, trust, giving confidence and believing in her students. ”

Tim Shaw – Centre Manager, Peel Forest Outdoor Pursuits Centre

It is our pleasure to jointly award this for the first time ever to two very high calibre Hillary Outdoors instructors, dedicated to their profession.

Michaella (aka Miki) oozes a strong confidence, willing to throw herself 110% into everything, she has a super likable personality, is smart and aware, and ruthlessly positive. Hailing from Aoraki Polytech, she quickly excelled at all aspects, academically, instructionally, and technically, picking up kayak and bush leader, before going on to add Bush 1, Rock 1 and Alpine 1 in quick succession.

Miki has the skill base and ability to seamlessly transition between both Hillary Outdoors Centres, be it alpine-based at the Tongariro Centre or marine-based at Great Barrier Island.

Nominated for both Emerging Instructor and Wahine Toa, Miki is an inspiring and fantastic role model, particularly for female students and a standout from the crowd. She is inclusive of everyone regardless of background and actively embraces Mātauranga Māori and incorporates this into her teaching. To say students love Miki would be a gross understatement. She already has had and is having an impact on the future of outdoor education and instruction and the people in it. Ngā mihi Miki!

“ She does it all; tramps, rock climbs (notable ascents at Arapiles), alpine climbs (ascents of Aspiring, Tapuae-O-Uenuku, all the major North Island peaks), skis (very skilfully, and ski patrols), kayaks (solid grade 3), canoes, sea kayaks, rafts, adventure races, and now she surfs as much as she can.

Miki aced her Leader qualifications during her studies and has gone on to gain several NZOIA 1's while working. She currently holds NZOIA Bush 1, Rock 1, Alpine 1, and Kayak Leader, and is an NZOIA Assessor for Bush, Rock and Abseil Leader. Miki can work with, facilitate and relate to young and old. From school groups to corporates, short 5-day courses to long 5-week courses, she is a super female role model in our field that NZOIA should be proud of. She has, and will keep, having a huge positive impact on many, many lives. ”

Sash Nukada – Tertiary Programme Manager, Hillary Outdoors

“ Fearless, calm, skilled, compassionate and the true definition of the word 'frother'. Michaella Wills ticks every box for a perfect mission buddy, role model and all-round good person.



Awarded to an instructor who displays great potential for the future, and who demonstrates strong commitment to professional development and qualification acquisition.

EMERGING INSTRUCTOR CONGRATULATIONS: MATT HANSON

Matt has an incredible all-round skill-set, not only in hard skills, but also in facilitation, group management, and ability to push each group just enough to get the most out of them. He seems to strike that balance between delivering just enough adventure to elicit change, and also ensuring his students have a really memorable and positive experience.

Matt is super enthusiastic, thoughtful, analytical, smart and driven. Studying at Hillary Outdoors, Matt smashed his Diploma in 2021, gaining Bush, Abseil, Rock and Kayak Leader quals, and was awarded the NZOIA Tertiary Award. Bush 1 and Rock 1 soon followed, and he also added Alpine 1 two months ago!

Matt's baseline of experience to inform his judgment is impressive, and this is obvious in how he operates. To top it off, Matt is always humble in his achievements, always the first to volunteer to help with SAR callouts regardless of personal plans for his own time, and is always looking for opportunities to learn and grow. Matt is an excellent example of the future of the outdoors industry in Aotearoa, NZ.

“ I immediately noticed his life energy/chi/wairua, which I know sounds cliché, but this one was definitely noticeable. He just has this super enthusiasm for most things; kayaking, people, adventures, education, fun times. Underneath the young and keen exterior, he is thoughtful, calculating, smart and driven.

Matt has a real positive impact on the staff team and culture at Hillary Outdoors. He is always instigating weekend missions, has never-ending positive energy, is always fully present and engaged when he talks to people, and he never has a bad word to say about almost anyone or any situation. If you ever had to pick a team to go on some epic remote adventure that was going to last weeks, he's the guy you want on the team. ”

Sash Nukada – Hillary Outdoors Tertiary Programme

“ It's sometimes hard to tell with young instructors if they are just really good at regurgitating knowledge and demonstrating skills that they have just learnt, or if they intrinsically understand the skills they are using and realise their limitations. Matt is the latter, demonstrating knowledge only achievable through a wide base of experience.

Matt has previously operated as an EMT and worked in an ambulance in the United States. He has been involved with ski patrol in Turoa. He is a skilled alpinist, skier, and is an accomplished canyoner and kayaker. ”

Paddy Finn – Past Safety and Training Manager, Hillary Outdoors

“ Despite the challenges of Covid that year, Matt somehow learned to thrive in his new found spare time, fashioning a prototype suspended kayak rolling simulator (coming to a kayak store near you...!)

His passion for kayaking was unparalleled and his development was also swift. What made him stand out that year for me was his willingness to give time to others to help them progress as well. I believe he logged just as many days developing his own skills as looking after others. So, there was no hesitation in my mind when he convinced me to hop into a kayak for a paddle down the Tongariro (my first time in a kayak in 4 years) in the last week of course. This was a special treat for me to have one of my own students look after me on the river and it was a moment I will cherish for quite some time. ”

Prajot Sabnis – Certificate Course Co-ordinator, Hillary Outdoors

“ I first met Matt as a diploma student teaching sea kayaking skills and rescues. The weather that day was cold, there were frozen puddles in the bottom of the boat, and it was solid wetsuit booties weather. Matt was straight in there, no complaints, taking the dip into the icy central North winter water. Volunteering to be rescued, he was so keen to develop, learn and perfect what he was doing.

Matt then comes and interns with us and requests to go and help on a 19-day Project K trip. After the first experience with these students we discovered they had a VERY challenging group dynamic. Matt, not obligated to work this programme in any way, stays with the group for the whole trip. Riding the highs and lows he thrived, building rapport and helping to facilitate learning with these students while staying his positive, energetic and professional self.

Matt still missions hard in any weather, sometimes these are very creative and obscure!! He brings a good adventure culture, and when pushing his own ability with his peers, he is calculated and isn't motivated to feed his ego. ”

Rich Purvis – Training Officer and Senior Instructor, Hillary Outdoors



Awarded to an emerging guide who displays great potential, talent and commitment to a career in the guiding sector. The ideal recipient should demonstrate a commitment to professional development and qualification acquisition.

Wil has been a standout from day one. His exceptional skills, dedication, and commitment to the outdoor industry make him exemplary among his peers. As a guide and instructor, he displays maturity and empathy beyond his years, possessing a unique talent for connecting with clients, regardless of age, culture or ability.

Wil gained Kayak, Bush and Rock Leader while studying at Ara, quickly followed in the next six months by Rock 1 and Kayak 1.

He was quickly scouted by a range of outdoor companies; Golden Bay Kayaks, Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre and most recently Canterbury Kayaking. Wil has had a long-standing commitment to Kaitiakitanga and upholding values of Māoritanga which are evident in his practice.

Mauri ora, the breath of life is how many sum up Wil. He continues to grow and flourish and encourages other to join his hikoi.

“ Wil was a part of an exceptional first year group at Ara. A heavily affected Covid-19 year, overshadowed by lockdowns and daily 1pm national briefings that would deter and un-motivate most, but not this year group and certainly not Wil.

Maintaining a positive outlook and full immersion in an online connective world, Wil exhibited a high degree of engagement with his peers. Supporting not only his own manaakitanga, but that of others, uplifting their hauora and wellbeing, Wil was a pillar amongst his community.

His passion for education, humility, and commitment to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi throughout his professional practice, along with his community driven nature make Wil a standout amongst the ever-increasing capability of kaiako, graduates and kaimahi throughout Aotearoa.

Curtis Vermeulen – Te Pūkenga Ara Institute of Canterbury

“ Wil’s passion shines through in every interaction he has with students and colleagues alike. His ability to engage and inspire others is truly remarkable, and it is evident that he genuinely cares about the progress and success of those he teaches. Wil goes above and beyond to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment, fostering a sense of camaraderie among participants.

Wil’s dedication to continuous improvement is truly inspiring. He actively engages in professional development activities, attends

EMERGING GUIDE CONGRATULATIONS: WIL ROBERTSON-KING

relevant workshops and conferences, and seeks out mentorship opportunities to enhance his instructional abilities. Wil’s thirst for knowledge is infectious, and he consistently strives to stay at the forefront of industry trends and best practices.

Emma Millen – Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre

“ Golden Bay is Wil’s tūrangawaewae. A multi-generational kid from Wainui, the Robertson family whakapapa weaves a kete that includes the first settlers to the area, local iwi Tūmatakōkiri who had the first encounter with Abel Tasman in 1642, forestry, farming and exploring every nook in the area.

As a trainee guide, Wil displayed maturity and empathy beyond his years; he could relate to all ages, cultures and abilities. He had a hunger to learn, to be himself and to deliver the best product he possibly could.

Tony and Lisa – Golden Bay Kayaks

“ Wil is seen as a leader amongst his peers. His thoughtful and humble actions compliment his growing ability as an industry leader. Wil regularly assists with the training of our cadets and imparts his vast knowledge in the outdoors field promoting others to exceed their abilities whether it is instructionally or personally.

His investment and personal exploration of Te Reo Māori and imparting of his knowledge of Kaitiakitanga adds depth to our programmes.

Emma Millen – Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre

“ Wil possesses a unique talent for connecting with his students. His ability to inspire trust and confidence through genuine interactions, coupled with an infectious smile that radiates his passion for the job, sets him apart.

Wil’s commitment to professional development is exemplary. I was amazed by the time and effort he invested in independent training ahead of his Kayak 1 assessment. This level of dedication speaks volumes about his drive to continually enhance his instructional skills.

During our time working together, Wil consistently demonstrated his eagerness to learn and improve. He actively sought to understand our instructional process, asking insightful questions and respectfully challenging my teaching approach. Such attributes are rare and invaluable, and I firmly believe that as Wil progresses, he will become a valuable asset to the outdoor sector, inspiring and adding value to others.

Sam Milne – Canterbury Kayaking

KŌRERO O TE TAU

KARLLIE CLIFTON (NGĀPUHI, TE ATIWA)

Nau mai ki te wā o Kōanga – Welcome to Spring.

Ngā tohu o te taiao, or the signs of the natural world, are keenly observed in te ao Māori. Still, there is something special about the tohu of these next few months. As we transition from takuruā to raumati, the tohu in te taiao are abundant.

Manu are some of the most apparent tohu to look and listen out for at this time of the year. The kuaka is one such manu that makes the longest non-stop journey of any manu in the world, around 12,000km. For Māori, the kuaka was a bird of mystery, and some believe that Kupe may have followed the kuaka on his journey to Aotearoa. However, I keenly anticipate the call of the pīpīwharau, also credited for helping Polynesian navigators find their way to Aotearoa. They are cheeky manu who lay their eggs in the nest of the ririro. In pūrākau Māori, in the story of how the kiwi lost its wings, the pīpīwharau was one of the manu that turned down the request of Tānemahuta. Its excuse was that it was too busy building nests, it’s consequence was that it never got to build a nest again.

Then there are the putiputi. The flowering kōwhai, puawānanga and pōhutakawa are familiar to me as tohu that the seasons are changing. I grew up often hearing that when the pōhutakawa were in flower, the kina was ready for harvest. If the flowers were more intense than usual, the kina would be extra fat and sweet.

There may be the o te taiao you are familiar with already, and if so, be sure to share these every chance you get. During the next few months, see if you can discover new ones, and maybe there is pūrākau or mātauranga Māori associated with those tohu that you can learn. As I write this, I am still waiting to hear the first call of the pīpīwharau; they can’t be too far away.

Whakatauki – Māori Proverb

Ka tangi te wharau, ko nga karere a Mahuru
If the shining cuckoo cries, it is the messenger of Spring

Karakia

For Māori, karakia is a powerful method of communication with the Atua (gods/guardians) of Te Ao Māori (The Māori World). The human and Atua relationship is of great importance, as is the relationship with Te Taiao (the natural world) and tangata (people).

Korihī te manu	The bird sings
Tākiri mai i te ata	The morning has dawned
Ka ao, ka ao, ka awatea	The day has broken
Tihei mauri ora	Behold, there is life

Useful Resources

[The story of how the kiwi lost its wings](#)

[Follow the Godwits on Facebook](#)

[Book – Māori Bird Lore](#)

Karllie Clifton (Ngāpuhi, Te Atiawa ki Waipounamu)

Our Kaupapa

<p>Te Reo Māori</p> <p>is a taonga that allows us to understand and interact with te ao Māori.</p> <p>We will endeavor to include te reo Māori in all aspects of our communication.</p>	<p>Ako</p> <p>is the reciprocity of the teaching and learning relationship.</p> <p>We are committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning space for all.</p>	<p>Manaakitanga</p> <p>is to uplift one’s mana by showing respect, generosity and kindness.</p> <p>We are committed to providing positive experiences for all, no matter the outcome.</p>
<p>Whakawhanaungatanga</p> <p>is about relationships and connections which are created through shared experiences and working together.</p> <p>We will make every effort to ensure there is a sense of belonging for all.</p>	<p>Kaitiakitanga</p> <p>is the guardianship and protection of place. This requires us all to nurture, preserve and enrich the environment in which we engage.</p>	<p>Pūkengatanga</p> <p>is providing and growing expertise through the pursuit of excellence.</p> <p>We will enhance skills by providing opportunities for everyone to progress.</p>

DAMMED OR DAMNED?

THE FUTURE OF RIVER CONSERVATION IN AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND

PETRA GRANEY

Waiau Uwha river, photo by Simon Graney



Of the rivers in New Zealand that I've spent time on, the Matakītiki is amongst my favourites. Found near Murchison, its constant variation from flat river terrace to steep-sided gorge gives it a feeling of a truly wild river, while only being 20 minutes from the highway. With the gorge being accessible only by water, there's no better way to experience it than by kayak. I've paddled it regularly for nearly seven years, and I know its ever changing rapids better than any other river. Its frigid waters are a familiar comfort to return to after days of pushing myself on harder whitewater, and the memories that have been made on it over the years will be treasured forever. However, the Matakītiki river narrowly avoided being dammed as part of a hydropower scheme back in 2009, a move that would have disrupted the entire area in terms of ecology and recreation.

The Matakītiki might have dodged a bullet in this case, but for most rivers, this is not the case. Of the thousands of rivers across the country, over 70% have been dammed for hydropower or irrigation, including almost all the rivers in the North Island. Rivers hold scenic, recreational, and cultural value to lots of people, to Pākehā and mana whenua. All of this is lost when a river is dammed. However, dams for water supply and hydropower are important for environmental and economic factors within our country. This leads to difficult decisions with no right answer, but they are crucial as our country moves forward.

In the following, I will explore both sides of the challenge to keep our rivers running freely.

Positives of wild and untouched rivers

New Zealand freshwater is rich in life, hundreds of ecosystems weaving together and forming a web as complex and beautiful as the river systems themselves. These ecosystems are significant not only for biodiversity, but also for cultural, economic, and recreational value.

Wildlife

With 51 freshwater fish species, thousands of invertebrates, and hundreds of others, it is no wonder that New Zealand rivers are known for their biodiversity. Many of these species are endemic to New Zealand, and some even unique to certain areas.

While our rivers are a well-known habitat to whio (blue duck), hundreds of other birds call these areas home. The list includes oystercatchers, terns, gulls, and other duck species, to name just a few.

Cultural significance

Māori hold strong ties with water, seeing it as having 'mauri', or life force. 'Wai', meaning water, is a prefix for many Māori words referring to balance and interconnectedness of life.

Rivers run as the blood of Papatūānuku (Earth Mother), who supports all people, plants, and wildlife. Rivers are also valued as a way of transport, provider of cultural materials such as hāngī (earth oven) stones, and are often mahinga kai (food-gathering places).

Māori culture sees rivers as important as having enough value to be seen as a person, as with the Whanganui River. This was the first river in the world to be given its own legal identity, giving it the rights of a legal person in 2017. This was decided because of the significance to local iwi as a source of food and place of spiritual connection. The river has two representatives currently being Dame Tariana Turia, an influential Māori political leader, and Turama Hawira, an experienced Māori advisor and educator.

Ko au te Awa, ko te Awa ko au. I am the River, and the River is me. This is a collective understanding held by the Whanganui iwi and demonstrates the inseparability of people and nature, in the world view held by Māori.

Recreational value

New Zealand rivers attract crowds throughout summer months to swim, play, and enjoy the sun. Some are also considered a top destination for whitewater kayakers, who come from all over the world to marvel at the natural beauty of the rivers while experiencing challenging and exciting whitewater.

Economic value

The economic value of rivers in their wild state predominantly lies in the tourism industry, and links in with recreation. New Zealand's economy relies heavily on tourism, and a lot of this is based around rivers and other freshwater bodies.

Positives of hydro and irrigation dams

Hydroelectricity

Hydropower has played a huge role in New Zealand's development since the first public supply of hydroelectric power lit up Reefton in 1888. Since then, hundreds of hydro dams have been built across the country, making coal electricity almost redundant. It is currently the most used renewable energy source in New Zealand, making up around 62% of energy production, and the fastest growing. It is a greener alternative to fossil fuels, its renewability contributing towards a zero-carbon future, and a cheaper and more efficient alternative to solar or wind power. With hundreds of hydroelectric dams and power plants across New Zealand, it is a huge and rapidly growing industry, driving the economy and providing jobs. The use of renewable energy sources is important for reducing emissions and the health of our planet. Without the option of hydropower, New Zealand could very easily slip back to burning fossil fuels, an outcome that benefits nobody.

Irrigation

Dams for irrigation and water supply are found all over the country, from small private reservoirs to large dams such as the Waimea Dam currently under construction in Tasman. These can provide drinking water for urban areas, or water for horticultural and agricultural irrigation. These are hugely important to people as access to drinking water is a basic living standard, and farming is New Zealand's largest industry.

Opposition to hydropower dams

Hydro dams have faced opposition due to damage to various environments for much of the past 60 years. Most notably Ohakuri Dam on the Waikato, Lake Manapouri in Fiordland, and the Clyde Dam in Otago. Of these historical protests, only the Manapouri was successful.

Arguments against hydro schemes

Different dam types have different effects on the rivers they are built on. Most dams in New Zealand are 'run-of-river' dams, which rely on the flow of the river, and have little storage capacity, meaning in low flow periods less power will be produced. However, being a major disturbance in water flow means freshwater species are at risk due to disruption in migration patterns, reduced habitat, and decreased water quality. They also cause fluctuations in water flow, meaning sections of river surrounding the dam can no longer be enjoyed through recreation. Other dam types can result in rivers downstream of the dam drying up for periods of time, or reservoirs forming upstream and drowning not only the river but also surrounding land, which may include native bush or previously built infrastructure.

The Waitaha river was mooted as part of the Westpower hydro scheme before the proposal was declined by the Minister for the Environment in 2019. However, nearly 3 years later Westpower has asked for the decision to be reconsidered. If it goes ahead, the scheme will have significant impacts on wildlife, including multiple threatened and endangered species in the area. With a hydro dam being built on the Waitaha, species including whio (blue duck), tuna (longfin eel), long-tailed bat, kākā, and kea would be put at risk, not to mention both land and freshwater ecosystems being disrupted.

Researching this topic prompted me to get in touch with Mick Hopkinson. Mick is not just a legendary kayaker and founder of the NZ Kayak School, but is also a well-known river advocate and has been awarded the Officer of the NZ Order of Merit for services to kayaking. On the matter of smaller schemes such as the Waitaha, he says that they "are largely shirt-tail schemes driven by local desires for job creation and profit under the guise of necessary local supply rather than any Government policy." So, while they may herald motives of 'a greener future' and talk of necessity, their relatively low power outputs and lack of government backing shows that profit is the main motivator.

River activists such as Mick and increasingly myself, often start their advocacy through river recreation, before realising their connection to the water and recognising the necessity of action for the future of the sport and the rivers they rely on.



Author on the right, photo by Simon Graney

What the government can do to meet this challenge

River conservation in the face of damming is a complicated issue, with huge environmental benefits for both hydro power and leaving rivers untouched. There is no simple solution, as both play important roles for the overall health of our planet. The Commissioner for the Environment, Jan Wright, describes it in her report on the topic of wild rivers as "an environment versus environment matter"

As neither can be judged as more valuable than the other, it is important to keep both in mind when making decisions. Hence, I believe that the best course of action is to reduce the need for future hydro schemes, without going to the extreme of demolishing current dams, in order to protect remaining wild rivers. This would be achieved by **restricting energy consumption**. In 2003, the Government drove a 10% electricity reduction target when water storage was critically low, proving that as a nation we are able to reduce consumption considerably. A long-term view in this case is important, as we want to ►



Matakitaki River, photo by Petra Graney

preserve not only rivers, but also the opportunity for renewable power for future generations. The single greatest move the country could make to reduce energy consumption would be to disengage from Rio Tinto and the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter. This would free up 13% of the country's current energy consumption and ease a transition into a carbon-free future. This is not in the interest of state-owned energy enterprises, who are required to make a profit. But it might well be in the interests of the environment (reducing demand for coal and further hydro schemes) and the electricity consumer (reducing prices).

Despite advances in heat and electricity efficiency, the average household has a higher power usage now than 50 years ago due to many factors. These include increased house size which requires more energy to heat and light up, and higher electricity usage with more appliances becoming available. **Incentives to reduce average house size and improve house insulation** would directly lead to lower energy requirements. Unfortunately, it is also likely that such measures could have a negative effect on lower income households, for example by making it harder for a large multi-generation family to access a home. This is effectively denying improved standards of living to less privileged people. Above all, I believe that excess consumption and waste must be limited, and we must ensure that basic needs are met first. Ideally, this would mean that more privileged groups would be the focus of these restrictions, with care taken to ensure equity of access.

However, another difficult argument to overcome is that of electric vehicles. EVs provide a reduced emissions alternative to fossil fuels. However, even the most efficient require huge amounts of energy to run, leading to more reliance on hydropower. A way to offset this would be to set up **better systems for sustainable alternatives**, such as bike accessibility

and public transport within towns and cities. Bike accessibility would involve more widespread bike lanes for biker safety and comfort, easily available information on biker awareness for drivers, and funding for community groups providing recycled bikes for those unable to afford them. In Nelson we are fortunate enough to have the Bike Hub, one of such community facilities that takes in old, donated bikes, fixes them up, and finds new owners for them on a koha basis.

Another option to explore and grow as a less environmentally altering alternative to hydropower is **wind and solar energy**. Currently we have 17 wind farms, consisting of 490 turbines. While this is a start, it could be greatly improved to the point where it could be considered a reliable national power source. The same goes for solar power, New Zealand having only nearly 40 solar farms across the country. Still, this capacity is nothing close to our reliance on hydropower.

Currently conservation land covers around a third of New Zealand, ranging from wilderness areas to reserves. The level of protection covering rivers in these areas depends on the type of conservation land it is. In wilderness areas and national parks, hydropower dams are prohibited, whereas in reserves and conservation parks, development can occur depending on the circumstances. This narrows areas of river protection down significantly. Rivers can also be protected under a water conservation order, protecting rivers that do not flow through conservation land. Water conservation orders prohibit the construction of hydroelectric dams and taking large amounts of water from the river to varying degrees. However, the process of applying for a water conservation order is a long and expensive one, and by the time a decision following all the legal processes has been made, it may be too late for the river. In addition, a conservation order can be revoked at any time, meaning that the river is never fully safe from development schemes. It would therefore be to the benefit of rivers and all value that surrounds them to simplify this process, allowing more rivers necessary protection. This could also involve **a government agency responsible for the protection of rivers**, and a system equivalent to national parks but river-specific and more permanent than a conservation order. These ideas have been discussed in a report published by the New Zealand Conservation Authority.

Above all, change must be made fast but also wisely with all parts of the system considered. This is not only an environmental issue, but also a social one, where people must be considered just as important in decision making as any other part of it.

Researching this topic has exposed me to ideas I never thought I would come across through my passion for rivers. It helped give some real context to the complex nature of demand for energy, and how these rivers that mean so much to me can be viewed as nothing but a resource for others. I feel that this has deepened my understanding and connection with the river, while broadening my worldview. If appropriate action is taken in time, ideally wild rivers will still exist for the next generations to enjoy, and I will be able to take my own children down the Matakitaki river just like my parents did with me.

Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakamua.

Care for the land, care for the people, move forward.



ADVOCACY: RECREATION AOTEAROA

KIERAN MCKAY

Tena koutou,

A big congratulations to the NZOIA team and to the Adventure Specialities Team for the very successful symposium at Glentui. The sharing of ideas and training opportunities the symposium provides, builds vital links between us all and is helping to create a strong and successful future for our sector.

We live in a country that is constantly changing. We have earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, avalanches and huge rockslides. All of these events are pretty much out of our sphere of control. Who could have predicted the top of Mt Cook falling off, narrowly missing guided parties in the Plateau hut preparing for a days climb? We want to take people into the outdoors even though there are natural hazards we cannot predict. I believe this is one of the exciting aspects of our country, it is constantly changing, however now WorkSafe is insisting we consider the risks posed by the natural environment to participants and to come up with mitigation strategies. They have recently released some guidance on what they expect organisations taking people into the outdoors to do. (For the full guidance document, I recommend visiting the WorkSafe website)

The changes WorkSafe have made include:

1. who Adventure Activity Operators register with. AAOs used to register through their auditor, now they will be registering directly with WorkSafe.
2. increased powers of WorkSafe to stop an activity, just like they have in any other industry.
3. notifying WorkSafe, the parameters have increased to include any incidents and near misses that involve natural hazards.
4. the requirements of technical advisors, especially regarding natural hazards.

As far as the direct participant safety is concerned:

- You must now take all practicable steps to inform people of any serious risks they may face before they take part in any adventure activity. You must let them know before they commit to taking part.
- You need to tell confirmed participants of serious risks they may face, before and during the activity, so the participants can make informed decisions and are as safe as practicable.

- You should make sure that all information is easily understood by people with different communication needs.

There is also a requirement to take into account natural hazards in your risk management planning.

- You must identify what natural hazards affect your activity and what risk they pose
- You must eliminate serious risks arising from natural hazards in your operational area. If its not reasonably practicable to eliminate the serious risks, you must minimise these risks so far as is reasonably practicable,
- You should also have a clear policy to determine when the risks from natural hazards are unacceptable and the activity is called off.
- Your staff must have the responsibility for calling off an activity before and during the activity if they identify increased risks that threaten the safety of any person associated with the activity.
- You must make sure that all staff know who is responsible.

How these new standards will be applied will no doubt be determined in future audits. The whole reason WorkSafe is doing this is to make sure those that pay for an adventure in our back yard live to tell others about it. Taking this into account, I believe those of us working in environments that do not require Auditing under the adventure activities regulations, should still take careful note of the changes and make sure they are still applied in other workplaces using the outdoors.

The events on Whakaari demonstrated the scale of the effects the natural world can have on what we do. I sit with WorkSafe defending the outdoors and when it comes to managing natural events, I am constantly reminded that we do not have a very good track record - Managtepopo, Paratutu, Whakaari and Abbey caves. I have to agree with them. I am confident though by working with WorkSafe, our audit providers and by sharing more information of incidents and near misses amongst ourselves and continuing our work to improve best practice we can avoid more serious harm events in the future.

Noho ora mai





QUALIFICATION UPDATE – REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

Wondering what's been happening to the NZOIA qualification reviews? Well despite not updating you in the Quarterly since March 2021, we have been very busy.

Completed Reviews

The **Bush** qualification suite was reviewed and approved in 2021. Exciting and significant changes include:

- Recognition of te ao Māori
- Inclusion of the Great Walks in Bush Leader. The Tongariro Crossing is included if all the conditions are met and if the Bush Leader is working under an **audited** Safety Management System (due to the crossing of mountain tops). We hope the end result will decrease barriers to the guiding community while upholding the safety standards of the qualification for the industry.
- Bush 1 demonstrate an awareness of safe knife use, and its various applications in NZ e.g., cooking, fire-lighting, campcraft
- Bush 1 demonstrate the principles of a shelter suitable for surviving a night in adverse weather conditions, **integrating** natural features and materials (*this replaces 'using only natural features'*)
- Bush 2 increased emphasis on river crossing experience in the prerequisites and instruct safe practices for river crossing and waterway travel

The **Kayak** qualification suite was reviewed and approved in 2021 – 2022. Significant changes include:

- Kayak Leader clarification of the scope to include leading groups on sit on tops, inflatable kayaks, closed deck kayaks with or without spray decks and open deck kayaks.
- Kayak 1 had little change as it was considered fit for purpose.
- Kayak 2 is back!!! Class III River Management and Kayak 2 - Skills Instruction have been reunited into a 3-day Kayak 2 assessment.
- Kayak 2 has removed "teach to teach", play boating, and slalom as an instructional skill.

The **Canoe** qualification suite was reviewed and approved from 2021 – 2023. Radical changes to make them fit for purpose and inclusive of guides are as follows:

- We now have a Canoe Leader, Canoe Guide and Canoe 1
- Canoe Guide qualification sprung from a hui held in Taumarunui for all guiding companies in the Central North Island.
- Canoe 1 now includes the teaching of river rescue skills.

- During their next revalidation the sixteen people that hold Canoe or Canoe 1 can choose to revalidate as a Canoe Guide or as a Canoe 1 holder. If they choose to revalidate as a Canoe 1 holder, they will be expected to demonstrate teaching river rescue skills.

The **Sea Kayak** qualification suite was reviewed and approved from 2021 – 2023. Significant changes include:

- Sea Kayak Leader, the removal of releasing a trapped paddler and the addition of requiring a long tow to be released when capsized.
- Sea Kayak Guide is back!!
- Sea Kayak 1 candidates are required to demonstrate personal sea kayak skills that are "role model" kayak skills (making good visual images suitable for clients to learn from).
- Sea Kayak 1 addition of rolling on both sides and of skills other than kayak strokes added to the teaching section.
- Sea Kayak 1 now has a separate section in syllabus included to clarify the requirements for teaching rolling.



Photo by John Kirk-Anderson

Mountain Bike 1 has gone through a short review as a new qualification released in 2018 and delivered 10 times. Significant changes include:

- Leading and managing groups on Grade 4 trails has been removed including the prerequisite of 10 hours of leading or managing groups on Grade 4 trails. This was seen as a barrier to gaining MTB1 and more suited to MTB2. Candidates will still be expected to have a turn at managing their peers on the assessment.
- Removed bike-body separation, bunny hops and evaluate a mountain bike skills and trail riding session.

Development

- **Bush Leader – Overnight Endorsement**
This endorsement tagged onto the Bush Leader was designed to meet the needs of those instructors and guides managing groups on overnight experiences below the bushline. Participants may be sleeping in tents, flies, backcountry huts or rock shelters. The endorsement concept allows access for those that need it without disadvantaging those that don't.
- **Kayak 2 Upgrade**
This upgrade was developed to give those holding Class III River Management a pathway to gaining the new Kayak 2.
- **Canoe 1 Upgrade**
Plucked out of the Canoe 1 qualification, if it isn't in Canoe Guide but is in Canoe 1 it will be in the Canoe 1 upgrade.
- **Sea Kayak Guide – Instructor Endorsement**
Designed for guides to gain an instructor qualification and provide a pathway to the updated Sea Kayak 2.

With the TSC for Approval: The suite of Alpine and Cave qualifications.

To come

The NZOIA Technical Sub Committee has decided to put aside qualification reviews for this year to align the formatting and language used throughout all our Scope and Syllabuses. Currently we include the updating of formatting and language as we review each set of qualifications. This is proving time



Photo by Hayden Titchener

consuming and confusing during the TSC approval process. Once this is complete, we will have a template for each level of qualification to be used during qualification reviews or development. NZOIA will then slip back into the cycle of reviewing each qualification every 5 years to ensure they meet industry needs and are technically and educationally current.

Check out the [website](#) for the new look and updated quals. If you would like to be involved in any of the reviews in progress or coming up, please email me at admin@nzoi.org.nz

Penny Holland | NZOIA Operations Manager

PROFILE: KAHUNUI

How many Year 10 girls get to spend 26 days in a remote outdoor campus living with their peers, where they can be independent and have the chance to learn through challenge? St Cuthbert's College remote campus, Kahunui, is the only long-term outdoor residential programme for girls in New Zealand. Twenty-six days of uninterrupted time enables us to offer a technology free programme that builds resilience, interpersonal skills and confidence using the outdoors as a vehicle for growth.

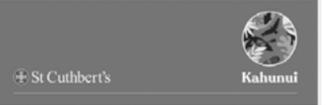
During the twenty-six days, students live in a house of eight where they are responsible for all aspects of living together, meal planning and preparation as well as managing themselves to be on time, organised and ready for the next adventure. Staff work alongside students to coach them through all the challenges that arise from independent living. Within the centre we run an environmental programme teaching students to understand the importance of kaitiakitanga and taking action under our four priorities of biodiversity growth. These include 95% pest-free, food sustainability, waste zero and carbon neutral. All of these priorities are a focus within our outdoor programme.

Kahunui has 138 ha of native bush, which we use to teach students about biodiversity as well as navigation, bush skills, tramping, camping and survival skills. On our back doorstep, we have the Ohiwa Harbour where our students spend time sea kayaking, land yachting, tramping as well as swimming and wharf jumping. Our outdoor programme also offers students the chance to mountain bike, experience archery, rogaining through our native bush and swim in waterfalls and rivers.



We value NZOIA qualifications and are working towards qualifying all our staff. Having NZOIA qualified staff supports the level of technical and safety knowledge our instructors have when in the outdoors teaching our students.

Kahunui is a unique and very special part of what is offered at St Cuthberts. The combination of no technology, sitting together having conversations around the dinner table, solo time to reflect, and outdoor activities leads to an amazing life-changing experience.



AN EXPLORATION OF THE CULTURE, BEHAVIOURS AND ATTITUDES OF THE NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAINEERING COMMUNITY TOWARDS AVALANCHE SAFETY



This research paper was presented by the NZ Mountain Safety Council at the 2023 International Snow Science Workshop in Bend, Oregon, October 2023.

Abstract

Avalanches claimed 27 lives in New Zealand between 1999 and 2022. Mountaineers accounted for 70% (19) of these fatalities, which is an unusually high percentage compared to other western countries where other backcountry activities typically make up the largest portion. Potential reasons for this could be New Zealand's dynamic maritime climate and ever-changing weather systems, the unique mountainous terrain characteristics including access challenges, or the mountaineering community's culture towards avalanche safety. Very little is known about the culture of the New Zealand mountaineering community specifically in relation to avalanche safety.

To address this knowledge gap, the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council (MSC) undertook a study of the community to answer the question, 'Is there a cultural issue within the NZ mountaineering community that could be contributing to avalanche related safety incidents?'

Informed by an initial stage of key informant qualitative interviews, a self-selected sample of mountaineers completed an online survey (N = 691). The results of this survey were subsequently analysed, resulting in the identification of three distinct personas: Young, Active and Ambitious (22% of the sample), Occasional Adventurers (35%), Seasoned Veterans (41%). The remaining 2% were undefined.

While there is no evidence to support a community wide lack of respect or dismissal of the dangers avalanches pose, we have concluded that there are likely cultural factors contributing to avalanche-related safety incidents amongst mountaineers.

Importantly, the results of this research have identified opportunities to improve avalanche safety within the New Zealand recreational mountaineering community. These are expressed in the form of 16 specific recommendations for recreational mountaineers, mountaineering clubs and membership bodies, avalanche training providers, and the New Zealand Avalanche Advisory (NZAA).



To read more about the research and its findings, and the complete research paper, search 'Above and Beyond' at mountainsafety.org.nz.

Scan to read more.



Stories from the mountains: a new avalanche safety video series

The power of storytelling is at the heart of a new avalanche safety video series launched by the NZ Mountain Safety Council in September.

The new series encourages more conversation and sharing of avalanche experiences, especially amongst the mountaineering community, as part of the continued efforts to prevent avalanche fatalities in New Zealand.

The five initial videos feature a range of Kiwi mountaineers, including a mixture of professionals and recreationalists; Gavin Lang, Sooji Clarkson, Alastair McDowell, Jono Clarke, and Christian Hanson. Each mountaineer shares their avalanche experiences, and their attitude and philosophies developed from time spent in New Zealand's mountains.

With decades of combined experience between the five mountaineers, and time spent in some of the country's most popular backcountry spots including The Remarkables, Taranaki Maunga, Mt Ruapehu and Arthur's Pass, the series is intended to encourage backcountry enthusiasts to value the importance of reflection and sharing.

The new series comes off the back of the Above and Beyond research. The research team identified 16 recommendations aimed at improving avalanche safety amongst the mountaineering community, including increased information sharing and more open and regular dialogue amongst the community.

MSC Chief Executive Mike Daisley says the video series is another great example of insights informing MSC's prevention strategy and how that is shaping and supporting positive attitudes towards avalanche safety across Aotearoa.

"We strongly believe that sharing stories in a positive way can contribute to improving the overall culture within any community and in this case, towards avalanche safety. The more we share, the more we can all learn."

"It's about reflecting on the role you play within the community and identifying ways to foster more conversation and shared learning about avalanche safety and best practices," he says.

Complex conditions in the alpine backcountry this winter have seen many human-triggered avalanches involving recreational backcountry users. This winter is a great example of why sharing experiences and learnings can be so valuable to the mountaineering community, Daisley says.

MSC owns and operates the [NZ Avalanche Advisory](https://nzavalancheadvisory.org.nz), providing avalanche forecasts for 13 regions across New Zealand. Here backcountry users can share public observations including reporting avalanches, incidents, and share information on snow conditions that can support other backcountry users.

Head to the NZ Mountain Safety Council's YouTube to watch the video series.

Scan to watch the series.



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NZOIA Assessments, Training and Refresher Workshops

Course	Course fee (NZOIA Members) *
Refresher Workshops	\$215 (\$115 1/2 day)
Training Courses	\$450 (\$245 1 day)
Assessments	
Leader Assessments: Abseil Leader Bush Leader Canoe Leader Canyon Leader Cave Leader Kayak Leader Mountain Bike Leader Rock Leader Sea Kayak Leader	These assessments are run under the Free Range Assessment Model \$150 plus any Assessor fees and expenses. Please contact an Assessor directly via our website to arrange an assessment and their fee. You are required to be a Registered Member to attend a Free Range Assessment (or be listed under a NZOIA Affiliated or NZOIA Climbing Wall Membership).
Other Assessments: Artificial Whitewater Climbing Wall Supervisor (CWS) CWS: Monitor Lead Endorsement	
1 Day Assessments (land based 1:4 ratio) Sport Climbing Endorsement	\$315
1 Day Assessments (water based 1:3 ratio) Sea Kayak 1 Upgrade Multisport Kayak Endorsement	\$325
Overnight Assessment (Midday to Midday) Overnight Endorsement	\$365
2 Day Assessments (land based 1:4 ratio plus evening session) Cave 1 Mountain Bike 1 Rock 1 Sport Climbing	\$615
2 Day Assessments (water based 1:3 ratio) Kayak 2 Upgrade Sea Kayak Guide	\$615
2 Day Assessments (water based 1:3 ratio plus evening session) Canoe Guide	\$655
3 Day Assessments (land based 1:4 ratio plus evening session) Alpine 1 Bush 1 Canyon 1	\$815
3 Day Assessments (water based and NZOIA 2 1:3 ratio) Kayak 1 & 2 Multisport Kayak Sea Kayak 1 & 2 Mountain Bike 2	\$835
3 Day Assessments (water based and NZOIA 2 1:3 ratio plus evening session) Canoe 1 Bush 2 Cave 2 Canyon 2 Rock 2	\$875
4 Day Assessments (NZOIA 2 1:3 ratio plus evening session) Alpine 2	\$1075

The course calendars for Assessments, Training and Refresher workshops can be found at www.nzoi.org.nz. Members are notified of updates to the calendar via the NZOIA 4YA – our weekly email.

Booking for a NZOIA Assessment, Training or Refresher Workshop

1. Go to www.nzoi.org.nz
2. Check out the Scope and Syllabus, if you are applying for an assessment then make sure you meet all the pre-requisites.
3. On the course calendar, find the event you want to apply for (you will need to be logged into your member profile) and select 'Apply'. Upload any prerequisites (i.e. your logbook, summary sheet, first aid certificate and any other required documentation to your application).
4. Applications close 6 weeks before the course date.
5. After the closing date we will confirm that the course will run.
6. If NZOIA cancels a course, you will receive a full refund/transfer of your fee.
7. If you withdraw before the closing date, you will receive a full refund of your fee. If you withdraw after the closing date of a course, **the fee is non-refundable**. It is transferable under exceptional circumstances (e.g. bereavement, medical reasons), medical certificates/other proof may be required. **Contact admin@nzoi.org.nz** for more details.

Further Information

Details of courses run by NZOIA, pre-requisites and online payment are all available at: www.nzoi.org.nz

Courses by special arrangement

It is possible to run assessments on other dates. You will need a minimum of 3 motivated candidates and the date of when you would like the course to be run. Go to the Custom Courses page on the website www.nzoi.org.nz/qualifications/courses/custom-courses for details on how to arrange a course.

Course Costs

All courses run by NZOIA are discounted for members and heavily subsidised by external funding.

*Course fees are for NZOIA Members only unless stated otherwise.

www.nzoi.org.nz

NZOIA
Excellence in Outdoor Leadership

We want your story!

We are looking for contributions from you, the NZOIA members, for the NZOIA Quarterly. Do you have a story to tell? Do you know someone who has thoughts to share?

Articles could be:

A personal adventure and how your experiences have impacted your instruction/guiding of others.
/ An incident, near miss or accident that others could learn from. / A personal profile – an interesting tale about how you got to be where you are now in the world of outdoor instructing.
/ An organisation that is doing innovative and interesting things – with its programme, philosophy, direction and instruction or guiding. / A reflection on any aspect of outdoor instruction/guiding that you think would be educational and beneficial for others to hear.

Contact the editor with your ideas and for guidelines: editor@nzoi.org.nz



Photo: Johnny Johnson

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PLANTING THE SEEDS OF ADVENTURE



Photos supplied by St Cuthbert's, Kahunui

Profiles of organisations are welcomed for the back page series "Planting the Seeds of Adventure". Contact editor@nzoiia.org.nz

