



# QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND OUTDOOR INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 85: JULY 2020

## INSIDE

**Transferring skills** beyond the outdoors

**Whanganui River** - canoeing

**Incident sharing** - potential spinal evac

**Abseil ledge rescue** - update

**Revalidation** system changes

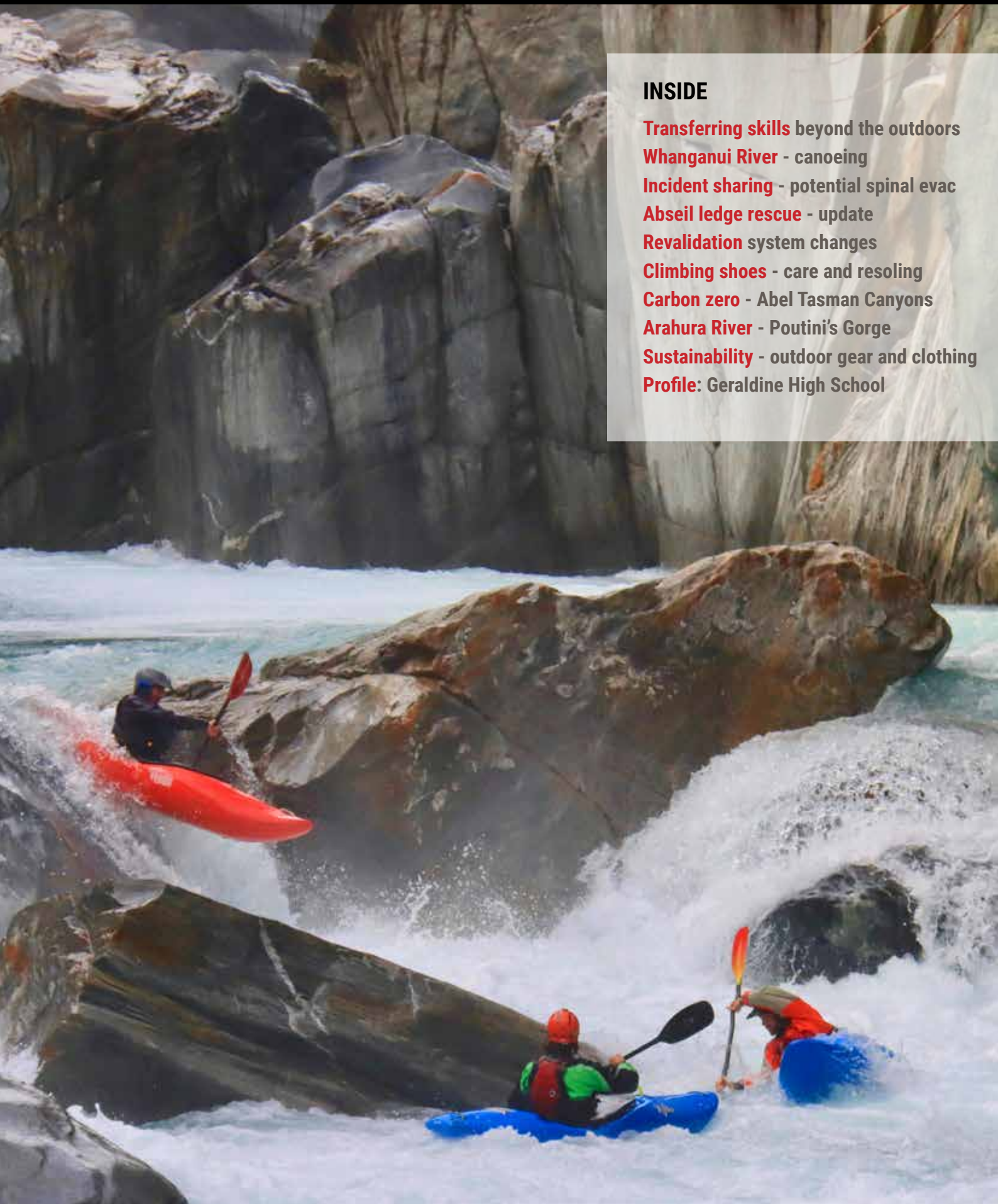
**Climbing shoes** - care and resoling

**Carbon zero** - Abel Tasman Canyons

**Arahura River** - Poutini's Gorge

**Sustainability** - outdoor gear and clothing

**Profile:** Geraldine High School



**NZOIA QUARTERLY**  
ISSUE 85: JULY 2020  
ISSN 1175-2068

**PUBLICATION**

The NZOIA Quarterly is published by:

New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association Inc.  
PO Box 1620  
Nelson 7040  
New Zealand

**© NEW ZEALAND OUTDOOR INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION**

Except where followed by a copyright statement, articles from the NZOIA Quarterly may be reprinted without permission, provided that the name and date of our newsletter are mentioned.

**DISCLAIMER**

Opinions expressed in the NZOIA Quarterly are those of the writers and may not necessarily be those of the NZOIA Executive or the editorial team.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

\$30 annually. The NZOIA Quarterly is distributed free to members of NZOIA.

**ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES**

Please contact the editor at: editor@nzioa.org.nz

**EDITORIAL TEAM**

**Editor**  
Jen Riley  
editor@nzioa.org.nz

**Design & layout**

Anne Johnston  
annedesign1@icloud.com

**QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTIONS**

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

Email: editor@nzioa.org.nz

**Or send to:**

Operations Manager  
PO Box 1620, Nelson 7040

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.

**NZOIA Contacts**

**NZOIA BOARD**

**Gemma Parkin**  
Chairperson  
Great Barrier Island  
Mobile: 021 907 695  
Email: gemmap@hillaryoutdoors.co.nz

**Jo Thompson**

Dunedin  
Mobile: 027 415 4103  
Email: jo.thompson2017@gmail.com

**Matt Barker**

Silverdale (Auckland)  
Mobile: 021 298 1214  
Email: matt.barker@aut.ac.nz

**Tim Wills**

Auckland  
Mobile: 027 245 2692  
Email: tim@adventurespecialties.co.nz

**Travis Donoghue**

Waipa (Waikato)  
Mobile: 027 2385521  
Email: travis.donoghue@thlonline.com

**Gillian Wratt**

Nelson  
Mobile: 021 548 110  
Email: gill.wratt@gilando.co.nz

**TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE CONVENOR**

**Sash Nukada**  
Email: tsc@nzioa.org.nz

**At the office**

**BUSINESS MANAGER**

**Sonya Sutherland**  
Mobile: 027 539 0509  
Email: accounts@nzioa.org.nz

**OPERATIONS MANAGER**

**Penny Holland**  
Ph: 03 539 0509  
Email: admin@nzioa.org.nz

**EXECUTIVE SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Deb Hurdle**  
Mobile: 021871199  
Email: debhurdlenz@gmail.com

**ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR**

**Pip Russell**

**ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT**

**Naomi Dakin**

**Are you getting your weekly NZOIA 4YA?**

If you are not receiving weekly emails every Friday from NZOIA, then we either don't have your current email address, or your membership details need updating.

PLEASE check the email address in your membership account on our website, or contact the NZOIA office if you do not have a username and password.

**Contact Us**

NZOIA, Waimea House,  
74 Waimea Rd, Nelson 7010  
PO Box 1620, Nelson 7040  
Ph: 03 539 0509  
Email: admin@nzioa.org.nz

**Custom & Contract Courses**

**NZOIA courses not being run at a suitable time or location? Want to get all your staff sorted when and where it suits you? Got a group of 3 or more people and a date / location in mind?**

Whether it be training, assessment or revalidation we are happy to run a custom course for you.

Contact the Operations Manager to discuss your needs and we'll do our best to make it happen. Costs may vary from scheduled courses and minimum numbers of participants dependent on the course type will apply.

**Email: admin@nzioa.org.nz Phone: 03 539 0509**

Cover photo by Sampson Mollan: Daymon Nuhaj in Cave Drop on the Arahura River, with Phil Palzer and Angus McGill.

**Advertise in the Quarterly**



Avertisement	Format / Size	Cost
Half-page advertisement, black & white only	horizontal 186 mm wide x 132 mm high	\$150 + gst
Half-page advertisement, black & white only	vertical 90 mm wide x 273 mm high	\$150 + gst
Quarter-page advertisement, black & white only	vertical 90 mm wide x 132 mm high	\$100 + gst
Third-page advertisement, black & white only	horizontal 186 mm wide x 86 mm high	\$100 + gst

Advertisements should be in black & white PDF file format. No 'bleed' advertisements accepted. Colour files can be converted to black & white but tonal contrast may alter. Please enquire for affordable advertisement design rates. Send your advertisement to: The Editor, NZOIA, P.O.Box 1620, Nelson 7040 Email: editor@nzioa.org.nz

NMIT Adventure Tourism students. Photo by Jen Riley



**Thoughts from the Board**

Kia ora koutou katoa

What a different few months it has been. As lovers of the outdoors I was torn between thinking we were the lucky ones; those most likely to maintain sanity when faced with a little isolation, or perhaps the unlucky ones; those most likely to go into withdrawals when accessing the outdoors became off limits.

Either way it's safe to say our industry is different today than when the Quarterly last went to print. On behalf of the NZOIA Board and staff I send our best wishes and support to all of NZOIA's members, especially those in the tourism and education sectors whose ability to operate and future viability has been challenged by this pandemic.

The NZOIA Board took a cautiously optimistic approach over the past few months; cautious in ensuring we safeguarded NZOIA's position for the future, and optimistic in our view that Aotearoa would move through the alert level stages to a position where all Kiwis could get back out into the outdoors. We wanted to maintain the amazing team we have to ensure we could hit the ground running when we could resume, and be in a position

during Lockdown to connect with the wider sector to advocate on your behalf.

Advocacy is one of those membership benefits that can be easy to question during times when things are going smoothly. Over the last few months though, it has been an important area of work for associations like NZOIA. We are pleased the government has increased its support for the active recreation sector, and to know that a number of not for profit organisations affiliated with NZOIA have received the Sport NZ funding which became available via their NZOIA membership or employment of NZOIA members. Thank you to everyone that contributed to this work which has enabled our industry to get back to work.

From me, a big thank you to the NZOIA team, who have continued on with their usual positive approach during a difficult time, and to the rest of the NZOIA Board for your continued time and input, often while balancing your own work place challenges. I may need to take some extra NZOIA funny money to this year's Symposium!

Gemma Parkin, NZOIA Chair

**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@nzioa.org.nz



Photo: Johnny Johnson

# YOUR SKILLS: TRANSFERRING THEM BEYOND THE OUTDOORS

JON LASENBY

Kia ora e te whānau NZOIA.

I thought I had a ripper of an idea to share with you all, and then Covid-19 came along and the wind was taken out of my sails... actually the breeze is still a little flukey and I hope like hell that dark patch I think I see on the water ahead is a good sea breeze coming in. Time will tell.

I left a 25 year career in outdoor education two and a half years ago, with five years as the Training Manager at Outward Bound as my last role in the industry. I then took six months at home with my family to re-set, and to allow my wife to get her career back on track, before starting my own business as a training and development consultant to business and the public sector.

My impetus for writing this was originally to point out how the skills of an outdoor educator are valued and are marketable in this quite different sector. Moving into this type of work is a really good option for some of us when we decide to leave the outdoors and look at what skills we have and where we might best use them.

We can't know yet what long term effect Covid will have. There are reasons to think that business will be less likely to spend on external consultants, and there are equally reasons to see new opportunities for growth in all this. So I will continue to present the case I originally had in mind, before closing by revisiting the Covid question.

Most of my work with clients has fallen into one of two categories...facilitation and coaching (working in the business), then behind the scenes, everything from programme design, to safety management and financial control (working on the business).

The main skill set that I think outdoor educators offer the corporate world is being 'frikin awesome with people'. We are used to seeing people stressed, lonely and scared, as well as elated, delighted and empowered, and to working with them whilst they undergo these intense emotional states. We can 'hold the space' whilst our clients explore themselves and their relationships to others, and help to keep them safe in the process.

We also understand experiential learning. We know how to structure a debrief or a review of performance, we can ask questions, and sit quietly whilst the questions (like acid on steel) do their work. We can guide people to plan the next thing, the next iteration of a task, a project or their whole business.

We know that we are not the experts in people's lives, so we tend to stay out of giving advice, and instead look for the right process for reflection, or the right question, and the right moment to let a challenge drop.

These things, which we might think are normal... are not. They are precious, they are skills, and they are the bread and butter of good outdoor education. They are also incredibly effective in the world of business.

Some of my work happens in rooms with no natural light... and some of it under the stars, along beaches and under a forest canopy. I try to get clients outside when I can because I know that space and distance from our work and our normal lives supports objective reflection, and because the natural world is such a powerful ally in helping people to connect with themselves... we'd be stark raving mad not to use it.

I don't personally deliver risky activity at the moment, I sometimes use third party outdoor providers to create a radically different experience (a river run or a sailing experience), and these are wonderful when time and budget allow.

What I do try to bring to corporate programmes whenever I can are elemental experiences outdoors. Short walks through bush; sitting in solitude for a few hours; simple fire-lighting; getting into the moana. These things all support the questions, the reflection, the people work I talk about above, and they are our BREAD AND BUTTER SKILL SET!

So what about post Covid?

I am very eligible for Wage Subsidy right now as I can't bring groups together from around the motu to hang out all close together... so right now I am making some changes to my business.

I have managed to move some work online and taken a more coaching approach, and I am designing new products to offer to the market. I see this as a relaunch of my business, and I expect that a good percentage of the work I had before will probably come back.

**Businesses are collections of people. They will remain so for a long time to come. So I conclude that experts in helping people to be effective as individuals, as teams and as leaders, will always be in demand, even if the exact ways we work need to adapt to novel situations.**

There's a lot more detail sitting behind this story which I can't cover here.

Please get in touch with me if you want to know more, or are interested in taking your very considerable skill set into the business world. [jonolasenby@gmail.com](mailto:jonolasenby@gmail.com)

Ngā mihi mahana

Jon Lasenby, Maranga Ltd

# 'E RERE KĀUMAI TE AWA NUI MAI TE KĀHUI MAUNGA KI TANGAROA, KO AU TE AWA, TE AWA KO AU'

'OUR MIGHTY RIVER FLOWS FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO THE SEA, I AM THE RIVER, THE RIVER IS ME'

Kia ora NZOIA members, I am Te Awhina Hamahona.

I am currently pursuing a canoe leadership pathway with Shannon Miles, a fantastic NZOIA instructor. He's a great teacher, with years of experience on rivers around the globe and lots of knowledge and skills that I am eager to learn.

Thank you to the staff of the Taumaranui course provider 'Te Awanui a Rua', especially Anahera Hose for all her hard work providing opportunities for learning to her community and the wider river community, and last but not least thank you to 'Ngā Tangata Tiāki' for supporting my learning journey with a scholarship.

I aspire to guide others in a safe and professional manner canoeing the Whanganui river. I'm working towards sitting NZOIA Canoe Leader then Canoe 1. Learning safety knowledge and river terminology are important steps to achieving my goal.

The Whanganui River is 290kms long, the third longest river in Aotearoa. It flows through Taumaranui, then winds its way through beautiful landscapes with five tributaries flowing in at various points; 'Ongāruē' from the north, 'Ohura' and 'Tangarakau' from the west, 'Manganuioteao' from the east and 'Ruātiti' just before Pipiriki. The river passes various campsites, active Māori marae, ancient pa sites, remnants of settler establishments and finally the Whanganui township before flowing out into the Tasman Sea.

Rich in history the Whanganui river is a precious gem. Māori villages, including my family farm Te Aomarama situated five kilometres upriver from Pipiriki, saw many generations of Māori living off the land and paddling canoes to trade goods between villages. The river has three sections named after our ancestors; Hinengakau in the upper region, Tama Upoko in the middle and Tupoho in the lower region. The river has and always will be a sacred source of holistic wellbeing to the river tribe Te Atihaunui-a-Papa-Rangi.

In the early 19th century, paddle steamer river boats were introduced to the river lifestyle and our settler community shared in the majestic beauty of the Whanganui river via floating hotels. Life on the river had evolved and the partnership between the two cultures grew in a positive and productive manner. One of these historic vessels is the 'Waimarie' which is Aotearoa's only coal fired paddle steamer still in operation. It was completely restored in 2000 to continue this authentic and unique way of enjoying the river.

I recently met a lovely gentleman named Jim Parnell, who has been canoeing the Whanganui River since 1947 and recalls that canoe building was a part of his school curriculum. Jim's last venture was in February, a 12 day canoe trip with his good friend

Fred Huges, stopping at all their favorite camping spots. I met them both in Taumaranui as they were beginning their adventure and have stayed in contact as all knowledge is gold when it comes to my learning journey of canoeing. Jim is also the editor of the Friends of the Whanganui River newsletter, full of historical and modern-day stories which members look forward to receiving. Jim aspires to still be paddling his favorite river when he's 90.

An exciting annual event that started in 1988 is the 'Tira hoe waka'. This event sees people, aged 12 and up, from various family villages and marae along the Whanganui, come together for a 14-17 day river adventure. The aim is to preserve our knowledge and links to our sacred river, utilizing the ancient canoe travel of our ancestors. The journey starts from Taumaranui and ends in Whanganui stopping at various marae in between to set up camp, share stories and learn about the connections between each marae. We want to keep our knowledge and connections strong for future generations.

I have many family members who have 20 plus years experience on the Whanganui river jet boating and canoeing, so I guess you could say it's in the genes.



The Whanganui river is an experience to be enjoyed by all people, an absolute treasure that I aspire to share. Canoeing the Whanganui is an experience of a lifetime!

I have enjoyed sharing parts of our ancient river history, my future aspirations and my learning journey with you all. Thank you for the opportunity, I am looking forward to my next river adventure and perhaps sharing more with you all in the future.

Ngā mihi aroha kia koutou

Te Awhina Hamahona

# INCIDENT SHARING: POTENTIAL SPINAL; HELI EVAC.

BRIDG JANSE

## The scene

Early December, it was the end of day three, of the twelve-day Year 10 Branches Camp, a clear, calm evening just after 8.45pm. I was sitting in "The Hub" tent, the command post for the camp. It was my first time as the "Branches Camp Coordinator" – overseeing the whole camp. I was sorting the risk management paperwork for activity instructors to complete for the next day's activities. A campfire was going in the communal area, a central area students can socialise with members of the opposite sex or play with sports equipment and run around. Some students were sitting around chatting, others had gone to their tents. Some staff were having a cuppa and a chat near the communal area.

Branches Camp has been running now for 53 years. It continues to be perhaps the most iconic, best loved memory of a student's time at Wakatipu High School. The camp has grown with the school. From a Science/Geography based camp in 1967 catering for 19 students in basic surrounds - long drops, canvas tents and Land Rovers, it is now a major Outdoor Pursuits event with over 200 Year 10 students and massive logistical requirements for a 12-day tent-based camp on a remote high-country station. Communication at camp is with handheld VHF radios, and a landline phone is available at the Station Manager's house, a three-minute drive from the base camp.

Access is by 4WD when the road is open, around one and half hours from Queenstown. There is cellphone reception in a couple of places on the road (~30 minutes drive from the camp), for daily calls to the school. The road can be closed by heavy rain events, with a couple of significant active slips, or by the river inundating the road at a place called The Boulders. So, if there is an incident requiring urgent outside assistance, you need a helicopter.

## The incident

Around 8pm in the communal area, eight or so boys were playing a physical contact game called "run it straight." It involved two boys facing off against each other, then running as hard as they could at each other, trying to knock the other over. Think of a solid rugby tackle; you get the picture.

Henry faced off against Marcus. Henry got "castled" – knocked backwards and landed on his head. He bounced and lay there briefly before getting up. My colleague Ken, and Lucy (one of the camp nurses, a second year nursing student) saw what happened. They ran over and checked Henry out. He said he was fine.

Ken sternly explained to the boys that this 'activity' must stop as it could be horrendous, and someone could die because of a stupid action. The boys nodded and replied, "yes sir."

Ken watched them for a few minutes, then had to go and do an equipment drop off to the raft camp, so headed out. Once he was gone, unfortunately the boys resumed their game.

"Bridg, get over here with a first aid kit," Lucy shouted.

I grabbed a first aid kit from the Hub, and, along with my radio leapt the fence and ran to where Lucy was with Henry, now lying in the field moaning. I stabilised Henry's head, while Lucy completed a full assessment. Henry was crying and feeling very nauseous, so we log rolled him onto his side. It quickly became apparent we needed a helicopter; we were dealing with a suspected spinal injury and the sun was setting.



Photo by Jo Boyd, riverleaphotography.com

The Otago Regional Rescue Helicopter landed just on dark. It took the paramedics a while to control Henry's pain levels before they could package and transport him. They landed briefly at Queenstown Hospital helipad to collect Henry's father before flying on to Dunedin. Fortunately, Henry did not have a spinal injury, but did have a severely sprained neck. He experienced tingling down his left arm for six months after the incident but has made a full recovery.

## The learning

With any incident, reviews and reflections follow. I was reminded of several key things:

- If your incident requires a helicopter, the "Air Desk" which assesses and authorises the dispatch of helicopters to medical emergencies, is contacted through 111. Ask for "Ambulance" – once the operator has gone through their

script of essential questions, insist you need to speak to the "Air Desk." My LandSAR brain meant I asked for the Police which added a ten minute delay.

- Know the physical address (including RAPID number if rural) and phone number of where you are calling from. The Branches Station Manager (hearing the radio conversation) came out to the barn where I was using the phone and told me the complete address and phone number.
- Have all the incident details, patient history and a set of patient vital signs written down – so you can read it to the operator. If you have PHEC training and are knowledgeable with medical terminology – use it. I was able to use my radio to get updated information on Henry while I was on the phone.
- Have your patient parent/caregiver contact details available – I had a copy with me, and there was a second copy at camp in the Hub tent. The paramedic was able to get more information by calling the parents from their satellite phone before they took off for hospital.
- Henry collapsed about 30 minutes after the initial incident. Getting a full history is so important because the symptoms presenting, may be from an earlier incident. Some of the boys were not initially forthcoming with information, as they thought they would be in trouble.
- Having a 2 IC, and other competent staff, is necessary. While I was away from camp on the phone, and Ken – the 2 IC (who had run the camp for the previous 18 years) was doing a drive, other staff managed the students, the camp and secured the area for the arrival of the helicopter.



Branches Station. Photo by Ken McIntyre

- All staff are now given an A5 Staff Booklet with Essential Camp ICE (in case of emergency) Information as part of their induction. There has always been an induction and Staff Handbook, but this is field portable, and covers key information (station manager's details, address, phone number, camp map, radio use and protocols, what to do in an emergency, how to use a PLB, when to activate a PLB). While many staff/contract instructors have worked on many Branches Camps, there are always new staff / instructors who are unfamiliar with processes that we "seasoned outdoor types" often take for granted.

As research, and personal experience has shown, significant incidents often occur in non-programme / free time. Was this incident preventable? Good question.

Bridg Janse, 'slightly seasoned outdoor type'

New Zealand's largest adventure activity audit provider  
with more than 200 satisfied operators...  
...call us to find out why.

Phone: 0800 394 436  
adventuremark.co.nz



# ABSEIL LEDGE RESCUES: UPDATE

SASH NUKADA, ON BEHALF OF THE TSC

So this was issued by Edelrid recently:

## Cut resistance of ropes – Conclusion:

- Lowering two persons on one single strand of rope is OK. IT IS NOT OK as soon as contact with rock is possible
- Increasing the pre-load from 80 to 160kg reduces the cut resistance of a polyamide for more than 81%
- Increasing the diameter of the rope for 1.1m increases the cut resistance for only 11%
- For rescue trainings a backup line should be used. In real rescue it has to be decided which way the risk is higher
- Attention with user weights 100kg and more
- Immediately stop operations as soon as you detect an edge in the line of loaded rope

(Source: <https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21ADRKoLtx2U4p%5FdM&id=AE03E35D1EC63EB7%218673&cid=AE03E35D1EC63EB7>)

Don't know about you but I was shocked when I read this, especially the second point; 81% reduction in cut resistance when we have 160kg on a single strand of rope! Mind you, if there was one thing that regularly made me slightly uneasy over the years was when I had two heavy boys performing an abseil ledge rescue. This is where an abseil client is stuck on a ledge; refuses to step off or is unconscious. The instructor abseils down the abseil line in 'tandem abseil' set-up and plucks the client off the ledge. So obviously we have in this situation two people hanging on a single strand of rope. Watching that single strand stretched over the (blunt and broad) edge of the cliff top as my heavy boys performed this rescue always made me cringe a little. But surely climbing ropes are super strong and the static load of two big boys (approx. 170kg) would be fine? Well apparently not according to the above.

But we often have a two-person load on the rope I hear you say, e.g. top-roping and catching a lead fall. But in those situations, the weight of the two people are on opposite ends of the rope and one person is generally fixed in position. Edelrid are talking about two people (together weighing 160kg) on one strand of rope. The only situation I can see this regularly happening is the abseil ledge rescue, and below is a simple solution so we don't have 160kg on a single strand of rope.

## The (proposed) Updated Abseil Ledge Rescue

I am going to assume you already know how to do the abseil rescue. So the scenario again is where the abseil client has gone partially down the abseil and refuses to step off a ledge or is unconscious on the ledge and unable to be lowered. The steps below in normal font are the usual abseil ledge rescue. **The steps in BOLD italics below are the new added steps.** (Please excuse the photos, they were taken on our patio during lockdown!)

**Note: For this updated rescue to work, your abseil rope must be at least twice the length of your abseil. A 60m rope should do the job for most abseils as I have never seen a client abseil that is more than 30m.**

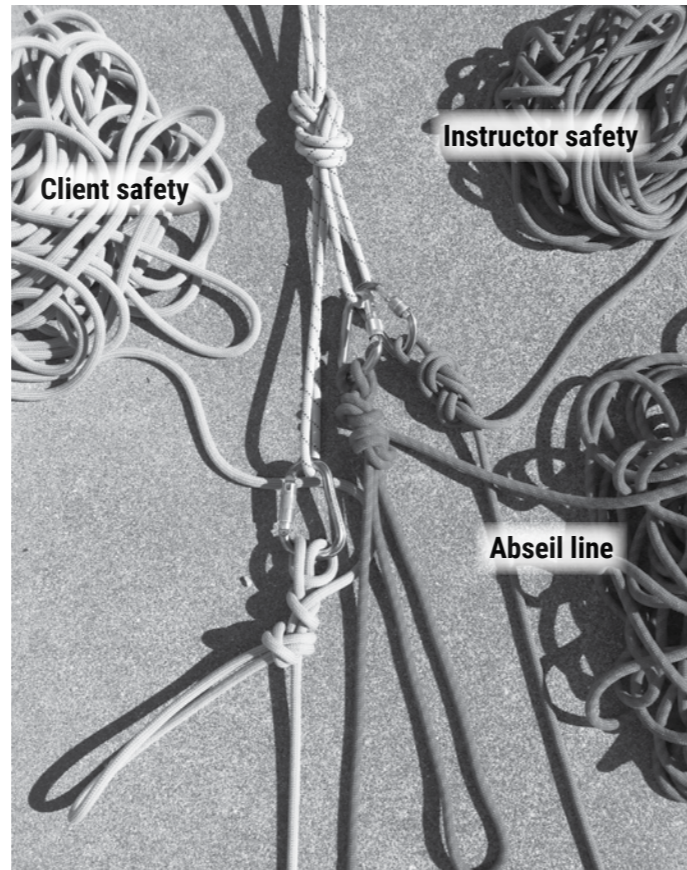


Fig 1. Normal client abseil set up.

1. Tie off the Italian hitch on the client safety rope with a tiny bit of slack on the rope.
2. Introduce about a metre of slack into the abseil rope and re-tie off the Italian hitch on the abseil line. So far nothing new.
3. **Now take the spare half of the abseil line, and anchor that end by tying another tied-off Italian hitch onto the other focal point loop (note this could be a fig 8 on a bight; not releasable but would be quicker to tie than a tied off Italian hitch). Throw that half of the abseil rope down the cliff (being aware not to hit your client!).**
4. **You should now have two independent abseil lines (both ends of the abseil line on the ground), each anchored with a separate tied off Italian hitch (or fig 8 on a bight) on separate loops on the anchor.**

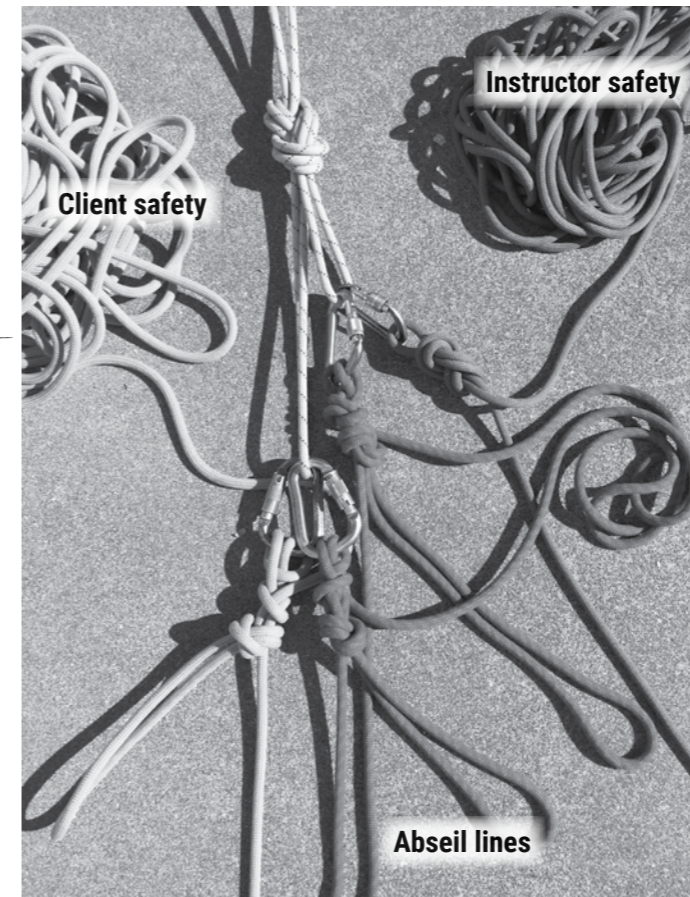


Fig 2. Two independent strands of abseil line now going down the cliff. (note I have used a tied off Italian hitch to anchor the second abseil line, this could be a figure 8 in a bight)

5. Set up a tandem abseil and clip your abseil device into **both** abseil lines. Attach French prusik to **both strands**.

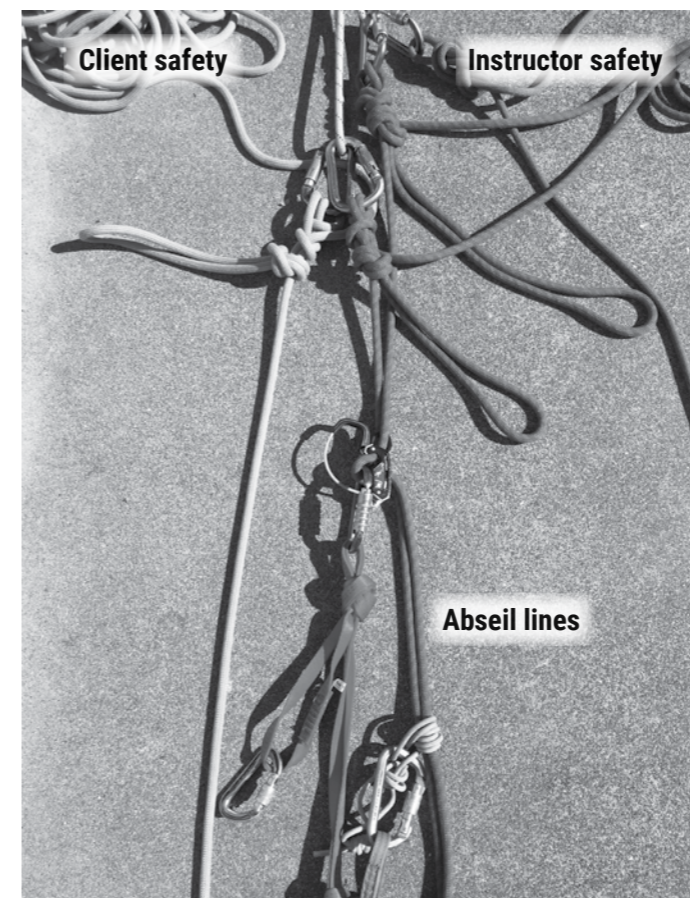


Fig 3. Tandem abseil now on two independent strands of abseil rope.

6. Abseil down to client on ledge.
7. Clip client into tandem abseil with locking carabiner.
8. After double checking your abseil set-up, unclip the client safety rope from your client.
9. Gently pull client off ledge and continue abseil to the ground.

So with the above method, the instructor and client will always be abseiling on two independent strands of the abseil rope. The 160kg load is spread over two strands, and we have introduced some redundancy into the system.

I have not found any other tests from other rope manufacturers and more research is required. But rather than wait for something to happen and react (although there was a recent incident where two people were seconding on one rope and it cut), there is some evidence to suggest we could be proactive about this. It's better to assume Edelrid are onto something, err on the side of safety and be proactive, rather than assume they are wrong and do nothing (kind of like climate change!) **We are not suddenly expecting to see everyone on a Rock 1 assessment pulling out the above updated abseil ledge rescue, but it would be good to see an awareness of this issue and an ability to address it.**

## Note on top-rope rescues

Although we don't have two people on the end of a single strand in this situation, there is a lot of weighting/unweighting of the rope which wouldn't be ideal if the rope was running over sharp edges. **Please note that it's probably best practice to be practicing and assessing the top-rope rescue where the rope is free hanging from the anchor and not going over any edges.** In a real rescue situation, there are usually several other better methods to use to effect rescue (e.g. abseil down next to them, go up the top-rope next to them, etc).

## Note on Rock 2 multi-pitch climbing and rescues

We should try to avoid having two people on one strand of rope where possible. **There has to be a question over the practice of having two seconders climbing on a single strand of rope** (as seen in the recent incident where the rope cut in this very situation). As far as rescues goes, the key point Edelrid makes of relevance here is, **"for rescue training a backline should be used. In real rescue it has to be decided which way the risk is higher"**. Sometimes in rescue, speed is safety. But then again, tandem abseiling on one strand and cutting the rope could be double catastrophe. These issues will be a good one for further discussion among Rock 2 instructors and assessors at the Symposium.

## Summary

For more info, please go to YouTube and search for 'Edelrid cut resistance of ropes'. There are two informative videos Edelrid have released with some interesting findings.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGjvW8\\_wLuE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGjvW8_wLuE)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IL2r\\_f2g4Sw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IL2r_f2g4Sw)

In a nutshell, they saw very little correlation between cut resistance and rope diameter, but they found a strong correlation between cut resistance and the load on the rope. The take home message was less load = more safety (i.e. try and avoid two people on one strand of rope, especially if the rope is running over any edges).

In conclusion please practice the above updated abseil ledge rescue (or any variations that you may come up with), and promote discussion of this issue among your colleagues, students, clients, assesses and assessors. Any feedback please email: [tsc@nzioa.org.nz](mailto:tsc@nzioa.org.nz)

# REVALIDATION SYSTEM CHANGES

PENNY HOLLAND

NZOIA's revalidation system was introduced in 2007 to ensure New Zealand has a professional outdoor community with up to date skills and knowledge. Employers, the public and auditors use the NZOIA registration database to ensure they are getting current instructors and guides who know new techniques and demonstrate good practice. The process is robust and we have had some great feedback from members who have valued the sharing of learning and professional development that is gained from attending a Refresher Workshop.

Over the years, options have been added to make revalidation more accessible:

- Free Range Refresher Workshop
- Symposium – revalidate while you network, get two revalidations in one hit
- Attend an approved course e.g. NZOIA/WWNZ River Rescue 1 or 2
- Permanent Overseas Qualification holder system.

Eleven years on it was time to take a look at our revalidation system and see if it was still meeting our members' and industry's needs. Simon Goodwin (NZOIA Bush 2, Cave 1, Kayak 1, Rock 1 holder and Bush 1 Assessor) accepted the challenge to facilitate the working group. The group was made up of six current and former NZOIA members. Their backgrounds were NZOIA employees, Board members and TSC members; NZOIA Leader, 1 and 2 Assessors and qualification holders; secondary school outdoor education teachers, tertiary tutors and army leadership instructors; outdoor employers, employees and contract instructors.

Opinions and ideas were sourced from the last NZOIA members survey, and from current and past NZOIA members, large and small outdoor education centres, tertiary and adventure activities organisations and auditors.

The group's mandate was to come up with recommended changes to be presented to the TSC for consideration. All recommendations were considered and changes approved by the TSC and the NZOIA Board. The NZOIA staff and TSC are now working on how to implement these changes over the 2020/2021 membership year.

## Approved Recommendations:

**NZOIA Qualifications become permanent recognition of passing an assessment.** NZOIA Quals for life! Registering qualifications with NZOIA show that you have a **current** qualification.

**The Revalidation cycle changes to four years.** Beginning on the 1 July 2020 NZOIA will be moving to a four year revalidation



Photo by Chris Prudden

cycle. This allows you the opportunity to attend either of two Symposiums in the North Island and South Island each revalidation cycle. Multi discipline holders can spread their revalidations over four years. The overall costs of maintaining a current qualification will therefore decrease. All qualifications due for revalidation on the 30 June 2020 and onwards will be automatically extended by one year. You can now put your qualification on hold for six years since you last sat or revalidated it.



Photo by John Kirk-Anderson

**NZOIA Qualifications can be re-registered through a Recognition of Current Competency system.** If your qualification has not been revalidated within the six years you will be able to re-register it by applying for a Recognition of Current Competency or you can re-sit the assessment.

**Prerequisites (with the exception of First Aid) do not need to be revalidated to keep a qualification registered.** For example, if you hold Alpine 1 you do not need to revalidate Bush 1 and it will become unregistered. If you want to keep your Bush 1 registered, you will need to revalidate it.

**Increase Revalidation Pathways.** The TSC will investigate adding further professional development opportunities to count towards revalidation every second cycle. Some current examples of this are a NZOIA/WWNZ River Rescue 1 course can revalidate your Kayak 1, a New Zealand Certificate in Avalanche Risk Management (Level 5) can revalidate your Alpine 1 or 2, every second cycle only.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Simon, Roz Potter, Ben White, Niki Jacomb and Tim Wills for their research and analyses to bring all the different viewpoints together into a coherent package. The recommendations maintain the robustness and integrity of revalidation whilst making it achievable for our members and reflects the maturing of the NZOIA revalidation system over the past 11 years.

Penny Holland, Operations Manager

# CLIMBING SHOES – CARE AND RESOLING

If you're like many of the dirt-bag climbers out there who a) hate to spend money, b) can't bear to throw away old climbing gear or c) like to think they've got a small carbon footprint (air miles not included) then you might be pleased to know that resoling your much loved climbing shoes, is available once again in NZ.

When the manager of Hangdog Camp in Takaka could no longer bear tossing out rental shoes after a single season's use, he decided to get back out his cobbler's hammer from the 90s and see if he still had the knack. In true Kiwi style, local friends started dropping off their shoes, their friends then dropped off their shoes, and before he knew it, random postal bags were appearing in the Hangdog letterbox.

Juggling resoling between running the camp in summer and annual winter climbing trips has meant life has been extra busy. However, Troy's enjoying being back on the tools, and stoked to be able to offer a resole service again to the NZ climbing community.

## Shoe care

When it comes to stretching out the life of your beloved climbing shoes, the best thing you can do is look after them. This means using a mat to keep your shoes clean, taking them off in between climbs, and ensuring they dry out between sessions.

## Why resole?

Anyone that has broken in a pair of climbing shoes will know intimately the process of getting the perfect fit. Not only will you save on pain, it's up to 70% cheaper than buying a new pair. Depending on the quality of the manufacturing, shoe materials, care and hygiene, shoes can be resoled up to five times, and in turn reducing your carbon footprint. Win, win.

## When to resole?

In an ideal world, you'll stop climbing on your shoes when you've worn through the sole but not yet started to wear into the rand. The rand is the rubber that wraps around the sides and over the top of the toe, holding the shoes shape and structure. It is NOT designed to be climbed on. The sole however, is the stiffer piece of rubber that covers the bottom of the shoe and an obvious line (on most shoes) indicates where the rand meets the sole. Keep an eye on this. Troy can replace rands if need be, and also offers additional bumpers (toe caps) for indoor gyms and schools.

Lockdown has meant the summer resole backlog has cleared and with no climbing trip on the horizon, the Rock Cobbler will be on the hammer this winter. So if you've been procrastinating cleaning out those gear bins, now's the time to see if a resole might just be what you need to get those old trusties through another season.



## Climbing Shoe Resoles

### Resole



**\$55 pair + \$10 Return Shipping**

Ideally, resole when the sole is 90-95% worn, and you have not yet worn into the rand rubber.

### Resole & Rand



**\$75 pair + \$10 Return Shipping**

Rands can be replaced if the shoe material is intact.

### R.I.P



Unfortunately we are unable to attach rands to toes.

1. Post your shoes, along with your contact details (name, phone number & return address) to: Rock Cobbler, 52 Rangihaeata Road, RD2, Takaka, 7182
2. When your resole is complete, we will be in touch with the total cost and details for payment. As soon as payment is received, your shoes will be shipped.

If you are unsure what repairs your shoes need, just send me a photo and I'll let you know what to expect.

Troy 027 525 8531

Rockcobblernz@gmail.com

FB Rockcobbler

# ABEL TASMAN CANYONS AND THE NEW ZEALAND CANYONING SCHOOL GO ZERO CARBON

TOINE HOUTENBOS

Like many of you, we are passionate about exploring wild places. We are so grateful and appreciate just how lucky we are that New Zealand has these places to explore, and know how important it is for us to safeguard them for generations to come. During our trips and training courses we enhance our participants' respect and fondness of wild places and create awareness of the importance of environmental sustainability.

At the same time, by running a commercial canyoning business we realise that we are impacting the environment we hold so dear. Our most popular canyoning adventure in the Abel Tasman National Park, includes a water taxi trip to access the canyon and we have always been aware of the carbon footprint this creates. However Abel Tasman Aqua Taxi, the company we are proud to partner with, have been proactive in gaining their Carbon Zero status last year. They have inspired us to take a look at our remaining carbon footprint in a bid to minimise our environmental impact.

To do this properly we turned to Ekos, a social enterprise that develops carbon projects to grow and protect indigenous forests in New Zealand, and in the Pacific Islands. Ekos connects carbon offset buyers with these projects by measuring business and individual carbon footprints, supplying certified indigenous forest carbon offsets, and providing zero carbon certification.

Ekos helped us identify what our carbon footprint currently is and advised us on what we can do to reduce our footprint going forward. Where we currently can't further reduce our footprint

we put plans in place to do that in the future. For now, we want to show our commitment to sustainability by offsetting our emissions.

To offset our carbon footprint we purchased certified Ekos carbon credits from a local project that we feel closely connected to. The Uruwhenua Project is located in Golden Bay. This land, known as Kānuka Hill, is 76.4 ha of naturally regenerating indigenous forest and was registered under the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme in 2012. The land is also home to the epic Kill Devil track, a historic and technical track used by mountain bikers and trampers on the edge of the Kahurangi National Park. The Kānuka Hill vision is to recreate an untouched landscape that fosters biodiversity as a permanent forest. A place, here in our own backyard that we can access, explore and enjoy so easily.

As a small operation our Zero Carbon status does not make a huge difference. However, what we can do is inspire others. Businesses, organisations, contractors, individuals, anyone can do it. And there is a massive flow on effect to staff, partners, family, friends, etc. Encourage Kiwis to stay local, support NZ and save the planet. Nothing but wins!



## NZOIA NATIONAL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM 2020

THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> - SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER | DILWORTH

- An opportunity to train, up-skill and revalidate your NZOIA qualifications
- Skilled and experienced facilitators and assessors
- A range of professional development workshops available – try something new!
- Meet other instructors and connect with your industry
- Combines with NZOIA Annual Excellence Awards Dinner and AGM
- The call is out for guest speakers and professional development workshop facilitators – could this be you?
- Registration closes 1 August 2020

### STAY UP TO DATE!

[www.nzoi.org.nz/symposium2020](http://www.nzoi.org.nz/symposium2020)

Enquiries email: [symposium@nzoi.org.nz](mailto:symposium@nzoi.org.nz) | ph: 03 539 0509

[www.facebook.com/NZOIAInstructors](https://www.facebook.com/NZOIAInstructors)



Cesspool Swingbridge. Photo by Ethan Roadley

# POUTINI'S GORGE

JESS LANGE

Glacial blue water flows around huge pounamu boulders created when the taniwha, Poutini turned the woman he loved into his essence; greenstone. Aerated and bubbling, it runs through stunning schist gorges, carving its way from the Alps out to sea.

The Arahura River is a classic West Coast kayaking run and it marks my first ever walk in adventure. Untouched and isolated, the only way in is by walking or taking a helicopter. Being broke polytech students, we take the cheap option, carrying our kayaks and all our gear to the put in. I'm new to the West Coast and reasonably new to kayaking. I came here, to Tai Poutini Polytechnic at the beginning of 2019. I was fresh out of high school and eager to start my career, so quickly became immersed in all things outdoors. I remember our first day kayaking, I'd never been in one before but I immediately knew that this was the sport for me. After a year of hard work, getting out on the river at every opportunity, I had transformed from a complete noob into a solid grade two paddler. Then, over summer, I started getting into grade three. We did the lower section of the Arahura way back in those first days of kayaking, and I always wondered what was further upstream. I had seen the photos of the Cesspool Gorge, heard the hype, and Daymo had been suggesting that I come on this section for months.

We got out of the utes, took our kayaks off the roofs and geared up ready to go. I stood a little hesitant wondering what happens next. That's when Angus turned to me and said, "This isn't a group tramp Jess, start walking." So off I went. On the water we're a team, but carrying these lumps of heavy plastic to the put in, it's every person for themselves. After just minutes I was already questioning my decision to carry my boat on my shoulder rather than building a high tech pool noodle carry system to strap it on my back. But, I had come all this way - there was no turning back now. Trudging through deep mud and getting absolutely savaged by hook grass I plodded my way up the track. From the swingbridge I looked down at the crystal blue pool. Anticipation built within me as I knew it wouldn't be long until I felt the pressure of that water beneath my kayak and against my paddle blades. I started to get tired. My shoulders ached and my calves burned. Finally I came upon all the kayaks, but the others were nowhere to be seen. "Coooeeee!" I called. I charged through the bush chasing the sound of their voices echoing through the valley. The sound of tonnes of water rushing passed got louder and louder until I was right down in the Cesspool Gorge of the Arahura River. Around me were huge grey, marble walls. They were smooth, sculpted out by millions of years of water slowly chiselling away at them. In that moment, I forgot about the walk and the sore shoulders. As we Tai Poutini students would say, I was priming!

I watched the rest of the team run the Cave Drop, a section just above where I was waiting. Boofing over drops and fitting through narrow gaps between the huge rocks they came hurtling

down the rapid. For the most part it was pretty style. Now, it was my turn. From where I was there were two options: put on just above a river wide hole or sneak on just below it. I felt brave, I didn't come all this way to chicken out. Sitting in the eddy, it was the calm before the storm. My heart was racing as I tried to visualise my path through the feature. I splashed the icy water on my face and pulled out into the flow. Immediately I could feel the strength of the river bubbling and boiling underneath me. I tried to keep myself balanced and in doing so I completely forgot to actually paddle and let myself float into the hole. It pulled me under and I felt myself get swirled around. Stay calm, I told myself, you'll flush soon. I felt a bit of slack water but before I had a chance to roll up, the power intensified. I realized that I had just come out of a smaller hole above it, and now I was in the monster. Stay calm, I repeated, you will flush. It spat me out, and I rolled up. I looked around at the crew and they all started cheering. I laughed. One rapid down, many more to go.

So, around the corner we went. I could see a horizon line coming up, a rapid where it seems to just drop away with no end in sight. I was hesitant, my stomach still nery. I took a leap of faith and dropped in. Within seconds it was over and I was grinning, looking up at my friends coming down behind me. Soon after, we left the gorge and it opened out into a valley, either side lush with West Coast rainforest. Bouncing our way from the calm of one eddy to another we paddled downstream. Trying to chase one of the others I ended up underwater again and this time I couldn't hold on. I escaped from my kayak and swam to the sandy bank. We joked that Poutini, the taniwha wasn't happy with me being on his river so he decided to teach me a lesson. I mean, it would be rude not to take a swim on a first walk in. Sitting in the car on the drive home, I reflected back on my kayaking journey. I feel proud of my achievements and all the energy I have put into my whitewater progression.

Today was what we call a peak experience; an altered state of consciousness characterized by feelings of euphoria, wonder and awe. I had been on an adventure with some of my closest friends and seen some beautiful country in the process. Going to places like this builds a strong sense of connection to the land and with each other. The best way to describe it is whanaungatanga, a relationship through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging. I feel like I belong on the West Coast, where the forest is rich and green and the rivers run swift and blue. There's plenty more gorges like the Toaroha or even the Totara just waiting for me to fire them up. As kayakers, we live for the feeling of discovery, the feeling that no one else has ever been there before. Standing in the shadow of the enormity that is our landscape makes us feel tiny, but it also makes us feel alive.

Jess Lange, Diploma in Outdoor Instruction and Guiding, student at Tai Poutini Polytechnic

# SUSTAINABILITY AND OUTDOOR GEAR & CLOTHING

Ok I admit it, I will be the first to put my hand up and say I'm guilty. Guilty of pointing the finger at dirty factories in developing countries, billowing smoke into the atmosphere and spilling untreated waste into the nearest waterway. Pointing my finger at the over-consumption in developed countries, with their multiple big cars for every giant five bedroom house. Then I will happily turn around, wipe my hands clean, and woohoo, let's go and buy some new outdoor toys!! What new tent, softshell, rope or kayak should I get?!?... with almost no regard to its environmental and social impacts. I am a hypocrite!

The manufacture of outdoor gear and clothing has a **huge impact** on the environment, not to mention on the quality of lives of millions of workers who make it. If you actually think about it, almost all of our outdoor clothing and gear is made of three fundamental components;

- **Petroleum** (which makes nylons and plastics). So pretty much most of my outdoor clothing, (thermals, fleece, softshells, waterproofs), pack, tent, climbing harness, ropes, slings, kayak, paddle, PFD, ski and snow board boots, surfboards, wetsuits, surf/ski wax, MTB tyres, numerous helmets for climbing, kayaking, skiing, biking, etc.
- **Aluminium, steel and other mined materials.** So that's my carabiners, belay devices, knives, stoves, pots, skis and snowboards, ski and snowboard bindings, mountain bikes and all its componentry etc.
- **Merino wool and other materials.** I have three merino wool tops, a puffer with down insulation, leather on my tramping and mountain boots, and try to use surf and ski wax made from beeswax (not petroleum). Point is this is the smallest category; could also include organic cotton, neoprene made from natural rubber (e.g. wetsuits from Patagonia).

So how can I be so critical of oil and mining companies when so many of my favourite toys (and tools of the trade) are made from oil and aluminium/steel? Also there was a big uproar about micro-plastics in toiletries. For those of us that paddle in rivers, our boats get scratched up and eventually need plastic welding. Ever stop to think about where all that plastic that was on the bottom of our boats has gone? In very small bits down the very rivers and into the oceans we love.

Yikes. We have got to stop pointing the finger elsewhere and look at our own practices.

So the questions I have been asking myself and promoting among students, when we're thinking of buying some outdoor gear or clothing, are;

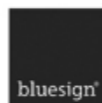
1. **Do I really need this?**
2. **Can I fix/repair my old one?**

So let's not consume new gear in the first place. These questions are more relevant for someone like myself who has been at this for a while, and already has gear that is suitable or can be repaired. However, for many of my students who are at the beginning of their outdoor careers this may not be an option. So if we can't fix it or don't have one and really must buy, then the points we must consider are;

3. **Can I buy a second hand one?**
4. **Buy the best quality I can (so it will last a longer time).**
5. **Buy from companies who are committed to minimising the impact on the environment and treat people fairly, right through the production/supply chain from fabric source through to retail store.**

Remember **every dollar we spend is a vote** that supports that company, its supply chain (i.e. the companies it buys its fabrics/raw materials from), its philosophies and its environmental/social practices. Every time we spend our money it is an election, and so we need to vote wisely!

We can start by checking out outdoor company websites. I have had a good look around, and it varies widely from having very thorough environmental and social responsibility goals and strategies, to saying nothing. Many companies are now starting to get external certifications and awards, which we need to be aware of and share with our students/clients.



**Bluesign** (www.bluesign.com)

Bluesign is an independent certification focused on environmental and social sustainability. Companies, products and/or fabrics can be Bluesign certified. It has strict criteria, so many companies are starting by getting just certain products or materials Bluesign certified as opposed to the entire company. Examples of companies getting Bluesign certification include Patagonia, Kathmandu, Edelrid, Dueter, Vaude, La Sportiva, Mammut, Outdoor Research, Arcteryx, Berghaus, Columbia. A full list is available at Bluesign.com or keep an eye out for the Bluesign symbol on various companies websites and products.



**B Corporation** (www.bcorporation.net)

B Corporation certification is a thorough verification of a company's commitment to environmental and social responsibility and it's impacts, in terms of governance, policy and practice. It gives each B Corporation an overall score and scores for various criteria.

As far as I can see, the only outdoor companies available in NZ which have achieved B Corporation certification are Patagonia (<https://bcorporation.net/directory/patagonia-inc>) and Kathmandu (<https://bcorporation.net/directory/kathmandu>).

## Australian Ethical Fashion Report

The **Ethical Fashion Report** is released annually by the Baptist World Aid Australia and focuses mainly on social responsibility. It investigates and rates major clothing brands and companies available in Australia and New Zealand. It makes for pretty interesting reading, and it also reveals which parent companies own which brands (this shocked me; some companies own a lot of brands which I thought were all independent). It's disappointing to see most companies rate A for policy, but rate much lower for what they actually do. For the 2019 Ethical Fashion Report just Google it, or its available at [https://www.tearfund.org.nz/getmedia/a3d9fc5f-54a1-46c1-b85f-c004da975620/FashionReport\\_2019\\_10-April-19\\_NZ.pdf.aspx](https://www.tearfund.org.nz/getmedia/a3d9fc5f-54a1-46c1-b85f-c004da975620/FashionReport_2019_10-April-19_NZ.pdf.aspx)

Top performing clothing companies of note in the report are Icebreaker (A+), Patagonia (A), Kathmandu (A), Adidas/Reebok (A), Lululemon (A-) and Rip Curl (B+). Most other popular outdoor/athletic/surf wear companies rated average or alarmingly low.

So it's clear there are some stand out companies. Patagonia has long been setting the standard for environmental and social responsibility. And now Kathmandu have really stepped up their game in both areas. Vaude appears to be the German Patagonia. And Vaude also owns Edelrid, who I think are clearly in the forefront of environmentally friendly climbing gear. Check out their Eco range of ropes (made from recycled yarn), their PFC-free dry treated ropes, and their 'Bulletproof' range of carabiners (they have a small stainless steel insert where the rope runs through the biner - genius!)



Edelrid Bulletproof Carabiner

You might have noted that the companies above are mainly outdoor clothing or climbing gear manufacturers. Kayak, MTB and ski/snowboard companies are unfortunately way behind on the environmental and social responsibility fronts; many of their websites have zero or minimal reference to this. Hopefully

we will see some progress soon. In the meantime, you can get in touch with your favourite kayak, MTB and ski/snowboard companies asking why they aren't making more of a commitment and taking action/responsibility for the environment and society.



**'Made in NZ'** Outdoor Clothing and Gear

Most of these companies (unfortunately) do not have strong environmental statements, nor disclose their supply chains (i.e. how and where their materials and fabrics come from). Most NZ manufacturers production runs are too small to have external certifications, which can be very expensive to achieve. However, the fact that they are made in NZ helps in a couple of important ways;

- NZ outdoor companies generally make quite durable gear, meaning it lasts longer and stays out of the landfill.
- It helps support NZ workers and keeps the money in NZ. This is absolutely key in the current climate, coming out of the Covid-19 lockdown. Buying NZ made and adventuring in NZ will help support NZ businesses, keeps money in NZ, and keeps the supply chain as short as possible.

Following is a (probably incomplete) list of NZ based outdoor manufacturers.

**Twin Needle** - These folks repair just about anything. They will fix/revive your pack, sleeping bag, tent (including floor replacement and poles), waterproofs, dry-tops and spray decks. Make your gear last way longer and keep it out of the landfill! Based in Christchurch.

**Cactus Outdoors** - Bullet-proof outdoor clothing (their legendary Supertrou are the default uniform for NZ outdoor instructors), packs, bags, gaiters, etc. They even make reusable bags from recycled billboards! Also based in Chch.

**Earth Sea Sky** - Full range of technical and casual outdoor clothing. Another Chch based company.

**Aspiring Safety Products** - Climbing harnesses, slings, rope and canyon bags, gaiters, snow stakes, etc. Yet another Chch based company.

**Wear On Earth** - Down jackets and sleeping bags, where else but in Chch.

**Ground Effects** - Full range of mountain and road bike clothing, based in Chch.

**Swazi** - Full range of clothing for hunting and tramping, made in Levin.

**Organic Dynamic** - Surfboards made from recycled foam, bio-resin and NZ grown paulownia wood, made in Wellington.

**Kingswood** - Premium skis made in Chch.

**Bliss Stick** - WW kayaks made in Taihape.

**Zerode** - Premium MTBs made in Rotorua. ▶



## A word on cost

Yes all this environmentally and socially responsible gear and clothing is expensive! So don't be shocked. But that's because it costs way more for a company to look after its workers, pay them a decent wage, give them health care, etc. It also costs more for companies to ensure their waste is recycled, to grow cotton that doesn't stuff the soil, to source fabrics that are sustainable, to treat their water from their factories before they pump it back into the rivers and seas. Being a good global citizen costs money (for now). The cheap stuff is cheap because you're not paying for the true cost of the product; the workers that are getting paid crap and treated badly pay for it, and the environment also ends up paying for it big time.

## Final word and disclaimer

This article does not reflect the views of NZOIA nor the TSC. It's just my opinion, and although I have researched it to the best of my ability given the confines of the lockdown, it is not an exhaustive study nor are the list of companies doing good stuff a complete list. I do not have vested interests in any outdoor clothing or gear manufacturer here in NZ nor overseas. To summarise please;

- Fix your gear! If it can't be fixed then consider buying second hand,
- If you must buy new, do your own research about outdoor gear companies before you vote with your hard-earned money. Look out for Bluesign and B Corporation brands and products,
- Promote discussion and critical thinking among your outdoor friends, colleagues and students/clients about where our outdoor gear comes from and the impacts it has, environmentally, socially and economically.

*Sash Nukada, NZOIA Assessor and Programme Leader of Sustainability and Outdoor Education – Ara – Timaru*



*Neil Riley using recycled, reused and repurposed gear during Lockdown*



# ASPIRING

Quality gear since 1981



## ASPIRING.CO.NZ



## PROFILE: GERALDINE HIGH SCHOOL OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Kia Ora, my name is Hayden Titchener and I am head of Outdoor Education at Geraldine High School (GHS), located in South Canterbury. The school runs Year 7, 8, and 9 camps and a Year 10 challenge involving high ropes, bush skills, community service, and the ultimate rafting challenge at Lake Opuha. However, my main role is teaching the two Year 12 and one Year 13 Outdoor Education classes. The students are great and are the main reason that this is one of the best jobs I've ever had.

There is definitely a rural feel at GHS. When I first started at GHS three years ago, I can vividly remember walking around the school grounds and coming across a time trial of changing a tyre on a four-wheel motorbike! Part of my role is checking all EOTC risk management forms, ranging from visiting the local museum through to a Primary Industries class wanting permission to observe a cow being processed with a chainsaw! Needless to say, more clarification was sought around this.

Geraldine is a fantastic location for students to experience just about everything Outdoor Education has to offer. During Term One we use the local Rangitata and Orari rivers for kayaking or rafting. The highlight for most students is the week long journeys at the end of the term. Year 13 is a week-long trip to Murchison kayaking and rafting on the Buller and Matakita rivers. Unfortunately, the Year 12 Hawea trip involving tramping and white-water kayaking had to be cancelled this year due to Covid-19.

During Term Two we move into land-based activities – including climbing and abseiling at the Spur Road and Mt Horrible crags, local bush walks around the Peel Forest area, and overnight tramping. We are lucky enough to have our own Challenge Ropes Course – where students can experience team challenge activities on low and high rope elements.

In winter our focus is alpine skills (snow caving and skiing at Mt Dobson where some students have worked towards their Ski Instructor Level One) and service days which are a great way to give something back to the community.

There is huge diversity academically within the classes, some find school work easy and others struggle. Outdoor Ed is a release for the students – a place and space to find a balance where once a week we load into the Toyota Coaster bus and head out for an adventure for the afternoon. The different pursuits lend themselves well for different students to shine and an opportunity to help others.

When I first turned up at GHS, I thought many students that were taking Outdoor Education would consider this as a vocation and progress into the industry or tertiary study. A quick survey showed that only two out of forty students were considering the outdoors as a career – one being a German exchange student!

It identified just how many students were unsure about what they wanted to do with their lives and future job pathways. To me it signalled that a change of gears was needed and I changed my focus to self and social development, the outdoors is a great way to foster this. Self-confidence, teamwork, leadership, relationship building and resilience are examples of skills that can be transferred to future endeavours.

I want to acknowledge the huge efforts of Drew Brown (awarded NZOIA Tall Totara, 2015) who worked hard to set up the OE programme over 20 years ago – and as a result it is well respected within the Geraldine community. Many past students have become key figures in the outdoor industry and have competed on the world stage, particularly in water-based activities. For example, past student Nikki Kelly became world number one in both white-water rafting and freestyle kayaking.

I wouldn't be able to run the programme without the support of Peel Forest Outdoor Centre – we work alongside them in most pursuits. They have a small team of enthusiastic instructors who are keen to pass on knowledge and experience. Get in touch with them if you are keen on some quality outdoor experiences in the Canterbury region – they have a lot to offer!

As the Covid-19 crisis unfolds, it has had a big impact on outdoor centres and independent contract instructors. My hope is that that we can come through this and still offer opportunities for students around New Zealand and the world. I also hope that we can all try to support the industry in whatever way we can. I am currently trying to teach rock climbing online!! It's really not quite the same as belaying your friend, building trust, feeling the texture of the rock, the smell of chalk and sweat, and feeling of satisfaction of reaching to the top of your first climb. It's not the same as working face to face, together in little teams to come up with solutions to problems. I miss it. I am optimistic that there is light at the end of tunnel.

Keep safe.

*Hayden Titchener, Head of Outdoor Education, Geraldine High School*

# Congratulations

to the following members who recently gained NZOIA Qualifications!

<b>Bush Walking Leader</b>	Anna Banks, Thomas Schneider, Jason Siebert, Max Sternberg, Patricia Asemann, Andrea Sevigny, Vega Mattsson, Riley Large, Ethan Marsh, Luis Soto, Nathaniel Brockbank, Jordan Mactier, Nathan O'Loughlin, Reuben Smith, Coralie Thompson, Manaaki Hudson
<b>Bush 1</b>	Dylan Dhue, Tom Folker, Tanya Bennett
<b>Canoe 1</b>	Melanie Mott
<b>Canyon 1</b>	Gavin Barry-Morgan, Luke Cunningham, Richard Nagel, Mark Caldwell, Adam Kennard, Madison Oake
<b>Canyon 2</b>	Adrien Paris
<b>Cave Leader</b>	Drew Kitchen
<b>Cave 1</b>	Mira Schwill
<b>Climbing Wall Supervisor</b>	Rocktopia: Rebecca Victoria Saint, Sarah Tetzlaff, Ry South, Michael Gerard Lloyd
<b>CWS with Monitor Lead Climbing Endorsement</b>	Rocktopia: Kevin Pengally, Bruno Marcal Bento
<b>Kayak Leader</b>	WERO: Anthony Lopez, Jean Girard, Alex Hawthorne, Nathaniel Brockbank, Reuben Smith, Riverlee Hunt
<b>Kayak 1</b>	Paul Skerten, Paloma Kelly, Nicola Fenwick
<b>Kayak 2</b>	Curtis Vermeulen
<b>Artificial Whitewater Course Kayak Instructor</b>	WERO: Josh Bougen, Richard Morrison, Ethan Pocock
<b>Rock Climbing Leader</b>	Thomas Schneider, Jason Siebert, Max Sternberg, Patricia Asemann, Andrea Sevigny, Vega Mattsson, Riley Large, Ethan Marsh, Luis Soto, Aleesha Barnes, Chris Hawke, Trent Norman, Oliver Baker
<b>Rock 1</b>	Ryan Menzies, Joshua Murphy, Georgia Orme, Harry Series, Dan Jakes, Francis Streisel, Yuichi Nakamura, Simon Ball, Michaela Wills, Travis Rang, James Field-Mitchell
<b>Sea Kayak Leader</b>	Alexandra Parsons, Clive Paul
<b>Sea Kayak 1</b>	Ross Hore
<b>Mountain Bike 1</b>	Alex Kingsley, James Hamilton, Kerri Palmateer, Brianna Lobb, Daniel Quinn, Cameron Wallace



## NZOIA Assessments, Training and Refresher Workshops

Course	Course fee (NZOIA Members) *
Refresher Courses	\$195 (\$100 1/2 day)
Training Courses	Member: \$415 (\$215 1/2 day) Non-Member: \$515 (\$315 1/2 day)
<b>Assessment Courses</b>	
<b>Leader Assessments:</b> Abseil Leader Bush Walking Leader Canoe Leader Kayak Leader Sea Kayak Leader Rock Climbing Leader <b>Free Range Assessment:</b> Artificial Whitewater	\$150 plus any assessor fees and costs <b>This fee includes annual membership for new members.</b> Please contact an assessor directly to arrange an assessment and their fee.
<b>1 Day Assessments:</b> Sport Climbing Endorsement Sea Kayak 1 Upgrade Multisport Kayak Endorsement	\$295
<b>2 Day Assessments</b> Kayak 2 - Class 3 River Mmt Kayak 2 - Skills Instruction	\$560
<b>2 Day Assessments: (plus evening session)</b> Cave 1 Mountain Bike 1 Rock 1 Sport Climbing Instructor	\$595
<b>3 Day Assessments:</b> Kayak 1 Multisport Kayak instructor Sea Kayak 1 & 2	\$760
<b>3 Day Assessments: (plus evening session)</b> Alpine 1 Bush 1 & 2 Canoe 1 Cave 2 Canyon 1 & 2 Mountain Bike 2 Rock 2	\$795
<b>4 Day Assessments:</b> Kayak 2	\$930
<b>4 Day Assessments: (plus evening session)</b> Alpine 2	\$980

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

### Booking for an NZOIA Assessment, Training or Refresher Workshop

1. Go to [www.nzoi.org.nz](http://www.nzoi.org.nz)
2. Check out the Syllabus & Assessment Guide, 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). Note: Non-members can attend Training Courses.
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](mailto: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](http://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 FAQ page on the website [www.nzoi.org.nz/faq#custom](http://www.nzoi.org.nz/faq#custom) 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.



bivouac/outdoor  
COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

we ARE climbing



Sarah Hueniken  
Johnston Canyon  
Banff National Park  
Photo:  
ex Bivouac staff member John Price  
[johnpricephotography.ca](http://johnpricephotography.ca)

For over twenty-five years Bivouac Outdoor has been proudly 100% New Zealand owned and committed to providing you with the best outdoor clothing and equipment available in the world. It is the same gear we literally stake our lives on, because we are committed to adventure and we ARE climbing.

20% discount  
to NZOIA members

PLUS a percentage of your purchase supports NZOIA.  
\* Discount is off RRP, not to be used in conjunction with any other discount, special or offer. Some exclusions apply.



STORES NATIONWIDE  
[www.bivouac.co.nz](http://www.bivouac.co.nz)



# PLANTING THE SEEDS OF ADVENTURE



Photos supplied by Geraldine High School

Profiles of organisations are welcomed for the back page series "Planting the Seeds of Adventure". Contact [editor@nzoiia.org.nz](mailto:editor@nzoiia.org.nz)

