

# NZOIA QUARTERLY

ISSUE 59

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND OUTDOOR INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

## TALL TOTARA

Gareth Wheeler (Wheels)



“ Gareth has never forgotten that it is about people and relationships... encouraging, developing, and mentoring the youngsters of New Zealand, Australia and United States. Gareth has always believed and advocated for NZOIA being both a training and assessment organisation. He believes in, role models and instills a holistic approach to instruction that encompasses a feeling and appreciation for ‘place’, the history, culture, geography... and technical skills. ”



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Member Organisation



**TALL TOTARA Gareth Wheeler (Wheels)**

**“Safe,” came a muffled voice from behind the rounded arête. “Okay, off belay” I yelled back to the arête thinking that was a fast finish to the climb. I had taken the belay device off and was hunting for my rock shoes in preparation to follow Gareth on his first ever lead climb. “What, no, no, put me back on belay, I haven’t finished yet!” bellowed a somewhat alarmed Gareth. As I scrambled the rope, karabiner and belay device back together I wondered what had happened, did I not hear him correctly? No further communication for fifteen minutes until I get a loud and clear, “Safe, take me off belay Mike.”**

Not long after Gareth arrived back to terra firma we worked out what had happened. Being Gareth’s first lead climb he was understandably a bit nervous and every time he clipped the rope into the quick-draw he breathed a sigh of relief as he was safer than he was before he had the rope in the quick-draw. However what followed the sigh was another verbal response of “safe” which he said under his breath to reassure himself. As the climb increased in height and intensity so did the volume of his verbal response, hence the confusion.

That was 1992 at Wharepapa South on Gary’s arête (13) on the 10 week Outdoor Educators’ (OE) course run by OPC (now known as SEHOPC). It was the first time I had met Gareth Wheeler or “Wheels” as he is affectionately known. Wheels had come from Adelaide where he was teaching Outdoor Education in a secondary school and rumour has it he was running from a red head that was muttering marriage and beyond. Despite returning to Australia for holidays he has lived in Aotearoa New Zealand since 1992.

Over the last 20 years in Aotearoa New Zealand Gareth has made the most of the opportunities that have arisen and here is a selection:

- HoD of Outdoor Education at Motueka High School
- 15 years in tertiary education at CPIT, teaching and instructing at Degree, Diploma and Certificate levels.
- NZOIA Kayak 2, Sea Kayak 2, Rock 1, Alpine 1

- NZOIA Senior Assessor since 1998
- Worked in a variety areas of the sector including; SEHOPC, Marlborough Sounds Adventure Company (MSAC), Appalachian State University (ASU) NZ/Fiji Sea Kayak expeditions, Monash University Snowy River raft trips, Tamarillo Tropical Expeditions (Fiji/Italy), Outward Bound NZ
- Completed a Masters in Applied Science from Lincoln University
- Travelled extensively throughout the world
- Bought a house and became a gardener



Ashley Cheeseman, one of the NZOIA members who nominated Gareth for the Tall Totara award, summed up Gareth’s philosophical approach perfectly by stating,

*“Gareth has never forgotten that it is about people and relationships... encouraging, developing, and mentoring the youngsters of New Zealand, Australia and United States. Gareth has always believed and advocated for NZOIA being both a training and assessment organisation. He believes in, role models and instills a holistic approach to instruction that encompasses a feeling and appreciation for ‘place’, the history, culture, geography... and technical skills.”*

Congratulations on the Tall Totara award Wheels but the real question is does he see himself as a Kiwi or an Aussie? Well despite cheering for the canary yellow rugby team in test matches against the All Blacks (AB’s) over the years I have heard him mutter, “Good on ya mate” when the AB’s “dot down”. Watch that muttering Wheels, it could get you in trouble!

Mike Atkinson, NZOIA Executive

# Canyoning – The development process for new qualifications



Over the years canyoning has gained in popularity. Techniques have been refined, specialist equipment designed, qualifications provided in some countries, and it's become a commercial as well as recreational activity.

As an outdoor activity canyoning presents significant risks and these were highlighted by the Interlaken tragedy in July 1999 when 21 people lost their lives in a flash flood in Switzerland. The risks are similar to caving, where the enclosed nature of the terrain can multiply the hazards presented by rising water levels; and canyoning in wet environments combines the two major hazards of height and water. In 2008 we had our own canyoning tragedy at OPC when seven people lost their lives in the Mangatepopo Gorge. That section of the Mangatepopo is at the lower end of what most people would regard as canyoning today, but none the less it presents travel in a watercourse in an enclosed canyon environment.

That accident hit the New Zealand outdoor community hard, and did a lot to raise consciousness about the risks presented by canyoning activity. On the basis of this NZOIA approached Water Safety NZ (WSNZ) to consider how best we might respond; for their part WSNZ were interested to be involved because the cause of death in the OPC accident was drowning, and drowning prevention is their mandated role. While we were well aware of the risks presented by the activity we were unclear how big the potential problem of recurrence might be, as we had little idea how much canyoning was actually taking place in NZ. On this basis we applied for funding to the WSNZ research committee and commissioned Stu Allan to undertake some research on our behalf.

#### Stu's brief was to find out:

- The level of canyoning activity
- What types of organisations are involved
- What types of terrain are used
- Whether there are distinct levels of difficulty or risk
- What qualifications and standards exist in other countries
- Whether the level of activity and risk warrant establishing national standards in NZ

#### What he discovered was reflected in this summary:

**'The sport of canyoning is booming in USA and Europe. New Zealand has huge canyoning potential and the sport will almost certainly boom here over the next couple of years.'**

**Educational canyoning activity appears to have dropped a little since the Mangatepopo accident but will likely build up again.**

**Commercial canyoning seems to be operating with solid safety standards but the sport will need the professional operators to drive standards for educationalists and recreationalists, as in any field.**

**NZOIA's caving qualifications may be the best qualifications to adapt to the sport, but the canyoning experts should determine**

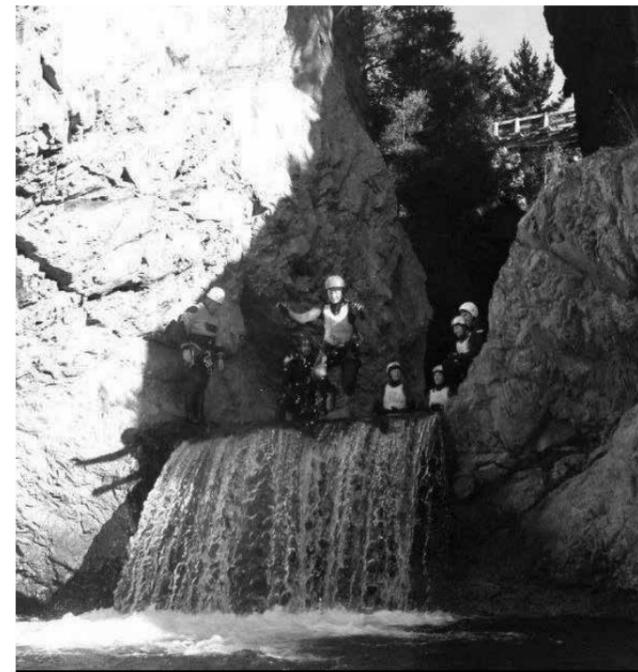
**this themselves. Supporting them to form some form of national entity could be a good first step.'**

A number of recommended actions were provided by Stu, of which the following have been acted on so far (note, Stu's full report is available in the resources section of the website):

- Support a canyoning's swiftwater workshop
- Support the formation of a national entity

On the basis of Stu's report we applied for further funding to support a three day workshop with a focus on safety in swiftwater; and a forum that would bring together the key players and interested national organisations with a view to addressing the entity recommendation and the matter of qualifications. WSNZ came through with financial support and Mick Hopkinson was employed to head down to Queenstown and spend three days getting wet. The purpose of this exercise was to bring in a well-respected expert who had wide experience across a number of related disciplines plus extensive technical rigging skills; someone who could take an informed view of the set-ups and guiding techniques that had been developed by the operators, and come back with some ideas and recommendations both related to safety and standards and regarding the development of qualifications.

The forum was attended by all the major commercial operators, representatives from the recreational community, WSNZ, NZOIA, and the Tourism Industry Association; Kip Mandeno joined us from OPC and provided insights from his cave assessor and commercial caving experience. The need for specific canyoning qualifications was discussed and the idea of modifying existing qualifications such as caving was rejected. Options to utilise overseas qualifications were explored and their suitability to the NZ environment and type of commercial canyoning was evaluated. In the end agreement was reached to work with NZOIA to develop level 1 and 2 qualifications, and an informal group to be known as NZ Canyon Guides was created.



Photos courtesy of Kiwi Canyons [www.facebook.com/KiwiCanyons.org](http://www.facebook.com/KiwiCanyons.org)

Over the next few months the NZCG group worked to develop syllabi for the new qualifications using NZOIA templates and working from our existing qualifications in related disciplines. In April 2011 a grand-parenting event was convened. For those unfamiliar with the development of new qualifications there is a need to get things going and the method is grand-parenting, or awarding the first qualifications to establish a qualification scheme. It is somewhat different to a normal assessment event in that a normal assessment occurs with agreed and trained assessors, and agreed standards; whereas grand-parenting establishes those first assessors, makes the first cut at setting standards for the qualifications, and awards the first qualifications. The facilitators of a grand-parenting should acknowledge from the outset that they're facilitating discipline experts to set their own standards and make their own decisions within the NZOIA framework. This means handing over increasing responsibility to the group as the course progresses.

On this occasion the grand-parenting was facilitated by Kip Mandeno and Stu Allan and its outcome was the awarding of eight Canyon 2 qualifications (three of which were conditional passes – a bit like a deferment), seven Canyon 1 qualifications, and four assessors.

Since then the syllabi have been further developed and the four assessors have been through our assessor training process. In April this year we ran the first normal assessment with the four assessors being coached as follows by Kip.

*Kip has done a fantastic job guiding us through a process which seemed quite daunting at first. Kip's clear explanations of the process step by step, clarified with numerous examples from his own experience, made it easy for us to understand our role and how to carry it out. He gave us plenty of guidance but also let us figure things out ourselves which has taught us valuable lessons. He always seemed to be there where he was needed and coached us through the tougher decision making moments. It was good to know he was there as a safety net in case we were not sure if we had made the right decisions. He kept a close eye on time management which was crucial and gave us quick tips on how to speed up or improvise where we were running out of time. His ability to steer without interfering was impressive. It was a challenging process; the next challenge will be to do it without Kip!*

Although not all operators were satisfied with the grand-parenting process and its outcomes, the majority are very much on-board with the qualifications we've collectively built. The development of these qualifications is an example of collaboration; of how the funder, the qualifications body, the sector and particularly employers, working together can achieve a great end result with excellent outcomes in terms of guiding and instructional standards that promote quality and safe experiences.

To progress things further we'll be running canyoning instructor training at the Symposium...why not sign up and give it a go...and in the meantime check out the photos from the first assessment and the candidate and employer viewpoints and technical article also in this Quarterly.

**Matt Cant, Chief Executive, NZOIA**



# Executive Update

## Membership

The big news is that in the final week of our membership year (the end of June) we reached just over 1000 current members; quite a milestone. For those who were around ten years ago there were just 341 of us, so we've almost trebled in size in a decade. That's a tribute to the considerable volunteer effort of people like Jill Dalton and Jim Hepburn who worked tirelessly with the Executive committee to bring us back from the financial brink in 1999; subsequent Presidents and Executives who have continued to provide a vision for the future; and the work of the office staff like Scotty and a list of Assessment Coordinators who have gone the extra mile to make courses happen with limited resources. The front line is our assessors; and it is their expertise and professionalism that has built the credibility and respect for our qualifications, driving support for what we do. Growth in the past year has been around 14% and we've been increasing steadily at about that rate since 2006. Despite increases in staffing it's hard to keep ahead when growing at such a rate and the current staff of Penny and Natalie are doing tremendous work in a complex and challenging environment; and can't wait till the new web based management systems come online and remove some of the manual tasks. I hope all who have been a part of achieving this membership milestone feel pride in their contribution and satisfaction in knowing that NZOIA is making a positive difference.

## Ministerial Risk Management and Safety Review

While Outdoors NZ and the Tourism Industry Association continue their work implementing the outcomes of the this project for the Department of Labour (DoL), the Project Advisory Group, which advises TIA and ONZ and of which we are a member, has felt its effectiveness in influencing the work programme has been frustratingly limited, particularly with regard to the Tourism Industry Association who no longer wish to work with us as a collective advisory group. As a consequence of recent meetings with the Department of Labour the group will in future be advising the DoL directly; a process through which we are hopeful of more influence.

## ICT Project

Well we are getting closer but it has been a frustrating process. The new website has been tested for functionality by members of the staff and Executive, and Natalie and I are about to spend two days in Auckland reviewing what has been developed against the contracts signed. Once any remaining tasks are identified and rectified through that process we should be close to having an operational site....Then we're straight into phase two and further developments around assessment management, log books, and a new system for assessment candidate feedback.

## Liaison

NZOIA has a number of traditional partner organisations with whom we worked closely in the early days of the association in the development of qualifications. In caving this was the NZ Speleological Society, and in kayaking White Water NZ (formerly NZRCA). We've had renewed discussions with these partners and also the NZ Alpine Club in order to give better value to our relationships with them in the future, and to ensure their input as we review the Level 1 and 2 qualifications. Similarly we have been working with a number of prominent climbing wall operators to better tailor a suite of qualifications to their needs; and we've spent time with the canyoning operators and guides group to maintain momentum in the development of that area and their relationship with NZOIA.

## Symposium

Dave provides an update about this later in the Quarterly but I'd really like to encourage members to attend. Some members have been concerned about the exact programme but this is difficult to determine until we have a better idea of attendance levels; the more people who sign up, the more options we'll be able to provide. I know this is asking for a bit of a leap of faith, but the Executive and Sport NZ have committed considerable funds to hire the venue and cover the overheads in order to make this happen, so we're committed to ensuring everyone gets good value. Do get online and sign up and help make this a great and on-going annual event...it will be as successful as the effort people put in.

## Outdoors NZ Forum and Annual Awards Dinner

ONZ are running their Forum a week after the Symposium and this promises to be another interesting and inspirational event. Quite different in character to our practically focussed Symposium, the Forum targets those interested in sector leadership and the wider issues and challenges facing the outdoors. Places are limited so be in smartly if you wish to participate.

Having skipped summer and written my last update from wintery Wyoming I'm now in a very wintery NZ; not that I missed much of a summer! The winter season is looking good, I'm relishing hitting the slopes to ski and climb, and wish you all a safe and enjoyable winter whether it be full on work wise or relaxing after a busy summer season.

**Matt Cant**, Chief Executive, NZOIA



# President's Report

Bula Vinaka,

**A Visit from our colleagues** – At the Executive meeting in April, Alex Brunt (ONZ Chairman) and Garth Dawson (CEO ONZ) kindly took time to attend our meeting. It was a fruitful and straight-up discussion on how the two organisations can work better together in the future; and provided a fresh drive to strengthen the relationship at both governance and management levels. ONZ is involved in the Skills Active initiative to establish a registration scheme for holders of Unit Standard based qualifications called the NZ Register of Recreational Professionals (NZRRP). In the interests of inclusion they have requested that an observer from NZOIA be able to attend NZRRP meetings, and accordingly Matt will represent us at their 29th June meeting. The Executive will consider the outcome of this and how we can positively engage with this body.

**Strategic Planning** – The Executive have been continuing to engage in this process and now it is up to the smaller working party to finalise a draft. The intention is to get this signed off by the Executive at our August meeting, so it can be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

**Targeted Review of Qualifications (TROQ)** – In the last Quarterly I provided some background information about this government initiative to rationalise Framework based qualifications. Since then the governance board have established an outdoor recreation working group, with eight people selected that

represent a cross section of tertiary, community and industry sectors. They will be meeting in Christchurch in July to complete the initial work on the review. Their goal is to map current qualifications against job roles and identify gaps and overlaps; then produce a draft graduate profile and learning outcomes. After the working party produces a draft this will go out for wider consultation and it is critical if this affects you that you engage with this. If you want to be part of the consultation process contact Outdoors New Zealand to check you are on the email list. If you want to get up to speed with what is going on – go to: <http://www.skillsactive.org.nz/Default.aspx?page=4394>

**Adventure:** Well, I am off to Fiji as I write. This is the first time traveling to a Pacifica Island of that latitude. The whole family are going, including the granddaughter. Admittedly, they have been worried about me being bored so I have signed up for a PADI dive course. I can't see me getting bored, however I am looking forward to the learning and experiences in a new environment. A great place to sneak away to in July! Also we are taking extra tooth brushes/paste for the locals – on request, maybe we will volunteer our help along the way.

I look forwards to seeing you at the NZOIA National Training Symposium in October, 5-7th, 2012. Enjoy the winter.

*Ni Sa Moce*

**Andy Thompson**, President, NZOIA

## NZOIA AGM NOTICE

**Notice is given that the AGM will be held on Sunday morning, 7 October 2012, at the Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Tongariro. This is the last day of the NZOIA National Training Symposium. We strongly encourage members to attend the symposium and to participate in discussion and voting at the annual meeting of our association.**



## EMAIL COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS



Emails to members is one of the primary methods that NZOIA communicates with it's members. These emails are often about updates to the member only job board, spaces on assessments, refresher workshops and trainings, changes/updates to current initiatives/reviews within the outdoor industry, executive updates and updates to the assessment, refresher and training calendars and requests for model students.

If you are not receiving occasional emails from NZOIA, then we either don't have your current email address, or the email address in your membership account is incorrect.

**PLEASE check the email address in your membership account, as email is the main method of regular communication with members. Alternatively, please contact the NZOIA office if you do not have a login and password for the 'Members only section' of the NZOIA website, and would like to be able to check your membership and revalidation details online.**

# MICKEY MOUSE ABSEIL – A CANYONING TECHNIQUE

Part of the rationale for developing canyoning specific qualifications was that the techniques used in guiding and instructing canyoning are distinctly different from other activities; and here in New Zealand developments in technique have evolved to suit our particular environmental conditions. In this article Toine Houtenbos illustrates an abseil technique. Please note the recommended client and terrain requirements appropriate to this technique. Ed.

## Situation

The Mickey Mouse abseil setup is a semi-releasable system. It can be used at sites where you want to let your clients abseil and you want to do it fast. It should only be used at easy abseil sites with no or limited water flow and a dry or shallow landing. It is a bottom belayed system so it should be done with an assistant or second guide or on short pitches with capable clients who are confident abseilers and who have been trained to bottom belay. Preferably you have line of sight on the clients while they are abseiling. If the bottom belayers are clients without a guide you should be able to see them.

There are many systems that achieve the same result. This is just one of them, I chose it because it looks good and has a cool name...oh, and it works really well too!

## Rigging



**Step 1:**  
Clip a karabiner with two figure eight devices onto the anchor point, close the karabiner.



**Step 2:**  
Thread the rope through the anchor from the wall towards yourself.



**Step 3:**  
Push a bight of rope through the big eyes of both figure eight devices and loop it around the small eye of one.



**Step 4:**  
Tie a figure eight knot and lower the first person down, this person is likely to be your assistant or second guide or a switched on client. The rope feeds out of the rope bag.



**Step 5:**  
Once you have lowered the first person down you have set the length for one end of the rope. Pull a bight of rope through the big eyes of both figure eight devices and loop it around the small eye of the other figure eight device. You now have fixed the system.



**Step 6:**  
Clip a quickdraw with locking karabiners through the small eyes of both figure eight devices, this prevents the rope from unlooping itself from the small eyes.



**Step 7:**  
The second person abseils down on the same side of the rope that the first person had been lowered on and takes the bag down at the same time. This person is being bottom belayed by the first person down. You have now set two lengths on one abseil.

## Releasing



*This is called a semi-releasable system; both sides are releasable as long as both sides are not loaded at the same time.*

If a person gets stuck on one side of the rope, unclip the quickdraw on the opposite side and take the loop off the small eye, keeping a firm grip on the rope as you are now in a lowering situation.

Lower the person to the ground, reset the rope if necessary and fix the system as above.

If both sides are loaded and one person gets stuck, then tell the other person to keep going down and take the weight of the rope. You can now release the system as above.

## Running

*You can now run the site in two slightly different ways:*

1. If you are fairly sure that two people will not get stuck on the rope at the same time, you can use both sides at the same time. Make sure you have a bottom belayer on each side of the rope.
2. If the abseil site is either confined, has a difficult trajectory or slight water problems, you should probably only use one side at the time. However, this system still allows you to work faster as you can already tie the next person in while you are waiting for the previous person to reach the bottom.

## Derigging



Once all the clients are down take the quickdraw and the figure eight devices off.

You can now either abseil down on double rope or place a karabiner block on the side with the bag and abseil on the opposite side. Pull the rope down, stuff it all in the bag and you're away.

If this has left you a little discombobulated feel free to contact me: [toinehoutenbos@hotmail.com](mailto:toinehoutenbos@hotmail.com)

To progress things further we'll be running canyoning instructor training at the Symposium...why not sign up and give it a go...and in the meantime check out the photos from the first assessment and the candidate and employer viewpoints and technical article also in this Quarterly.

## Member Profile: Wayne Goodchild



Hi, my name is Wayne Goodchild. I live and work at Tui Ridge Park just out of Rotorua. I have been here for ten years and over that time have learned a great deal. In an attempt to keep it relevant I will start by focussing on what I have learned through NZOIA during that time! About three years ago I sat my first NZOIA assessment, Bush 1, and really enjoyed the learning and challenge of achieving the certification. Beginning of 2011 I sat my Rock 1 and once again found the experience an extremely positive one. Since then I have been to one of NZOIA Leader Award assessor training days and met up with some amazing assessors and instructors from around the country. From here I am planning on doing some aquatic based quals starting with kayak hopefully later in 2012.

Well my last and current adventure started at 11pm on the 4th Oct when my son decided it was time to emerge a couple of weeks early. As anyone who is a parent knows, having kids is a nonstop epic and so far I've been loving it.

From a work perspective I am passionate about making a difference in the lives of kids and teens. Especially through interaction and participation in the outdoors and in adventure type situations. I am constantly amazed at the amount and severity of issues that they have to face and helping them to develop skills to deal with those issues is really important to me. One of the biggest challenges I find in working in the outdoors, is not actually working in the outdoors! As times and responsibilities change more and more time is spent indoors, behind a computer, and let's face it, NONE of us got involved in this industry to spend more time at a desk!

In conclusion, something very important, I drive a 99 Mitsubishi van, but I'd give my left child producing organ for a '65 mustang! Cheers, Wayne

Photo courtesy of Kiwi Canyons [www.facebook.com/KiwiCanyons.org](http://www.facebook.com/KiwiCanyons.org)

## Canyoning:

### Candidates Perspective - NZOIA Canyon 1



I really wasn't sure what to expect; the next three days were going to be my first ever NZOIA activity and NZOIA's first crack at running the Canyoning assessment. Initially it appeared that the assessors weren't 100% sure either; but in the spirit of openness and honesty that was to be a key theme for the event, that was pretty much the first thing they told us.

From Geraldine, 8 candidates, 4 assessors and 1 NZOIA mentor drove to Kaumira Canyon, in South Canterbury's Hunters Hills for a personal skills day. I

was impressed from the outset; by the clear explanation of both the ground rules and the robust processes we'd be immersed in for the next few days. Then it was off up the hill, carrying all our kit and chatting away the assessment nerves with our fellow candidates who were soon to become our trusted team mates.

Kaumira Canyon has an excellent variety of features, which were very well used by the assessors to test a large range of individual skills and our ability to work effectively as part of a two person guiding team. Prior to each obstacle, we would get a clear briefing on the assessment scenario. Following the task, the feedback and grading was comprehensive, professional

and brutally honest. Whilst this was a little eye opening at first, it became refreshing and very valuable. We were never unduly chastised for mistakes, but we were in no doubt of each and every error that was made.

The Orari Gorge provided a range of sites for the variety of pure rope and water skills that were assessed on day two. Hauling systems, belays, ascending, guide line abseils were some of the skills meticulously scrutinized by the eagle eyed team of assessors. Later in the day, water skills such as canyon movement briefings, white water swimming and rescues were performed. Finally, a rapid scouting trip as the light faded through Andrews stream, which was to be our client day 'final exam' site.

The whole process was stressful, challenging and engaging. Within the bounds of the award syllabus, the assessors set very high standards for each evolution. Very few tasks were done perfectly, all attracted insightful and honest feedback. This healthy feedback and 'cross pollination' from candidates and assessors alike resulted in huge amounts of learning for everyone. Each candidate was assessed by all the assessors and meetings were held each night to moderate grades and performance. This robust process results in NZOIA Canyon 1 holders having a worthy qualification that employers can have well placed faith in.

But finally, the three days were extremely fun! We got to meet a dozen other mad keen canyoners, who shared a common goal, were quick to share a laugh and always ready to lend a helping hand to each other. Thanks to everyone involved for a fantastic experience!

Daniel Clearwater, Canyon 1 Instructor

## Member Profile: Larissa Mueller



I grew up in Reefton, a small town near Murchison in the South Island. It is surrounded by forest parks where my dad took me tramping from the ripe old age of three years. I hated it as most kids hate things they are forced to do. When I was older my brother took me on rock climbing and paragliding trips which re-ignited my love of the outdoors. I never thought of it as a possible job until I enrolled in the Diploma in Outdoor Recreation Leadership (DORL) at AUT in Auckland. During my studies I fell back in love with tramping and the simplified lifestyle it brings. Since graduating and getting my NZOIA Bush One I have been freelancing as an outdoor instructor. I recently moved to Taupo and am currently setting up a business called Fly in the Woods, making and selling custom made camping flies and bivi tents.

### What I love/challenges me about working in the outdoors

I love the challenges of a hard day's walking or paddling then getting to camp and feeling that satisfied tiredness; of living comfortably in the outdoors with as little equipment as possible; of opening up the minds of students and giving them a personal connection with their surroundings; of finding new and exciting ways of teaching and adapting my instructing style to suit different groups.

### Last adventure/last epic

This winter my tramping buddy Cho and I planned a four day round trip in the Kawekas, going from Te Puia to Kaweka J and back. High winds were indicated in the forecast but we got bushline fever and went up anyway. Safe to say, we underestimated the wind and ended up spending about an hour crawling a hundred metres on ice before deciding it was a bit too hairy, escaping by sliding down a snowy gully on our bums and spending a chilly night out in below zero conditions. I learnt to respect the wind after that...

### Something philosophical

I have been exploring the concept of going solo in the last year, with overnight solos and longer trips up to five days. I find that there is a heightened connection with my surroundings when I am alone, from hearing every sound in the bush to seeing deer and other wildlife up close when normally the noise of a group approaching would send them into hiding. There is also the challenge of making decisions and judgement calls without anyone to bounce your ideas off. Even if the trip itself wasn't the most scenic or epic adventure, I come back raving about how awesome it was and it is always a reminder of why I love the outdoors and want to share it with others.

### What I drive

I recently bought a 4WD Toyota Hiace and set it up for travelling with a removable bed platform in the back and space for mountain bikes. This was my dream wagon for years and it has been great so far, especially for finding great off road campsites that the tourists can't get to with their campervans.

## WHO NEEDS REVALIDATION THIS YEAR?

### Qualifications gained before 30 June 2006

Not yet revalidated one or more of your qualifications? You need to read the process outlined in the 'Revalidation - our future direction...' article in this NZOIA Quarterly and then contact NZOIA as you have missed the final 30 June 2012 deadline.

**Book early so we can plan ahead and so you get a place on a workshop.**

### Alternatives to attending a Refresher Workshop

- Overseas or heading overseas for an extended period? Your qualifications can be shelved for up to 5 years from the date gained or last revalidated.
- Work with or know an assessor in the relevant discipline who can sign you off? Talk to them directly. This can occur every second three year cycle.
- Attend a NZOIA Training Course for a higher qualification.
- Work as a trainer for NZOIA? You are automatically revalidated for the qualifications one level higher than we employ you to train others in.
- Work as an assessor for NZOIA? You are automatically revalidated for the qualifications one level higher than we employ you to assess in.

Check out the booklet: 'A Guide to NZOIA Qualification's Revalidation and Registration March 2012', for detailed information. This can be found on our website: [www.nzoia.org.nz](http://www.nzoia.org.nz)

Members can check the date(s) by which they need to attend refresher workshops for their qualifications by logging into the members only section of the website and viewing the qualification record. Direct link is: [http://www.nzoia.org.nz/member\\_only/your\\_details.asp#qualifications](http://www.nzoia.org.nz/member_only/your_details.asp#qualifications)

Contact the NZOIA office directly at [admin@nzoia.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzoia.org.nz) if you are unsure of how to log into the members only section.



# Amazing River Rescue Course

**Last November I attended a 5 day river rescue course through the New Zealand Rafting Association (NZRA) now called the New Zealand Rivers Association for Professional Guides. It was the most fun and best learning experience that I have had in a long time. Coming from an old school kayaking background I was very nervous going into the course about how I would manage amongst professional raft guides because my experience was close to nil when it came to rafting. A teacher at school took us down the Wairoa in a raft a couple of times when I was a student, but that was over 25 years ago; rafting has changed a bit since then – the rafts actually self-bail now!**

Every year NZRA run a pre-season river rescue course in the North Island and one in the South Island. The course has a world wide reputation as the course to do for rafting river rescue. There were a number of guides who had come from Canada and the USA and one from Japan, especially to do this training and assessment.

I find it hard to simply state why I felt the course was so amazing as there were so many good things about it. Initially it was the cost and value for money; the course included:

- Five day course with the use of lots of gear from the local raft guiding companies.
- A worldwide recognised course
- Outdoor first aid certification renewal from Peak Safety
- Membership to the NZRA.

Course fee included a decent lunch. Are you ready for the price? \$483. We also got to raft the Kaituna a couple of times. Incredible!

For a rafter it was much, much more. This is an annual gathering of some of the very best gurus in the country to provide a learning and sharing environment, and to prepare for assessment those who wish to go for their higher rafting qualification. To be a current NZ Senior raft guide you are required to participate in the course at least once every 3 years. Many companies choose to encourage their staff to attend every year.

The North Island training and workshop was hosted by Nick Chater and Tak Mutu from Rotorua. They managed to create a fun, friendly learning environment where you were able to soak up tips and experiences from the senior guides. People were encouraged to ask lots of questions and try out different ideas.

The first 2 days consisted of some lectures, some land based training and plenty of getting wet in the top section of the Kaituna.

Areas covered included:

- Rafting Guide pathway
- River communication
- Throw bagging
- Rope work with z drags and pig rigs etc
- Incidents discussion
- Review of your PFD and what rescue gear you carry
- Outdoor 1<sup>st</sup> Aid.
- River crossing
- River swimming in rapids
- Flipping a raft
- Using the raft as a rescue platform

At the end of day 1 I got to paddle down the river with Georgie guiding. As I was sitting in the back he mentioned that the raft was softer than they would normally run it so it might Taco (fold in half). We were told to sit down in the bottom of the raft and hold tight and keep your head down, holding your paddle so as not to smash your mate in the head with it. It was obviously too much info for my tiny brain because when we hit the first drop the raft sure enough Taco'd. Me being the nosy bugger



Photos on this page courtesy of Jono Taylor

that I am, I naturally looked up to see where we were going and smashed my nose on the back of someone's helmet in the front of the raft; earning myself the distinction of receiving the 'Kaituna Kiss'!

End of day 2 we had a raft trip down the Kaituna with various experienced guides where they critiqued our skills and provided some feedback. I made sure I was sitting in the front of the raft this time. We had NZ guru Southy (Grant South) in the raft I was in. Southy took the various guides through their paces giving them tips on where they could improve. I got to guide a few smaller rapids; not too bad for a complete rafting beginner.

Loads of experienced senior raft guides then turned up for the final 3 days of assessment. The 3<sup>rd</sup> day was a pre-assessment based on the Kaituna again. This was more of the same with observation and feedback. If your skills were up to the level of the River Rescue unit standard, you got to join them on day 4 and 5 (a safety requirement). Day 3 included some more land-based sessions with knots, systems, first aid etc. In the afternoon there were scenarios where you had to cross the river, climb a bank, swim to a tethered raft, climb in, flip it over and then flip it back upright, swim across the river again to get tethered, swim down the river tethered and release your towline under load, swim through a rapid and catch an eddy, float down the river until you are throw rope bagged, bag the next person coming after you. Then you get to walk your weary body back to the beginning.

Day 4 started with more 1<sup>st</sup> aid from Peak Safety back at Rotoiti then off to the mighty Rangitaiki. We were broken up into a number of teams where we worked through more scenarios including swimming through sieves, swimming through Rock B, having a rope tied around a leg, then in mid current locating our knife from your PFD and cutting away. Stabbing a raft while tethered and having a go at sawing up an old Dancer.

Day 5 was the pressure day. Same group as yesterday but we had a person going for their senior rafting ticket and who was being closely monitored on how they led the group. We had 7 stations (mini Olympics) where we performed various rescues within a tight time frame, received some feedback and then raced on to the next station. The scenarios included... using a sledge for rescues, throw bagging some targets, moving the raft into position to perform a rescue on Rock A, some swimming and raft flipping, some z drags, river crossing and more river swimming and various 1<sup>st</sup> aid scenarios.

We finished with a bang which was fitting as the last day of course was November the 5<sup>th</sup>, so we were all invited to join the local community for a bonfire complete with fireworks.

I thoroughly recommend this course to anyone who works around rivers, lakes or the sea. There are some great skills and experience you will gain, in a challenging and exciting environment with a great bunch of supportive people. I'm still buzzed!

*Bill Lavelle, Bush and Rock instructor and Sea Kayak Guide*

Steve Brown here, Chairperson of NZ Rivers Association (and NZOIA Canoe, Kayak, Sea Kayak, and Bush instructor), great article Bill and I fully agree I came from a kayaking background and my first River Rescue workshop was an eye opener. It greatly increased my river confidence and river rescue tool kit.

**River Rescue Training and Workshop Dates for 2012:**

**NORTH ISLAND – TURANGI - Training 5th - 7th November and Workshop 7th – 9th November**

**SOUTH ISLAND – QUEENSTOWN – Training 19th - 21st November and Workshop 21st - 23rd November**

**Format will be:**

Day 1 to 3 – a rescue course for those who wish to learn and refresh swift-water rescue skills, **day 3 may culminate in a testing day against some** of the rescue pre-requisites of New Zealand raft guide qualifications.

Day 3 to 5 – a rescue workshop for those who wish to refresh, practice and push their rescue skills using scenario based sessions. Participants will partake in a testing/refresher day (on Day 3) where we expect them to perform tasks that are required in the River Rescue unit standard in order to be able to safely participate in the final two days.

Cost – first 3 days training only \$368 or all 5 days training and workshop \$483

On the training and the workshop we use various craft as a rescue platform, ie: raft, river board, kayak. The majority of time is spent in and around the water and not necessarily in your boat.

**All enquiries to:**

Raewyn Larcombe  
NZ Rivers Association for Professional Guides  
203 Orari River Road  
RD 22, Peel Forest

Email: [nzraftingassociation@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nzraftingassociation@xtra.co.nz)

NZOIA members are very welcome on these courses, so I look forward to seeing many of you there – **Steve**.

*Editor's note: These courses are great value and are able to be run at low cost because of the workshop format where the skills sharing methodology enables a higher participant to assessor ratio.*

# NZOIA NATIONAL TRAINING Symposium

4th – 7th October 2012

Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Turangi



Your opportunity to train, up-skill and revalidate any NZOIA qualifications

Inspirational speakers and trainers

Meet other instructors and connect with your industry

Options for attendance – see registration form

Combines with the NZOIA AGM

Contact: [pdm@nzoi.org.nz](mailto:pdm@nzoi.org.nz)



Visit us on Facebook: search for Training Symposium NZOIA



The NZOIA National Training Symposium will be an annual event that will change location and season each year. NZOIA is pleased to partner with OPC for this inaugural event.

## NZOIA National Training Symposium Update

While staffing changes at both NZOIA and the SEHOPC did provide some challenges in the earlier part of this year, the organisation of the NZOIA National Training Symposium is now well underway. The Executive are underwriting the event and Sport NZ has also provided funding support enabling us to proceed with more financial certainty.

Early bird registrations closed at the end of June and we now have over 50 members registered and we expect to significantly build on this number by the time October rolls around. Thanks to those of you who have already registered and it's great to see so many members from the South Island making the effort to travel to the Central Plateau to take part, one even all the way from Te Anau!

While the initial concept was for the Symposium to focus on revalidation, it is a training symposium so we want to be able to run a series of workshops alongside the revalidation workshops for those member who don't actually want or need to revalidate any of their qualifications. At this stage I'm really keen on hearing from people who are willing to present workshops (anything from 2 hours to full day) at the Symposium. So far staff from the Army Leadership Centre, Tai Poutini Polytechnic, CPIT, as well as a number of individuals have offered to run a diverse range of workshops; from developing crags post the Christchurch earthquake to kayak rolling and avalanche assessment. Staff from the SEHOPC will also be providing some

activities for those that want to get out and experience some of the activities they offer.

We are fortunate to welcome an international contributor to the Symposium this year. Steve Long, President of the UIAA Mountaineering Commission Training Standards Panel will be joining us both as contributor and as part of the process of accrediting NZOIA's rock and mountain qualifications with the UIAA.

In addition to workshops the Symposium is also an opportunity to attend the annual awards dinner, AGM and network with other outdoor professionals. Attending the Symposium is an opportunity for members to add value to their NZOIA membership. Remember NZOIA is your association so...

### Register now

- Offer to run a workshop or a revalidation
- Spread the word... the Symposium needs people to attend for it to be a success
- Get a group together from your workplace
- Check out the Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Training-Symposium-Nzoia/216108835111043>

David Mangnall, NZOIA Programme Development Manager

[pdm@nzoi.org](mailto:pdm@nzoi.org)

The Waiho i te toipoto, kau i te toiroa  
**Outdoors FORUM**  
Outdoors New Zealand & The Outdoors Awards  
Mahi Ngahau ā-Waho Aotearoa

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For more information and to register, go to:

[www.the-outdoors-forum.org.nz](http://www.the-outdoors-forum.org.nz)

# REVALIDATION > OUR FUTURE DIRECTION



Since 2007 NZOIA qualifications have only been considered valid if the leader, instructor or guide who holds them has been through the revalidation process. Five years on and we feel it's time to take a second look, review what has been achieved and make plans for the future. In this article I will provide a synopsis of the history behind revalidation; the current state of play; some ideas to consider; and what the next steps will be in developing this facet of what we do.

## History

The context for developing a revalidation process began some years ago, spurred largely by a growing sense amongst the membership of the need for instructors to have evidence of their current competency, often referred to simply as being 'current'. This was perhaps a natural progression in the professionalisation of our industry that began when NZOIA was formed in 1987; and a recognition that NZOIA was falling behind similar qualification schemes both in NZ and abroad, where revalidation had been the norm for some time. Around that time the Outdoors NZ qualifications alignment project was underway, and one outcome of that was a clear message that revalidation was needed.

The Executive had also been given clear direction from the membership:

- At the 2001 AGM members directed the Executive to investigate registration.
- At the 2002 AGM a revalidation model was presented and discussed.
- A further discussion was held at the 2003 AGM when a further model was presented. A vote was taken and the Executive instructed to proceed.

Then in 2005 we commissioned Gaike Knottenbelt to undertake a research project to look at revalidation systems within the outdoor sector and also in other vocational groups, both in NZ and overseas, and to report back. Gaike found a wide variety of schemes ranging from the simple first aid revalidations we all undertake here in NZ, to elaborate points-based professional development systems that have been created in other industries, professions, and in the outdoor sector overseas.

There ensued much debate among the Executive as various options were considered and modelled; each being weighed against what we were really trying to achieve, and what we considered practicable given our limited administrative resources. It was clear that the elaborate points-based systems had much to commend them in terms of options and flexibility for the individual and recognition of broader continuing professional development. For example, Australian Canoeing operated a points-based system where instructors were required to gain 100 points in a three year period. Points could be claimed for personal paddling, instruction, paddling-related activity, competition, other personal development, conducting an Australian Canoeing (AC) course, attending an AC course, or assessing an AC course. Each of these elements carried a set number of points up to a maximum, and a minimum that needed to be achieved. E.g. 5 points per day for instructing, a minimum of 6 days in the previous 12 months, and up to a maximum of 60 points. Under this system it was the member's

responsibility to submit evidence and the association's task to administer the system and verify the evidence submitted. At the time implementation of a similar system within NZOIA was seen as administratively possible but significantly complicated by the fact that most members hold qualifications in several disciplines. In short it would have been highly complex and thus excessively costly to administer.

By 2007 a process had been developed and was presented in the June Quarterly. The task had been a challenging one particularly given that NZOIA, unlike most other outdoor qualifying bodies here and overseas, offers qualifications in a range of different activities rather than just one. Because of this we had to come up with a solution that would work fairly for people with one qualification as well as for people with four or five. The process was built around a number of principles:

1. Logged personal and instructional experience is important and to retain currency it should be recent
2. Members should be encouraged to move up to higher level qualifications
3. There is real value in workshops where groups of members meet, work together, share ideas and experiences, and learn new things; and these are particularly beneficial for people who work in isolation or a single workplace
4. Members taking time out from instruction should have an option to put their qualifications on hold, and be provided with a fair process to liven up their qualifications when needed in the future
5. Assessors should be able to sign off people as current if they are in a position to make that assessment

Refresher workshops were largely regarded as the cornerstone of the system as they provided an opportunity for an assessor to re-confirm that an individual was currently competent, and because direct observation by an assessor is regarded as highly reliable evidence of competency (as in our normal assessment process). On this basis we modified the revalidation process in 2010 and removed the requirement for a minimum number of logged days per discipline, more simply requiring that a log of days be provided. It was felt that logged days while important, were not necessarily reliable evidence of competence, and that direct observation by an assessor was a far better and fairer measure. Fairer because a rigid requirement for a minimum number of logged days might act against members who were below the minimum requirement yet were easily able to prove competency due to extensive past experience or extensive current experience in related disciplines.

## The situation today

With the exception of the mandatory logged experience requirement which has been removed, the revalidation system remains as introduced in 2007. There is a requirement to attend a refresher workshop every three years, and options to stretch this out to six years when a member is signed off by an assessor; or through attendance at a training workshop for a higher qualification in the same discipline. Qualifications may be shelved for up to five years from the date gained or last revalidated.

So, what's going well and what's not working:

- Most members are providing positive feedback about their experience on refresher courses
- Many members have revalidated either by attending refresher courses, attending training, or assessor sign-off
- Some members have shelved their qualifications
- We are about to run our first training symposium in an effort to promote professional development and provide an accessible opportunity for revalidation in alternate Islands each year
- We have an unresolved issue around revalidation of members who are permanently or long term overseas
- Some members are overdue in terms of revalidation of their qualifications
- Some workshops have been cancelled due to lack of numbers and this has created frustrations for some members
- We have had difficulty running any refresher workshops in some disciplines, like canoe, again because of lack of numbers
- Our current system does not give credit for the many forms of valuable professional development people undertake
- Refresher workshops run at a financial loss
- There is confusion about what a refresher workshop is or what one should be, in terms of training and updating versus re-assessment
- It is time consuming to revalidate everything when members hold multiple qualifications

## Options for the future

Members have made comments and suggestions about all sorts of things and it is certainly easy to see value in each of the following as beneficial professional development that it would be good to encourage:

- Contributing to a national committee, or a technical committee.
- Academic courses that relate to the qualification being revalidated, such as an environmental studies paper.
- Personal skills development courses (as opposed to instructor training).
- Generic professional development. For example a workshop on cultural awareness, training in facilitation, or conflict resolution, or working with people with disabilities.
- River Rescue.
- LandSAR training.

## Where to from here >>>>>>>>

This article is the precursor to a review of revalidation that will take place over the coming months. In the next few weeks all members will receive an email invitation to participate in a survey, and we are keen to hear your views through this, and to gauge your interest in a number of ideas and possibilities for how the system could be enhanced to work better for everyone.

The results will be analysed and we will then present a number of options for member consideration. These will include the cost of each option, as fees may need to be adjusted to reflect any additional administration that a more flexible system may require.

*Matt Cant, Chief Executive, NZOIA*

## Notice for members who had qualifications that were due for revalidation by 30 June

**A large number of members' qualifications were due for revalidation on the 30 June 2012. If you were not able to revalidate by this date, the following administrative procedure is in place to assist you.**

In providing this pathway we acknowledge it has not always been easy for people to revalidate; however we also want to thank all the people who have recognised and responded to the need for our industry to show currency in the qualifications that we hold by completing the revalidation process on time.

From the 1 July 2012 qualifications that have not been revalidated will no longer appear on the website (this is usual practice) and will not be listed on your membership card or appear in an instructor search on the website.

Please contact the Programme and Membership Manager (PMM) [admin@nzoi.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzoi.org.nz) to request an extension of your qualification(s) if you do not want them to lapse. If the extension is granted your qualification will be extended until the 31 December 2012 and this will appear on your membership card and the website.

Qualifications will lapse on the 31 December 2012 if you have not contacted the PMM by then. Once a qualification has lapsed you will need to resit the assessment to regain your qualification.

Between the 1 July and the 31 December 2012 you must commit to a plan that has your qualifications being revalidated by 31 December 2013. This plan could include the following options:

Enrolling on a NZOIA Refresher Workshop – application and payment in by 31 December 2012

Enrolling on a NZOIA Training Course for a higher qualification – application and payment in by 31 December 2012

Sign-off by Assessor – an email agreement including the assessors name and date they will observe you working at the level of your qualification

Once your plan is agreed with the PMM your revalidation date will be extended for the last time.

If your plan is not in to the PMM by the 31 December 2012 your invalidated qualification(s) will lapse.

When your revalidation is complete send in the Qualification Revalidation form that can be downloaded off our website if required.

# Update report on the Qualification and Programme Review Project

**A ten member Education Advisory Group (EAG) met in Christchurch for one day in early April as the first major step in the qualification review process. The key purpose of this group was to examine and review the underlying principles of NZOIA's qualifications scheme and assessment methodology.**

Members brought a considerable depth of educational experience and knowledge of education pedagogy and assessment methodology to the review. Jo Straker was invited to chair the group and the other members were: Dr Mike Boyes, Christine Worsfold, Stu Allan, Pete Brailsford, Ian Logie, Andy Thompson, and Penny Holland, together with Matt Cant and myself.

The Agenda for the meeting included:

- The purpose of qualifications
- Assessment methodology
- Moderation
- The three tier structure
- Sequencing and prerequisites
- Core and elective components and Cross crediting
- Reporting and Pass/Defer/Resit
- Revisit core principles

The key points from the discussion were summarised as a list of seven principles or recommendations to help guide the review of the Level 1 & 2 qualifications. Below each one is a description of how these are to be applied operationally and through the qualifications review process:

- 1. The quality of NZOIA assessors has been the foundation of the qualification scheme and the focus should be on maintaining and developing the quality of assessors through assessor training and moderation rather than by writing rules or guidelines for them to work to.**

Assessor selection, training and moderation will reflect this principle. Assessment guides for Assessors and Candidates will be written that are task and outcomes focussed rather than a list of judgement criteria tick boxes. Some tasks will have judgement criteria assigned to them for assessor and candidate clarity.

- 2. International alignment should be considered when reviewing and re-writing qualifications.**

NZOIA will continue to work towards gaining UIAA accreditation for rock, alpine and bush qualifications.

- 3. Work on completing the review and re-writing of core syllabi before trying to increase the number of qualifications.**

David's role is to revise core syllabi on a prioritised basis; rock, kayak, bush, alpine, sea kayak, then canoe, and cave. The development of new qualifications will be continued in parallel to this process.

- 4. Keep the flow between qualifications as smooth and as achievable as possible.**

As part of the review and re-writing of the syllabi, the gaps between levels will be considered with the intention of reducing the gaps, demystifying and clarifying the standards (especially at level 2) and creating endorsements where appropriate

- 5. Endorsements help the learning and development of instructors.**

At this stage endorsements will only be considered that are a stepping stone between level 1 and 2 and not an add on e.g. leading and managing students on grade 3 would be a stepping stone from Kayak 1 to Kayak 2 because it is part of the Kayak 2 syllabus, multi-sport paddling would be an add-on because it is not.

Endorsements may be assessed as a work-based type assessment to increase accessibility and lessen NZOIA's administration requirements.

An endorsement should have a requirement of further logged experience and should be able to be assessed by a level 1 assessor.

New syllabi will be written including a statement outlining the criteria for extending the scope of a qualification, as an instructor is progressing to the next level of qualification

- 6. Focus on writing an assessee profile rather than a scope.**

A candidate profile will be included in the new syllabi format

- 7. The qualification scheme should support learning and development and that professional development is an important motivator for people doing NZOIA assessments. Feedback should be given to all candidates to enhance their development and some of this feedback should be in writing.**

Every candidate will receive a written report irrespective of the outcome of their assessment. A new online reporting template has been developed to support assessors writing these reports. The new reporting process will be outlined at the Assessor's Conference in October.

NZOIA will investigate professional development opportunities to facilitate and enhance assessor's use of verbal feedback to candidates.

Two key questions which have yet to be answered are:

- 1. Is there a generic candidate profile for each qualification level and what are the fundamental differences between levels 1 and 2?**
- 2. Should candidates be required to follow a sequential pathway through the 3 levels or can they also enter directly at level 1 or level 2? And if so, what prerequisites should be set?**

These questions will be considered by the technical committees which are formed to review each qualification.



David Mangnall, NZOIA Programme Development Manager

pdm@nzoi.org

## Canyoning: Employer engagement and support in assisting assessment



Photo courtesy of Kiwi Canyons [www.facebook.com/KiwiCanyons.org](http://www.facebook.com/KiwiCanyons.org)

As a company owner my motivation was to contribute to the national effort to get the NZOIA Canyon 1 qualification off the ground. As an employer, now and more so in the future, qualifications is an important part our safety management system. Contributing to this is the adventure tourism review and

### Next steps

The convening of technical committees to review the level 1 and 2 qualifications in each pursuit is underway.

The Rock Technical Committee is scheduled to meet in Nelson in July. The Bush Technical Committee will meet in Christchurch in August. The Alpine and Kayak committees will meet in September.

For practicality the technical committees have been kept quite small but our aim is to make the qualification review as consultative and transparent as possible. If you want to have any input, contact David and share your ideas or get on a wider reference group to receive an emailed update on the meeting outcomes.

the resulting development of an ASG (Activity Safety Guideline) for commercial canyoning.

Big Rock Canyons supported the event by organising canyons for assessment, model students, equipment for model students, a conference room and providing local logistics. I thought of my role as being to try and support the assessors so they could concentrate on their job.

The main benefit to our company was that as an employer I got to see first-hand the assessment process in action. I was interested to see at what level the candidates were being assessed. What I saw gave me confidence in the process and the outcome. The candidates were really put through their paces by the team of assessors. There was no hiding!

Secondly it was great to see other guides operating in the canyons we guide. I had the opportunity to see how they worked and did things differently. Many discussions were had about what was being done. This will help us question our practices and improve our safety management.

One interesting thing that worked well was the use of our Facebook page. We posted that we wanted model students, put a link to information NZOIA provided for model students. This instantly went out all those that had liked Big Rock Canyons <http://www.facebook.com/BigRockCanyons>

It has to be said supporting an NZOIA Canyon 1 assessment was a real team effort. Support from NZOIA head office, the assessors and us on the ground made it happen.

If you are in the area and interested in Canyoning or becoming a guide get in touch with us at Big Rock Canyons:

<http://bigrockcanyons.co.nz/>

Grant Prattley, Canyon 2 Instructor, Manager & Guide, Big Rock Canyons

[grant@bigrockcanyons.co.nz](mailto:grant@bigrockcanyons.co.nz)

## Member Profile: Celia Tripp (Seals)



### Where I am now, where been?

I studied at Aoraki Polytechnic for three years straight after school. I have worked for many different companies since then doing lots of different things, from instructing at Peel Forest Outdoor Centre, sea kayak guiding in Milford Sound, raft guiding in Japan and ski patrolling at Mount Hutt. However it's the personal development work that I have done over the past 8 years, for companies like Full On and Horizons Unlimited, that really motivate me. I finished a season for Full On in Wales in July and now I am living in London working as a Project Manager. Yes I know – it's totally not in the outdoors but I love travelling so it's great for the moment!

### Best Adventures

With Europe at your doorstep there are always great adventures – ski touring in Norway, cycle touring in Germany, sea kayaking in Greenland, canyoning in Scotland and climbing in Sicily.

### Passion/what turns you on

Firstly, personally, I love being in the outdoors and having epic adventures. It's where I get the most excitement and challenge in life and also it's a great place to spend time with friends and family. Secondly, I love developing people in the outdoors and giving them an experience that enables them to be the best that they can be. Ultimately I love to do this in the outdoors but right now I am in a different situation and will try to inspire those around me to get out there and make the most of life.

### Something philosophical

Life's too short to worry about what other people think. Make the most of now.

### If I wasn't in the outdoors I would be doing...

Westpac Rescue Helicopter Paramedic!

### If I was to write something for the NZOIA Quarterly it would be about...

Outdoor attitudes around the world or today's youth and their attitude to taking risks

### What I drive...

I drive a Kona Blast 2011... Don't need a car in London

## Advertise in the Quarterly

Avertisement	Format / Size	Cost
Half-page advertisement, black & white only	horizontal 186 mm wide x 132 mm high	\$100 + gst
Half-page advertisement, black & white only	vertical 90 mm wide x 273 mm high	\$100 + gst
Quarter-page advertisement, black & white only	vertical 90 mm wide x 132 mm high	\$70 + gst
Third-page advertisement, black & white only	horizontal 186 mm wide x 86 mm high	\$70 + gst

Advertisements should be in black & white PDF file format. No 'bleed' advertisements accepted. Colour files can be converted to black & white but tonal variations may occur. Please enquire for affordable advertisement design rates.  
Send your advertisement to: The Editor, NZOIA, P.O.Box 1620, Nelson 7010. Email: editor@nzoi.org.nz

### Kayak Instructor Training

#### Funding subsidies still available!

We still have funding available from Water Safety NZ to subsidise any sort of kayak, sea kayak, or canoe leader / instructor training or safety / rescue workshop. If you have a group of three or more people please get in touch asap and we'll endeavour to meet your needs. Courses may be run midweek or weekends.

#### Course costs

\$80 per person for a 1 day course, \$160 per person for a 2 day course.  
This is a 50% subsidy!

### 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 programme and membership 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@nzoi.org.nz Phone: 03 539 0509

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a pair of Cactus  
WK Supertrousers  
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and a pair for an NZOIA  
colleague by signing up  
for the Cactus Pro-User  
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Email Cactus@cactusclimbing.co.nz  
with your full name and include  
the words NZOIA Pro-User sign-up  
Competition, and we'll get back to you  
for the rest.

Shop online at   
[www.cactusequipment.co.nz](http://www.cactusequipment.co.nz)

 **CACTUS**  
EQUIPMENT

## Avalanche Stage 1



Whitireia Polytechnic is offering places on a residential Avalanche Stage 1 course running from the 6th – 12th August at Mt Ruapehu.

This course is aimed at snow sport professionals and those who recreate in the alpine environments. An intermediate level of skiing or snowboarding is required and access to touring equipment.

Cost for the course are \$1227.00 for residents and \$2,500 for internationals, food and accommodation included.

Contact Mary Wilson: [mary.wilson@whitireia.ac.nz](mailto:mary.wilson@whitireia.ac.nz) for enrolment information.



**Whitireia**  
NEW ZEALAND

## Assessment Calendar

The assessment calendar is now published only on the NZOIA website [http://www.nzoi.org.nz/qualifications/assessment\\_calendar.asp](http://www.nzoi.org.nz/qualifications/assessment_calendar.asp)  
You will be informed by email each time it is updated. In addition we will inform you of any unscheduled assessment events that have spare places.

### Assessment Fees

Bush Walking Leader	Abseil Leader	\$545	
Kayak Leader	Rock Climbing Leader		
Cave 1	Rock 1		
Canoe 1		\$730	
Bush 1 + Bush 2	Rock 2		
Alpine 1	SKOANZ Sea Kayak Guide		
Cave 2	Sea Kayak 2		
Kayak 1	Kayak 2		
Sea Kayak 1 Upgrade	\$265	Alpine 2	\$930

### BOOKING FOR AN NZOIA ASSESSMENT

1. Complete the prerequisites as detailed in the syllabus - all available on the website
2. Submit an application form available from the website or NZOIA office by the closing date together with the required fee, a copy of your logbook and a copy of your current first-aid certificate
3. Applications close SIX weeks before the assessment date
4. Places are allocated on a first-in with fully completed application and fees, first-accepted basis
5. After the closing date we will confirm that the assessment will run
6. If we cancel the course we will refund all fees
7. Refunds are generally not provided where a candidate withdraws after the six week closing date irrespective of the reason (see website for full details of refund policy)

### Assessments by special arrangement

It is possible to run assessments on other dates. If you have 3 motivated candidates, contact the Programme and Membership Manager. If we can get an assessor for the requested dates then we can run a special assessment for you. Costs may vary from scheduled courses.

Email: [admin@nzoi.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzoi.org.nz) Phone: 03 539 0509

[http://www.nzoi.org.nz/qualifications/assessment\\_calendar.asp](http://www.nzoi.org.nz/qualifications/assessment_calendar.asp)

## Training Calendar

The training calendar is now published only on the NZOIA website: [http://www.nzoi.org.nz/training/training\\_calendar.asp](http://www.nzoi.org.nz/training/training_calendar.asp)

You will be informed by email each time it is updated. In addition we will inform you of any unscheduled training events that have spare places.

### Training Course Costs

All courses run by NZOIA are discounted for members; this includes full, associate and student members.

If you are not already a member it is probably worth joining to access discounted training.

All water based courses including kayak, canoe and sea kayak are supported with Water Safety NZ funding:

Course Duration	NZOIA members	Non - members
1 day courses	\$100	\$200
2 day courses	200	\$400

All other courses including bush, alpine, rock and cave:

Course Duration	NZOIA members	Non - members
1 day courses	\$200	\$315
2 day courses	\$400	\$515

### Further information

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

### Who are the courses for?

Instructor training courses are designed for people who have already developed their personal skills in a particular activity; have begun leading and instructing others under supervision; and who wish to train and qualify with NZOIA as instructors. Your technical skills should be close to the standard expected on assessment (see individual qualification syllabi on the website). The instructor training course, while generally following the qualification syllabus, will be tailored by your trainer to meet the specific needs of the group to ensure everyone gets best value. It will provide you with new skills and knowledge and assist you to identify any gaps that you will need to fill before successful assessment.

### Training courses by special arrangement

It is possible to run training on other dates, either by special request or if sufficient participants and trainers are available. We are happy to run courses at any level, at other locations or in your workplace; and will be pleased to discuss your individual or organisational needs. Please contact the Programme and Membership Manager to register your interest. Email: [admin@nzoi.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzoi.org.nz) Phone: 03 539 0509

[http://www.nzoi.org.nz/training/training\\_calendar.asp](http://www.nzoi.org.nz/training/training_calendar.asp)



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COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

Bivouac Outdoor is a 100% New Zealand owned company with a business model that gives the flexibility and scale to provide you with the best outdoor clothing and equipment available in the world today. "Committed to adventure" is not a throw-away line, it's a mission statement that we'll bring you the best of the best.

## Top performers that won't let you down

With each of our stores stocking over 7500 products from 150 different suppliers, we are able to offer the best performers in each category. We present cutting edge technology from leading international manufacturers such as Arc'teryx, Berghaus, Black Diamond, Exped, Osprey, Outdoor Research and The North Face. Every item has undergone a selection process during which the product has proven itself to be a top contender in its category.



### Arc'teryx Alpha FL Active Shell

Fully waterproof, minimalist jacket designed for fast and light alpine adventures. Built using innovative new GORE-TEX® Active Shell for super lightweight, breathable wet-weather protection.

GORE-TEX® Active Shell three-layer construction

Micro-seam allowance (1.6 mm) reduces bulk and weight

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Anatomical shaping for fit and comfort

Articulated elbows

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Helmet compatible Storm Hood™

Chest pocket with laminated zip

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Laminated die-cut Velcro® cuff adjusters reduce bulk, and won't catch or tear off

Adjustable hem drawcord

Reinforced high wear areas

Weight: 292gm

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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



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# PLANTING THE SEEDS OF ADVENTURE



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Photo contributions are welcomed for the back page series 'Planting the Seeds of Adventure'  
Please submit as files of no less than 700 KB in jpg format.