

# NZOIA QUARTERLY

ISSUE 53

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND OUTDOOR INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION



Releasable attachment system – assisted ferry glide using a sling. Photo – M. Barker

## GETTING HITCHED

Do I need that kind of attachment?

It was the 1980s. It was my first white water foray in the Austrian Alps and we were paddling a demanding section of the river Inn. Midway through our descent we came across a lone German kayaker in an eddy. He was obviously paddling solo, which we thought was not very safe, so we invited him to join our group. After a particularly taxing run, where we all felt like we had been pushed on bigger, faster and more technical water than we had paddled before, we arrived with some relief at the take out. It was as our new friend got out of his boat that all our jaws simultaneously dropped. It must have been quite a sight. Four English teenaged kayakers with their mouths wide open in amazement.

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**NZOIA QUARTERLY**

**ISSUE 53: October 2010**

ISSN 1175-2068

**PUBLICATION**

The NZOIA Quarterly is published four times a year by: New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association Inc. PO Box 11-090 Manners Street Wellington 6142 New Zealand

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**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

\$20 annually. The NZOIA Quarterly is distributed free to members of NZOIA.

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

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**From the Editor**

Hi all,

After reading Amy Horn's article in the June Quarterly many times, it left me with a nagging feeling – that I am perfectly comfortable asking my students to push their boundaries, but was choosing not to do this myself in one area. So here it is – the Quarterly Editor's column!

At NZOIA, we have been discussing when and how to approach the sensitive topic of the Mangatepopo tragedy. **It's not just OPC that will be expected to have learnt lessons from this, it is the entire industry.** The front cover article 'Getting Hitched' is the start of our approach towards addressing the recommendations and lessons to be learnt. This article is in direct response to one of the recommendations from the Coroners Inquest - "Emphasis be given to the public and in particular training institutions, including polytechnics, that the linking of individuals swimming or floating in moving water is potentially dangerous." (<http://www.opc.org.nz/uploads/content/Coroners%20Report.pdf> - page 37).

As put very eloquently by Andrew Brookes, a member of the Independent Review Team into the Mangatepopo Tragedy, at the recent Outdoors NZ (ONZ) forum, **'it is not helpful in incident prevention to allocate blame.'** Therefore, the focus of the December Quarterly will be on lessons learnt and moving forward. The issue will be larger than usual and I encourage you to send in your contribution (email address above).

The purpose and the content of the Quarterly has been widely evaluated over the past few months by the NZOIA Executive. Your valuable input will be requested in the upcoming member survey. In the meantime, please feel free to flick me an email if there's something you'd like to question/applaud/comment on. Feedback is welcome at any time.

It was great to catch up with those of you who were able to make it to the ONZ forum in Wellington. If you didn't get there – book it in for next year. It was a great collection of people, celebration, information, discussion and challenging ideas. Hard to beat really.

Ajah

**Ajah Gainfort**

NZOIA gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following organisations:



Member Organisation



# GETTING HITCHED

## Do I need that kind of attachment?

Matt Barker

The reason we were so dumbfounded was that the German was busy untying a rope from his ankle. This rope was joined to the seat of his kayak. He must have noticed us looking incredulous, so he proceeded to tell us that it was very dangerous to become separated from your kayak on waters like this and that this was his safety measure. Well, it didn't take us more than a nanosecond to work out that the potential of the kayak, rope and kayaker combination getting pinned or hooked up mid-stream was way more dangerous than a swim and a walk out to the nearest road. I can't remember if we told him so, but we didn't see him again. That may have been lucky for us, but thinking back, it might have been unlucky for him.

In aquatic situations requiring the instructor to render assistance or rescue, attachment by any means should not be undertaken lightly. It's a bit like getting hitched in a matrimonial sense really. It should only be done reverently and after serious thought. Have no doubt that when things start to go wrong, your ability to save yourself will be compromised and you are no good at all to your clients, or charges, if you allow yourself to get into as bad a predicament as them.

There are circumstances when some form of bond between you may be the most efficient way to effect a rescue or give assistance. If you do decide that assistance or rescue requires attachment, then the basic premise is the **ability to be able to release**. And that release must be able to be performed under load and include the release of the attachment from the rescuer to the victim and the rescuer to their tether (if this is used). Ropes, slings, karabiners and water add up to a pretty lethal cocktail and having a knife immediately available is a crucial ingredient in the mix. The potential for two semi-floating objects to become snagged by a tether between them is very real. It is the basic principle upon which the ancient, but effective, *bolas* hunting tool works. The cause of the recent river boarding fatality can be attributed to the application of this principle. The extra drag of a person on a tether may also mean that the rescuer is incapable of rescuing themselves, or the victim whilst remaining attached. An example of this scenario was highlighted in the Coroner's report into the OPC Mangatepopo deaths.

The following three methods demonstrate how you can attach to a person and give yourself (the rescuer) the ability to release if the situation demands.

### Strong swimmer rescue (live baiting)

In this method, a strong swimmer can be attached to a throw bag tether by their buoyancy aid's chest harness. The free end of the rope can either be belayed directly by another person, or tied off with a releasable hitch. The strong swimmer jumps into the water and grabs the victim by the shoulder straps of their buoyancy aid and as the tethered rope comes tight is swung into the bank. If necessary, the rescuer can release the victim by simply letting go of their shoulder straps and can release them from the tether by opening the buckle on their chest harness. If these methods have malfunctioned, then it is vital the assistant on the bank has the ability to release the throw rope from the belay. Clean rope technique must be used in this situation. (Clean rope technique means having no knots or handles on the free end. This will ensure the rope can pass through a belay to be released and therefore, is far less likely to become snagged if it has to be let run.)



Releasable attachment system – towing using a sling.  
Photo: M. Barker.

### Towing

Towing an unconscious or very weak swimming/floating person to the bank from a kayak is another potential rescue method that may require attaching the victim to the rescuer by a releasable system. This can be achieved with the prudent use of a sling over one shoulder or a cow's tail on a buoyancy aid. If a sling is used this can be clipped with a karabiner to the victim's buoyancy aid shoulder strap and the rescuer can put their arm through the sling hooking it up on their shoulder. Simply dropping the shoulder and rotating so that the sling slips

off will release this towing system. If the cow's tail is used then the buckle must be opened on the chest strap of the rescuers buoyancy aid in order to release the link between rescuer and victim.

## Assisted Ferry Glides or Assisted River Running

Performing an assisted ferry glide or assisted rapid running can also require the rescuers to be attached to the victim's kayak. This can be achieved in a releasable way by having the kayakers nose to tail but alongside each other. The victim can grasp onto the bow of the rescuer's kayak and the rescuer can clip their cow's tail to the bow loop of the victim's boat. A cow's tail is often too long to get a nice tight unit and so a sling can be used as above but going from the opposite shoulder and across the back of the rescuer to the victim's bow loop. This can be released by rotating and can be helped along by hooking the thumb under it at the shoulder.



Releasable attachment system – assisted ferry glide using a cow's tail.  
Photo: M. Barker.

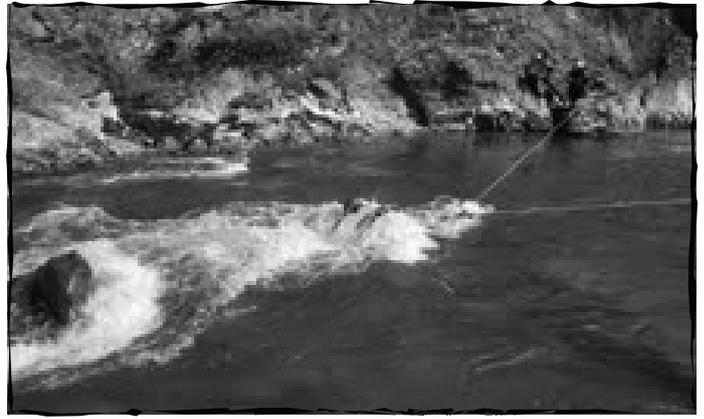
A note of warning about using cow's tails in these situations: I have seen a fair few people get into difficulties whilst towing with a cow's tail even after they have been released at the front buckle. There is often friction and a time delay in the actual release. Sometimes there is not enough tension to pull the webbing strap through the loops in the buoyancy aid to release the cow's tail. But there is enough drag to stop someone rolling, or to pull a kayaker paddling as fast as they could over a waterfall – a waterfall they really didn't want to go over

### 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 Training and Assessment Coordinator 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: [assessment@nzoi.org.nz](mailto:assessment@nzoi.org.nz) Phone: 04 916 4373



Releasable attachment system – lower using a cow's tail.  
Photo: Steve Chapman for Getting hitched.

attached to another kayak. Systems that are instantly releasable under low tension are best.

A really good idea is to become familiar with, and develop confidence in, these methods (and others) in a safe and controlled environment before you have to use them for real. Make sure you have a good team around you and weigh up the pros and cons of the differing methods for yourself. You could even enrol on a river safety or rescue course to learn, practise or refresh such techniques under professional guidance. Water Safety NZ (through NZOIA) offers subsidised courses for individuals and groups. Contact NZOIA for more information if you are interested.

**Attaching yourself to someone else should not be done! Not in any outdoor environment! The only exception is if it is releasable.**

Non-releasable systems have caused many incidents and fatalities in many differing outdoor pursuits. Ask Joe Simpson's climbing partner Simon Yates! Hopefully that German kayaker I met all those years ago learnt this lesson before it was too late. I beg you to not learn this lesson the hard way.

**Matt Barker**

Matt Barker started kayaking in 1979. He has been teaching kayaking and rescue since 1985. He has a love for self contained adventuring. Matt is currently the Education Officer for White Water NZ (WWNZ). Accomplishments are...senior lecturer for AUT...helped write the British Canoe Union's (BCU) rescue course, led the team writing the NZ safety and rescue course...and has made the lifestyle choice to not own a TV!

### 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.

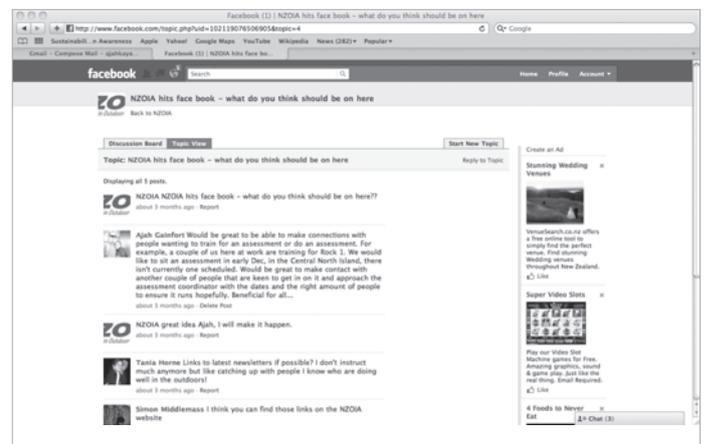
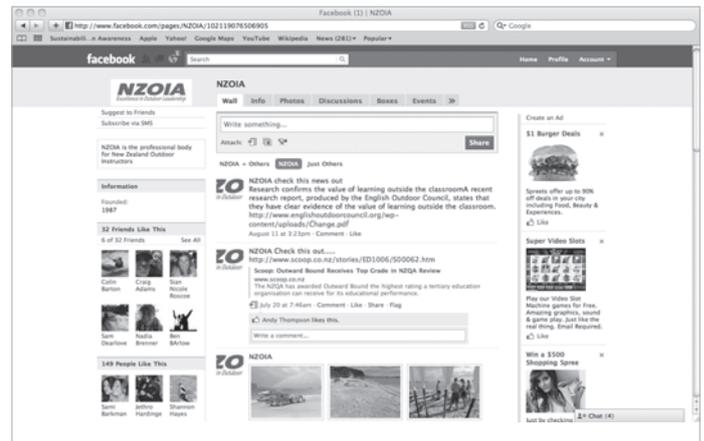
This is a 50% subsidy!

# NZOIA joins the Face Race

Face book; the way to meet/communicate with other members and an online uber phenomenon. NZOIA has joined the face race to provide a forum for members. These are the great reasons to join NZOIA Facebook page.

**Please note that communication with NZOIA should be by phone or email.**

1. A place to share links to resources that will assist you in staying current – Our Facebook page can have video links, documents, photographs, helping keep one another informed about new outdoor fashions, latest crazes, coolest moves, new ways of doing things, and best practise in our industry.
2. News and information – headlines and rave reviews of Outdoor stuff – keep one another up-to date with the news and headlines.
3. Training and professional development opportunities – a way to inform one another about training and assessment courses that are not on the calendar. A place for employers to advertise spare places on workplace training and assessments.
4. Find-a-mate-for-an-assessment-date (or for a training or revalidation...or just to train with/ adventure with in general). This is my personal favourite Facebook is a great way to find people and organise an assessment or training opportunity.
5. Platform for sturdy debate – Facebook is a great place to enable outdoor professionals/ enthusiasts to discuss topical issues.



**Sam Russek, NZOIA Executive member**

## President's Report

On the September 23/24th 2010 Outdoors New Zealand hosted a forum in Wellington. Did you go? Did you know about it? I realize not all can make it but it's a great chance to meet other like-minded people that are working in your industry. Its ironic I am encouraging you too, as I am overseas in Canada then – so can't make it!

This leads me onto the NZOIA AGM that was held at the forum. I know AGMs aren't the most inspiring meetings to attend, however I encourage all NZIOA members to attend when you can. This is where many issues with the organisation are discussed and these affect you as members. It is one way you can keep up to date on what is happening with your association. This year has seen the changing of the guard on a few occasions. It is with gratitude that can never really be totally repaid we say thank you to Dr Grant Davidson for his leadership and role as President for NZOIA. Grant has dedicated many years and hours to the association on a volunteer basis. This short paragraph is another chance to say thanks for all the hard work Grant has put in. Thanks Grant! Good luck with your new job.

Also, I would like to recognise Mike Atkinson for stepping up to the challenge to chair the Technical Sub Committee. It is fantastic to have such a positive and energetic character with such top skills in this role. He brings wisdom and valuable

depth of experience to this role for NZOIA. On a note of thanks – the committee: Ajah, Sam, Simon, Mark, Steve, Jo, continue to do a great job. Also the paid staff, Mat, Steve, Garth and Anne – keep up the great work!

NZOIA into the future: We need to look forward, yet learn from our past. This may sound obvious, but often over looked by not keeping the big picture in mind when making decisions. So where too for NZOIA as it journeys further into the 21st Century? That's a question I am considering right now. While travelling I have made very good contacts in Britain and Norway to discuss their qualifications systems. While the AGM and forum is happening I will be in Canada and intend to do the same. I will continue to learn and encourage you as members to think and respond where you want the future of NZOIA to be. We have some unique and valuable aspects to our association and country. This paragraph is not about highlighting these, but to stimulate you to think about it. You're welcome to email me if you have more thoughts.

Keep doing the fantastic work you all do in the outdoor industry. Keep standards high and delivering great leadership in the outdoors. I look forward to crossing paths with you for healthy debate and adventures in the near future.

**Andy Thompson, President, NZOIA**

# Executive Update

## Ministerial Risk Management and Safety Review

The final report and recommendations from the safety review into commercial and adventure tourism activity is now a public document. It comprises twenty one recommendations to the Minister of Labour based on a number of broad priority issues that need to be addressed, and as such is a comprehensive piece of work and a positive step forwards. The report goes on to recommend a significant number of initiatives to address these priority issues. Of particular interest to NZOIA is the recommendation that the Minister 'Agree to further work being undertaken to determine whether instructors and guides should be required to hold qualifications and work only within the scope of their qualifications for some activities'. To address this recommendation an initiative 'Stating government's expectations about qualifications' is detailed:

By stating expectations about qualifications being used in the adventure and outdoor commercial sectors, government would:

- Promote the value of having a qualified workforce
- Promote the value of revalidating qualifications
- Support providers of qualifications within the sectors
- Promote and support the qualifications themselves
- Support the NZ Outdoor Registration Board
- Help to create a 'level playing field' across the sector

From an NZOIA perspective this is good news though clearly it's only the first step and the eventual outcome will be the result of further work. Indeed the report as a whole includes many recommendations that require further investigation over the coming months.

Since its release we have been part of a further meeting between key national organisations and the Department of Labour to gain clarification about the next steps, and to consider the recommendation from the report that government partners 'with an industry led entity to strengthen the safety management framework for the sector'. The next steps will be consultation with individual organisations by the DoL and we'll look forward to our role in this. So far as the 'industry led entity' is concerned it was made clear that this was not envisaged as sitting within an existing organisation and that the government has yet to allocate funding to support setting something up. We hope that this is not a general indication of an expectation that the sector funds the initiatives suggested by this report...We'll keep you informed.

## Assessor Recruitment

22 people attended the Christchurch assessor training course and a further ten will have been through the North Island course by the time you read this. If you wish to become an assessor you are welcome to apply at any time, and further training courses will be run periodically. Assessor selection is based on a number of criteria and demand for assessments. Priority is given to a) people within workplaces where demand for leader level assessments can be demonstrated, or b) people

with potential to assess in areas of regional or activity shortage. Please contact [tsc@nzoia.org.nz](mailto:tsc@nzoia.org.nz) for further details.

Training and Assessment Coordinator – Kim Willemse, a NZOIA member and formerly of Sport Tasman, has joined us as the new coordinator. This is a full time position for Kim with a proportion of her time contracted to Skills Active as part of their relationship management team. Kim will be based at the Skills Active office and we hope that she will enjoy the challenges of the position. Our thanks to Janette who has willingly and diligently seen us through this transition period, and for her ongoing support to Kim; we have been most fortunate to have someone of Janette's capability and many positive attributes working with us, and we owe her enormous gratitude.

## Funding

Announcements have recently been made regarding funding allocations and I am pleased to advise that our applications to Water Safety NZ and SPARC have been successful.

Water Safety continue to support our training and assessment schemes, the current review of Level 1 and 2 qualifications, and have contributed to the running of a rescue workshop and forum for canyoning operators and key recreational canyoneers to be held in Queenstown in September.

SPARC, through the new contestable funding process, have increased their funding to NZOIA by almost 300%, and extended this over three years rather than the previous annual cycle. We are extremely grateful to SPARC for this investment in NZOIA and for their acknowledgement:

Outdoors New Zealand (ONZ) and the New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association (NZOIA) received a significant increase on previous investment because these are key organisations leading collaboration in the sector and can deliver results sought by SPARC's outdoor recreation strategy.

This funding supports a number of key projects and new initiatives:

- Ongoing support of the training, assessment and revalidation scheme
- Support for an annual training symposium (training camp) to assist leaders, instructors and guides to maintain currency through continuing professional development and revalidation
- Support for the qualifications review process, assessor training, and development of new assessment, training and revalidation resources
- Updating of NZOIA's quality and safety management systems, and web based member and event management system

Development and roll out of new policies to enable workplace assessment, assessment centres, international cross crediting, workplace and tertiary institute partnerships, employer revalidation, and on-site revalidation. This to be achieved through the employment of one or more Field Officers.

Obviously this is tremendous news and will greatly enhance our capability as an organisation and thus both enhance and speed up our outputs and resultant outcomes.

Climbing Wall meetings – during August we held extremely well attended meetings in Wellington and Christchurch. These were a joint affair involving Skills Active and the Department of Labour aiming to clarify official expectations, qualifications pathways and industry needs. This is an ongoing project; however some interesting things emerged through the meetings that present challenges for all concerned. With almost 30 notified serious harm accidents (and one fatality) since 2006 it is little surprise that climbing walls are in the DoL spotlight, that the courts are handing out hefty fines, and that there is a heightened awareness of the need for standards and qualifications. The issue is how to provide credible national qualifications and maintain high standards within an environment where many operators, local authorities, schools etc are financially constrained. This situation is a reality for most of the outdoor community and difficult to reconcile because the provision of credible qualifications is an expensive business. Many thanks to member John Hammond who has picked up the task of coordinating (and doing most of the hard work), developing and documenting an operational standard for NZ climbing walls.

### Tertiary Funding

Changes are afoot within the tertiary sector that will affect Skills Active (and all ITO's), polytechnics and other education providers. Government policy aiming at increased productivity, efficiency and economic growth are the drivers towards national rather than local qualifications, higher level qualifications, and funding more aligned to specified outcomes than enrolments. This will have significant impact on our sector over the next few months and years as the government targets its funding; there will be benefits from this but there is also the potential for substantial losses. These are fiscally challenging times where the economic viability of courses will

be questioned, and where ITO's will be forced to make difficult decisions about qualifications development in smaller industries where numbers completing qualifications are disproportionate to the investment required.

### Qualifications Review

During October we'll be convening Technical Advisory Groups to work through the process of rewriting the Level 1 syllabi and equivalent Level 5 National certificates so that they become completely aligned qualifications. This process will also involve decisions about syllabi content, standards, and the structure of some qualification pathways; reflective of the outcomes of the review process many of you participated in. Other factors such as international alignment, rationalisation, and limiting the number of qualifications registered on the National Qualifications Framework will also be considered.

What else is going on? – We're in discussion with Mountain Bike NZ and NZ Rafting Association about possible synergies and involvement in NZORB; we're looking at partner projects and joint funding applications with key players in the not-for-profit and community sector to assist staff development and training; and we're developing MoU's with key polytechnics enabling them to integrate leader qualifications into their programmes without additional cost to students.

I look forward to bringing you further news of developments as our organisation grows and increases its capability to deliver as a result of our improved economic circumstances. NZOIA is keen to explore potential partnerships in the provision of the annual training symposium, and would welcome approaches by organisations with the facilities to host such an event. We're moving forward and looking for greater collaboration where organisations and employers are keen to work with us.



Matt Cant, Chief Executive

## 2010 Revalidation Refresher Workshops

### Workshop Course Costs

LAND based workshops cost \$160. WATER based - Kayak /Canoe/ Sea Kayak - cost \$80 (with Water Safety subsidy)

**The Revalidation Refresher Workshop calendar is now published only on the NZOIA website and is separate to the training calendar**  
[http://www.nzoi.org.nz/refresher-workshops/training\\_calendar.asp](http://www.nzoi.org.nz/refresher-workshops/training_calendar.asp)

**You will be informed by email each time it is updated**

**In addition we will inform you of any unscheduled events that have spare places**

### Applying for a refresher workshop

Applications for enrolment can be made online or by contacting the NZOIA Office. Applications need to be received at least six weeks before the actual course date. However, applications will be accepted beyond the closing date until the course maximum is reached. Places on courses are allocated on a 'first-in (with completed application form and course fee), first-accepted' basis.

Course cancellation – if minimum numbers are not achieved the course may be cancelled and a full refund given. You will be advised of this soon after the closing date for applications.

### Refresher Workshops by special arrangement

It is possible to run workshops on other dates, either by special request or if sufficient candidates and trainer / assessors are available. Workshops can be run at other locations, including your workplace. Please contact the Training and Assessment Coordinator to register your interest. **Email: [assessment@nzoi.org.nz](mailto:assessment@nzoi.org.nz) Phone: 04 916 4373 or 0508 4754557**



*Te Ngahere is a new regular feature for the Quarterly and it is hoped that lots of people will gain knowledge, a new perspective and share their ideas of what Te Ngahere means to them. If you are interested in contributing an article about the natural and cultural history of Aotearoa New Zealand please email the editor at editor@nzoiia.org.nz*

## Curiosity and Exploration

“Where does that purple colour come from?” The dripping, layered wall is covered in an amazing array of colours. Purple, yellow and white. As we look more closely we notice the textures which range from rough and layered to covered with tiny calcium mushrooms. The more we look, the more we see.



*Left: Colours and shapes that beg a question.*

*Right: Patterns in nature: the intricate structure of a dragonfly wing.  
Photos: Chris North.*

“Maybe the purple is a mould growing at the cave entrance?” I suggest. Deeper in the cave, without light or obvious food sources, the purple colour is still strong. As a biologist, I learnt that there are strange auto-chemotrophic bacteria, which can break down chemicals for energy and don’t rely on the sun or other life forms for food. It would be amazing if we discovered some of them here. The purple seems to be more intense further away from the cracks in the limestone. Maybe it is a mineral leaching out of the limestone?

Curiosity has been a thread that runs through a lot of my adventures and it often gets me into some cool and interesting places. Sometimes it just takes my mind on a journey of discovery. Once I observe something that interests me, I start to notice more and more detail about it. New worlds open up and I am amazed at what was right here under my nose or feet all along.

I have always admired the naturalists. No, not people who want to get naked, (they are called naturists) but rather people who make a living from observing and making connections. Historically, most expeditions that left Europe in the days of European empires had a naturalist. They weren’t specialists in any particular field, but were

open to all aspects of nature. They made connections between geology, biology, archaeology, astronomy, oceanography, maths, and philosophy. They were often artists as well. As Robert Heinlein said, ‘Specialisation is fine but only for insects.’

While I mainly ask questions for my own interest, I get excited when someone else is into questioning. It’s not so much needing to find an answer (although I have spent considerable time looking for some answers), it is more that asking questions has become a way of life for me. Maybe it is a bit ‘sciency’. But there is also an aesthetic side to my curiosity. Patterns and colours draw my curiosity more intensely.

Having a child has made me very aware of how little I know about the important questions. Where is Pompom now? (Asked when one of our chickens died.) The simple but unsatisfying answer is that her body is buried in the wee grave we dug for her and she is helping the plants grow. The bigger questions are ones that science will not be able to answer but the curiosity lives on. Perhaps one day there will be more answers to these questions. In the meantime though, I’m really happy to observe and propose answers and occasionally when I’m really hooked, I do some research to find out the answers as well as we know them.

Curiosity is a gift for me. It adds spice and lets me explore the places I go and the experiences I have more deeply. Two hundred or so years ago, one person in a village could know all there was to know. Today, there is so much specialised knowledge that no one can know everything. Allowing some things to go unknown or take them as given is acceptable. It is a matter of survival. However, I think it is important that we understand as many everyday occurrences as possible. We should think about as much as we can and observe carefully. Observing helps me ensure that I live life deeply and am present in the moment. We are not just skimming across the surface of life, racing to get to our destination.

Chris North



*Chris North has been working in outdoor education for 15 years in New Zealand and North America. He has worked in secondary and tertiary education, outdoor instructor and as a tourist guide. He has a passion for extended journeys and connections to nature. Chris’ focus is on adventures with his young family and working within the “happiness bubble”. Chris currently works at the University of Canterbury College of Education as a lecturer in outdoor and environmental education.*

# ACCIDENT SITE LEADERSHIP

Leading groups in the outdoors is a complex but rewarding assignment involving the balancing of different variables such as fun, safety and activity objectives. With an appropriate focus on safety we often don't get to practise our emergency management as much as we would like. Consequently, it is possible to appear like a deer in the headlights when some unexpected 'left field' event goes down.

The way you handle this scenario will make a huge difference not only to the patient(s) but also to the way in which the group perceives you as a leader and the quality of the organisation you represent. The following article contains some tips to help you better prepare your response to an emergency situation and some traps you need to avoid.

Accident site management is seen as the key element of a process influencing the outcome of a scene. The following diagram is a look at that process. To function well it requires sound leadership and effective communication. Those two aspects often come up as the major improvements during emergency debriefs.



Above all else, a site controller must be identified. Accident scenes generally tend to come off the rails when there is no clear leader appointed. This allows stronger personalities to creep in to the mix and eventually a state of paralysis can occur as debate follows.

The leader of a group activity in the outdoors should generally become the site controller. Be sure that everyone understands this. Whilst doctors and other medical professionals can be a great asset to you as the leader,

they mostly lack experience in dealing with emergencies or groups in the outdoors. Use them as a resource to manage the patient but keep control over the scene yourself. You may have to remind the group from time to time that you are in charge, especially as more helpers arrive. Well-managed accident sites are generally those where everyone knows who is in charge.

So, what leadership style should you adopt during your management of an accident scene? The urgency of the scene and the skill level of those involved will influence this.

A resuscitation-type scene will lend itself to a fairly goal-focused approach where one person will be calling the shots and asking the group to perform various tasks.



Photo courtesy of Peak Risk.

Most accident scenes however, don't require a rushed approach and actually benefit from a slow and methodical patient assessment. Typically those around you will attempt to rush your decision-making, so stand strong in the above process and you will be more accurate in your treatment and probably end up being faster overall.

Often a certain level of group decision-making will work, so at times it is appropriate to invite suggestion from your team. If this input turns into debate at any stage though, as the leader you should make a decision on what you believe to be the best course of action. Often there will be several ways to achieve the same goal, so choose one and keep moving.

A guaranteed way of losing your patient's confidence is to have an argument in front of them regarding their care. Be sure to communicate your plan (once you have developed it) to your team and the patient.

You will succeed in the role of accident site leader if you encourage the right amount of input from your team (according to the severity and urgency of the scene). Communicating what is going to happen, and why, will maintain control and will ensure everyone knows you are in charge.

*The Peak Safety crew specialise in teaching a range of Outdoor Emergency Care to those who manage groups in our wilderness settings. They combine with Horizons Unlimited in Christchurch to deliver Outdoor PreHospital Emergency Care throughout the country with a particular emphasis on scenario based learning in challenging locations.*

For more information please contact us on [info@peaksafety.co.nz](mailto:info@peaksafety.co.nz) or visit [www.peaksafety.co.nz](http://www.peaksafety.co.nz).



# PROFILE: 'THE BOYLE'

**With the Libretto range rising to the north, the Sylvia tops out to our west, and the Poplars range dominating the skyline behind us, the Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre sits amongst a stunning, yet accessible, landscape in the midst of the central South Island. 'The Boyle' is a base for the many who are attracted to this region, either as a recreational user or as part of an educational programme based at the Lodge.**

The Boyle is a provider of outdoor education, and due to the unique location we have groups arriving from Canterbury, Tasman, the West Coast and beyond to taste the environment and the activities that the Boyle can offer. There are two ropes courses, two abseiling sites, rock climbing, tubing and an abundance of tramping routes. We also offer rafting on a number of rivers nearby and a speciality of multi-day wilderness trips down the Clarence River.

Adventure Based Learning is a core aspect of all our courses and the philosophy we use to deliver all our activities. The process allows us to focus on the learning that can be drawn from the students' experience. Our main clients are school groups and we deliver flexible programmes according to the needs and requirement of our schools. We believe this is one of our main strengths.

We also serve the recreational users of the area. Being based at one end of the St James Walkway, we are able to provide shuttles, parking and accommodation services to those who use the area.

The Boyle has been around for over 30 years and has quietly progressed from the days of a shed in the hills to



*Life is good on the Clarence River.  
Photo courtesy of Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre.*

a fully functioning outdoor education centre with a lodge that can sleep over 70 people. This progress has a lot to do with the generosity of money and time from many hard working individuals and organisations. The North Canterbury Alpine Trust, an organisation that stemmed from the early involvement of Rotary organisations and Kaiapoi and Rangiora High Schools, runs the Boyle.

We are a small centre with three fulltime staff and a steady core of contract instructors. We also have a couple of trainees. The trainee instructor, or 'Cadet', programme is an integral part of the Boyle. The cadets spend a year at the Boyle gaining valuable industry experience, while also gaining skills and qualifications to start them on their way. Many go on to become instructors at the Boyle and elsewhere.

It is a time of progress and development for the Boyle. Recent highlights include the addition of a fulltime Assistant Manager, a fulltime instructor and new staff accommodation. Future plans include providing more staff accommodation, developing new programmes, and incorporating journeys and new user groups into the Boyle framework.

More information can be found on our website [www.boyle.org.nz](http://www.boyle.org.nz)

## \*\*\* Congratulations \*\*\*

**Congratulations to the following members who recently gained NZOIA Qualifications:**

<b>Alpine 1</b>	Peter Smalley, Benjamin Fenselau, Craig Martella, Shannon Miles, Julian Malcolm, Cameron Walker, Glenn Case, Luke Faed, Gareth Hutton, Chris Lacoste, Owen Lee, Nicholas McCulloch, Asher March	<b>Canoe</b>	Kyle Aitken, Kent Nanninga, Bevan Sanders, Daniel Werner
<b>Alpine 2</b>	Benjamin White, Richie Hunter	<b>Cave 1</b>	Emma Snodgrass
<b>Bush Walking Leader</b>	Rachel Bott	<b>Rock Climbing Leader</b>	Azalia Alger, Hayden Brook, Natalie Cameron, Daniel Farr, Brendan Kerr
<b>Bush 2</b>	Alastair Burns	<b>Rock 1</b>	Brendan Bayley, Niheta Vale, Ben Fenselau, Ashley King, Bernard Oliver

## NZOIA MEMBER PROFILE: Simon Goodwin



“ **The road to here** It’s a difficult thing to pick my most formative outdoor experiences. But I think the first one to really set me on my path was my time hunting in the southern Kalahari. That experience taught me to treasure all the elements of the outdoors. Then there was the certificate course at OPC, which gave me the skills I needed to keep myself out here and out there. Cheers, Tuckey! And then my first job – guiding and instructing in Waitomo’s Luckie Strike Cave. That reinforced my skills, my agility, my problem solving and my sarcasm in the face of all sorts of people that make up this world. I’ve been fortunate since to work, recreate and learn in amazing places and alongside talented and inspiring people. Thanks.

**These Days** I’m living a busy life in the Coromandel – writing, contract instructing, some conservation work, gardening, training a dog, adventure racing and searching for caves. I’m also involved with Search and Rescue and have just started training with St John.

**My proudest outdoor moments so far** Passing my first Level 2 award last year (despite talking too much). Surviving a week underground in Bulmer Cavern exploring and discovering (despite talking *and* thinking too much).

**Adventures and lessons learnt** In Thailand, we narrowly avoided a trip into a ‘bad air’ cave, where the CO<sub>2</sub> levels were so high that the flame on our safety lighter turned small and blue and burned with two inches of air between it and the jet. Luckily, we remembered to check, just. At Minchin Pass we forgot the short, important route description, turning an afternoon’s stream descent into a 36 hour bush bash. A great route-finding exercise though.

**I recommend** ‘Threading the Needle’ near the Dragon’s Teeth in Kahurangi NP for some solitude, exposure and route-finding practice. ”

## NZOIA EXEC PROFILE: Mark Lewis



“ I grew up in Christchurch where my family enjoyed skiing and sailing and weekends at our batch in Wainui Bay, Akaroa. When I was 16, Marty Schmidt took me for my first rock climbing experience at Rapaki. I toproped most of the classics and seconded Body and Soul...I was hooked. Marty lived close to my school and had a comfy beanbag, cheese toasties, climbing magazines and a shed full of gear. I don’t know if he meant to adopt me after one climbing experience, but I kept showing up and he always had stories of adventures and words of encouragement for my own adventures.

My outdoor career started at the Youth and Outdoors department of the Christchurch YMCA the summer after leaving school and after 3yrs of doing bits and pieces of work around Canterbury, I decided to back up my NZOIA qualifications with a teaching qualification. Once I graduated Canterbury

University and the Christchurch College of Education, I started work at SEHOPC. A couple of years at SEHOPC and I moved to Wellington to pursue romantic interests! While here I took on the role of HOD EOTC at St Patrick’s College, Kilbirnie. I also worked as the Outdoor Leader Program Manager and Assessor co-ordinator for MSC. After about 3yrs of gazing longingly at the Southern Alps from high points around Wellington my wife Josie got a job in Christchurch and so we moved south. I am currently working at the Army Adventurous Training Centre as the Operations Manager and still getting out into the field with clients enough to stay in touch with what being an instructor on the ground is.

I came to be on the NZOIA Executive originally via my role as Convenor of the Technical Sub Committee (TSC). At the conclusion of this, I was excited but cautious about the direction NZOIA and the outdoor industry was taking and so wanted to stay involved with the NZOIA Exec. NZOIA and the outdoor industry has some challenging times ahead but I am confident that the initiatives and direction NZOIA is taking will ensure that the organisation can continue to support instructors and guides through relevant and respected qualifications and provide an expert voice on matters concerning NZOIA members. ”

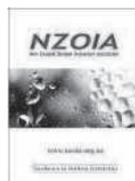
### NZOIA Merchandise

#### Waterproof Notebooks

Mud, rain or shine, this waterproof notebook loves tough working conditions. Lead pencil or ballpoint pen can be used under all conditions, even under water. NZOIA branded.

#### Cost (inc. gst)

Members: \$6.00      Non-Members: \$7.50  
Bulk Order: \$5.50      minimum purchase of 6



#### Thermal Mugs

highly durable and light weight thermal mug in NZOIA colours.

Cost (inc. gst)      \$14.50



#### NZOIA T-Shirts

Size - XL only available - grey with NZOIA logo.

Cost (inc. gst)      \$10.00

# Slalom Skills for River Running

**Apparently it is good risk management to begin with a disclaimer. I am not, nor have I ever been, a whitewater slalom kayak racer/expert.**

**Dave Ritchie**

Which is a good thing, not because slalom experts are not good things (obviously they are lovely to watch and as geeky about paddling as we instructional types can be), but because teaching paddling utilising slalom gates as a tool is not about being an expert in slalom. It's about being a well-rounded teacher. So, if you are a prospective Kayak Level 2, or simply looking to expand your teaching repertoire, what follows may help.

## Why gates?

Quite simply, they don't hurt as much as a Class 5 swim. Slalom is what you do to get to the crux of a rapid, or make a set line. Rodeo is what you do if your slalom wasn't good enough! (Thanks, Mick) Confidence on the river is directly related to your competence on the river and that is all about accuracy. Slalom is accuracy. It also happens to be balance, timing, control, power and, importantly, fun.

There is no empirical evidence to back what follows and yes, it's a sexist generalisation, but when novice female paddlers are faced with the jump past Class 2, they react quite differently to their hairy, testosterone-laden, swashbuckling male counterparts. Quite often a more enjoyable challenge for female beginners is to simply negotiate flatwater gates without touching them and have it feel as nice as possible. Not a bad end goal really, and the confidence gained inevitably helps them make the jump past Class 2 should they choose.

On a more technical level, slalom gates develop your blade placement, stroke timing, balance (edge control), power (verticality), stroke execution, vision and ability to 'see' water.

On a more nationalistic level the ability to run an engaging, informative and often transformative session for even practiced paddlers on flatwater is what sets Kiwi paddling instructors apart from the rest of the herd. It's a credit to the NZOIA Kayak syllabus at Level 2.

## How gates?

Build yourself some nice gates. Half a dozen will get you going. Use 25mm PVC tubing, good 3mm or 4mm nylon cord, dog clips or mini krabs and some light line to hang them from. Plug the ends of the tubes with closed cell foam so that when you inevitably drop one, it won't sink right away. (Thanks, Keith Riley) If you've never built gates before, let NZOIA know so we can put a video on YouTube about how to do it.

Watching modern slalom (anything since the inception of the new 3.6m boats) will definitely inspire. There is a ton of stuff on YouTube and since none of it is really instructional (unless you enjoy heavily accented Europeans telling you to "feel ze water", or "look for ze energy and space") just enjoy it for the obvious athletic brilliance ... then suck it up and start on flatwater. A place to see slalom executed very well is [www.slalomtechnique.co.uk](http://www.slalomtechnique.co.uk). It's a bit 'British' but the images are very good.



*Placing the blade just beyond (or through) the gateline, the imaginary line between the bottom of each pole, allows you to pass through the gate without touching the poles.*



*Approaching from an acute angle forces you to place your leading (downstream) blade through the gate first, improving timing and simulating reaching downstream onto the peak of a wave.*



*Sweeping prior to arriving at the gate...*



*Then changing your edge and placing the new blade just through the gate...just like making an eddy in exactly the right place with the gate being the eddyline.*

## Clients and Gates

Start your clients off slow and easy. If you are utilising actual slalom boats then there will be the obvious discomfort compared to modern river runners. "It's all part of the experience!" you smile as they grimace and crunch their way into an old Reflex. Modern slalom boats are definitely more

comfortable and paddle beautifully but they are not necessary for your clients to get the most from a slalom lesson. In fact, river running boats are fine. Avoid playboats. Speed, or at least the ability of the hull to carry speed, is important. RPMs are great.

### **A Flatwater Progression**

Beginning with a single gate on flatwater explain 'the gateline' (the imaginary line between the bottom of each pole) and how placing your paddle blade 'just beyond' the gateline will pull you through the gate with a vertical paddle, thus minimising the chances of touching the poles. The actual penalty for a touch is a two second time penalty. I prefer to charge a beer or, if your clients are more intermediate, a roll.

Simply asking your clients to paddle through a gate, placing their left or right blade just beyond the gateline without touching the gate, will immediately improve their verticality, placement and timing. A nice tip here is to introduce 'acceleration' and 'glide'. Use a flurry of accelerative strokes to get momentum ahead of the gate then glide into the gate, ensuring you have time to place your blade accurately. You have now also introduced the idea of 'stroke rate', often overlooked at beginner and intermediate level but crucial in harder whitewater.

Are they splashing? Now is a good time to address 'catch' and 'pull'.

Approach the gate from an angle. By doing this you effectively narrow the gate and force your client to use their 'downstream blade', just like reaching downstream for the peak of the wave.

Now try sweeping ahead of the gate so that you transition your edge as you pass through the gate and go to your new blade either on a power or sweep stroke once you are through. Just like entering an eddy.

Try a figure of eight drill with the gate as your centre. Try sweeping after the gate instead of before.

You now have enough to utilise a series of gates on flatwater. Create a course, add compulsory rolls, limit the number of

strokes or edge changes your clients can make, time them, have them race as teams, close together and talking to each other while paddling as fast as they can. Sounds like fun? Most definitely! You've probably exhausted your clients and your afternoon session and you haven't even used the 'wiggle test' yet.

So that gets us to a place where we can now progress to a gentle moving water site. If you want to know what to do with your clients on moving water gates and discover the joys of the 'wiggle test', write to NZOIA and ask for Part 2 of this thrilling series!

Finally, please remember this: you are not teaching slalom. You are using slalom gates to teach kayaking. The gates create a challenge that focuses your client's attention and demands better balance and timing. They deliver a consequence that does not hurt and they do so in a generally non-threatening environment.

Your goal as an inspirational paddling instructor is to create independent river runners from your clients. They will become shining examples of the art, who enthusiastically recommend your services to their wealthy/influential/cute friends. The best paddling skill (apart from a bomber roll) you can impart to your beginner/intermediate clients is the carved eddy turn with speed maintained through the turn and a powered up inside blade. Well-placed slalom gates on easy moving water present the perfect medium in which to achieve this goal.

One more thing - make sure you can demo flawlessly. This will mean some time for you to practise on the gates ... and that never hurts.

**Dave Ritchie**



*Dave Ritchie fluked a roll on an Outward Bound course when he was 18. This was enough to make him believe he could paddle. He did for a while, quite a lot. His last trip was a 4 km first descent of the lower Hokitika by canoe with Georgia (3) and Abby (2), they loved it.*

## **Revalidation Reminder** \* \* \* \* \*

Who needs to come in for revalidation this year?

### **Qualifications gained before 30 June 2006**

- You need to attend a revalidation refresher workshop for **ONE** of these qualifications **BEFORE 31 December 2010**
- You need to attend a revalidation refresher workshop for **all** remaining qualifications at any time **BEFORE 30 June 2012**

### **Qualifications gained 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007**

- You need to attend the relevant revalidation refresher workshop **BEFORE 31 December 2010**

### **Exceptions**

- Overseas or heading overseas for an extended period? Contact us.
- Work with or know an assessor in the relevant discipline who can sign you off? Contact us for the forms they will need to fill in.
- Work as a trainer for NZOIA? You are automatically revalidated for the qualifications we employ you to train others in.
- Work as an assessor for NZOIA? You are automatically revalidated for the qualifications we employ you to assess in.

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

For revalidation dates for qualifications gained at other times or for any general information check out the website or contact us.

# 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

Climbing Wall	\$265	Sea Kayak 1 upgrade	\$265
Bush Walking Leader		Abseil Leader	\$495
Kayak Leader		Rock Climbing Leader	
Cave 1		Rock 1	
Canoe 1			\$665
Bush 1 + Bush 2		Rock 2	
Alpine 1		SKOANZ Sea Kayak Guide	
Cave 2		Sea Kayak 2	
Kayak 1		Kayak 2	\$845
Alpine 2			

### 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, either by special request or if sufficient candidates and assessors are available. Please contact the Training and Assessment Coordinator to register your interest.

If you are getting ready for assessment, do let the Administration Officer and Assessment Coordinator know! We may be able to run a special assessment if we have sufficient numbers or include you in an unscheduled assessment that does not appear on the calendar.

Email: [assessment@nzoi.org.nz](mailto:assessment@nzoi.org.nz) Phone: 04 916 4373

[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 and lists courses run both by NZOIA and other providers:

[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	\$80	\$160
2 day courses	\$160	\$320

All other courses including bush, alpine, rock and cave

Course Duration	NZOIA members	Non - members
1 day courses	\$160	\$265
2 day courses	\$320	\$425

## Further information

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

Where courses are run by other providers you will need to contact them directly.

## 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 Training and Assessment Coordinator to register your interest. Email: [assessment@nzoi.org.nz](mailto:assessment@nzoi.org.nz) Phone: 04 916 4373

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



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## 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.



**Exped Waterbloc 800**  
Waterproof Down Sleeping Bag

**Measurements:**

- Temperature according to EN13537:  
Max: +10°C; Comfort: -3°C; Limit: -9°C; Extreme: -28°C
- Down fill weight: M=770g; L=830g
- Packed size: M=36x25cm; L=39x25cm
- Weight: M=1570g; L=1670g

**Materials:**

- Shell: waterproof, vapor permeable Pertex Endurance® nylon
- Lining: Texped PR58 ripstop polyester

**Features:**

- Anatomically shaped easy adjust hood
- Tricot baffle, closed baffles and draft tube
- 3D over-sized draft collar
- Angled and trapezoid foot design
- Fits body length up to: M=180cm; L=195cm
- The new Exped Waterbloc 800 is a bivy bag and sleeping bag in one, with the features of a sleeping bag and a bivy bag merged together, resulting in less weight, smaller packed size, lower cost and reduced condensation.

M=\$799 L=\$829 RRP



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