

NZOIA QUARTERLY

ISSUE 57

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND OUTDOOR INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION



LESS *is* MORE

Outdoor education without a tent, pack, cooker, pots...

Mark Jones, AUT University

When you want to add **more** to an activity, sometimes the solution is to **take something away**. Packing minimal equipment results in a technological vacuum that must be compensated for by knowledge, initiative and improvisation. It's an easy means to up the challenge, increase opportunities for learning and more often than not provide greater satisfaction for students and leaders alike. ▶



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NZOIA QUARTERLY

ISSUE 57: October 2011

ISSN 1175-2068

PUBLICATION

The NZOIA Quarterly is published four times a year by:
New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association Inc.
PO Box 1620
Nelson 7010
New Zealand

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

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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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NZOIA gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following organisations:



Member Organisation



LESS is MORE

Outdoor education without a tent, pack, cooker, pots...

Mark Jones, AUT University



Pack Building. Utilising flax for the straps can teach a range of skills like forming muka and cordage technique.

A good part of the value of outdoor experiences in contemporary outdoor education is the contrast they provide to the modern convenience of everyday life. Doing without hot water and a bed for a while is remarkably instructive on their luxury value; we appreciate them more. The outdoors also offers the gift of simplicity. More and more equipment available on the outdoor shop shelf is unnecessary or super-specialised in nature. Going into the outdoors can quickly become more about gadgetry and technology than about living simply. Embracing the notion of simplicity can offer useful perspectives on modern life, while carrying along a clutter of convenience items diminishes those lessons.

Going minimal also enables individuals from lower socio-economic circumstances to afford outdoor education experiences. Few lower decile schools can afford the outdoor luxury equipment many of us take for granted in the outdoors-tents, packs, cookers, cooking sets, sleeping bags, etc. For the price of a sheet of garden polythene and some blankets from home, camping is within reach of all.

Technology vs Adventure

An inverse relationship operates between technology and challenge whereby increasing the former decreases the latter; compare climbing a peak with only a wooden handled ice-axe, to an ascent with modern 12 point crampons and tools. Technology also diminishes the uncertainty and hence the adventurousness of an activity, so by reducing our use of technology we have the potential to up the challenge and the adventure quotient in an activity. In an era of ever increasing aversion to risk, the ability to increase the perception of adventure without elevating the risk in an activity is a useful skill. A shorter walk through a bush grove to the back of a farm, which might be regarded as inadequate for a tramping experience, provides the perfect locale for a minimum equipment overnight.

DIY Hiking Gear

For the last decade or so I have enjoyed sharing with groups the richness that an overnight offers when it is pared back to some raw "essentials". The following is both a building project and an adventure experience. The goal is to journey without aid of cooker, tent, pack, billy or torch, and to be comfortable. This is not about hardship but about skill development and learning how to be comfortable with not much at all.

Safety First

You're going to need a knife of course. In olden times a knife equated to survival. No knife or ability to make one meant life was going to be very tough indeed. So it is with this project. Best is a sheath knife with a fixed blade. When it was common for every kid to own at least one such knife and spend hours whittling you could take knife safety for granted, now you need to teach it. ►

When you want to add more to an activity, sometimes the solution is to take something away. Packing minimal equipment results in a technological vacuum that must be compensated for by knowledge, initiative and improvisation. It's an easy means to up the challenge, increase opportunities for learning and more often than not provide greater satisfaction for students and leaders alike.

Less is More

When technology is pared back to basics it forces students to interact more with their surroundings. It also develops practical skills they can use in other contexts and ramps up the sense of adventure. Going minimal is founded on, what I like to think, are the roots of outdoor education- challenge, interaction and discovery.



Packs. Giving the students creative license means pack design is constantly evolving.

The Pack Frame

The Roycroft pack consists of a triangular frame onto which will be lashed a polythene sheet wrap, containing the rest of one's gear. Its shoulder straps are made of flax, slings, or rope. Instructions for building the pack can be found at http://www.primitiveways.com/pack_frame.html

Take the students to a place where appropriate frame material can be found. Anything smooth, light and eco-friendly will do. Willow and privet are excellent examples. They are often regarded as weed species and coppice well from cut trunks. These coppice wands make ideal framing material. Bamboo can work too, light and strong, but unusual to find suitably curved. Bamboo is prone to splitting and is difficult to work with a knife. A saw works better. Cut 3x one metre lengths, 2-2.5cm thick (up to 4cm will work for bamboo) per student. This allows some margin for trimming. Bamboo should start and finish with a node (if possible).

If you want to keep it organic use a square lashing with either a single strand of flax 0.5cm wide or for a more permanent lashing use cordage made from flax muka. Or use a bit of nylon cord or twine.

The Straps

These can be simple or complex. I have used flax techniques for shoulder straps that combine two-strand cordage, four-ply flat weave and four-ply round weave. However experience has shown that keeping it simple is the most comfortable option, utilising the wide flat nature of an unplaited flax blade.

Take your students to a source of harakeke that has very long blades of clean flax- 2 metres long minimum. Each student will

need one leaf. Incorporating Maori protocols for flax use helps impart a respect for the plant and sound conservation practise. Explain which blades can be cut and how and which should not be damaged for the health of the plant. See the opening chapters of Pendergrast, 1989. One entire flax leaf should be sufficient per pack. Cleave the leaf into two halves by inserting the thumbnail on one side of the mid rib and pulling the two sides apart from this split. Do not use a knife. Strip off the mid rib in the same way. Take the butt section and turn it white side down. Using a new mussel shell, scrape this flax surface until whitish. Scraping using a tomahawk works well for this too. This is quite a physical process and should be carried out on a wooden board. Having someone holding the end of the leaf or securing it by trapping it under the board will help. Scrape almost as far up the blade of flax as the white part extends on the underside. Once this is well scraped, turn the leaf over and scrape the other side, being careful not to sever the white fibres (muka). You should end up with a mass of clean white strands, ready to be made into cordage.

Pass the blade of flax around the bottom bar of the pack frame so it is now doubled and measure the length of strap required. Shred the remainder into a mass of fine filaments and either use basic two-ply cordage technique (or plait) to combine with the muka-end. Thus you will have created a double strap with a length of cord at the top end. This is tied to the frame just below the top X. Youtube has plenty of clips showing various methods of cordage making (essentially a two-strand hawserlaid construction) or you can find it in Konchansky, 1998. If the blade is not long enough to be doubled as a strap then use single and tie to the pack frame at both ends.

It's a Pack, it's a Shelter, it's a Groundsheet

Cut a sheet of polythene approximately 2.5 x 2.5 meters. The heavier gauge black polythene is really durable, but the thinner gauge, which comes in clear, is lighter and easier to use. Fold this in half and stack your gear on it with softer items on the bottom (which will end up against the back) and aim for a narrow profile. Parcel up your gear inside the polythene and lash to the pack frame with cord. If you lash it tight and get it right the frame becomes buried in the soft material within the parcel and doesn't dig into your back. The polythene sheets later become the shelter. Pairing students up gives them a ground sheet and a flysheet.

A 10 Tin Billy

An empty A10 sized tin can be made into a long-lasting functional billy in just a few minutes. Choose a plain galvanised tin with one end removed, not one that is gold or white on the inside (as these linings will flake off with heat). Add a piece of wire for a handle by using a 4" nail to drive two holes just beneath the rim on opposite sides of the can. Nail from the outside to the inside so it is a neat hole (to do this without bending the can you will need to position the tin over a battern to support the side of the can). Cut a piece of wire and create a hook at either end to clip into the holes created.

Bottle Lantern

If you want to eliminate torches, or just teach students a simple ploy for improvising a light source this one is hard to go past. You will need a two litre or bigger clear PET plastic bottle. Cut some large holes in the top, push a 10cm length of standard white candle into the mouth of the bottle (it should fit perfectly



Minimum Equipment Group. *Going minimal is founded on what I like to think are the roots of outdoor education – challenge, interaction and discovery.*



Lanterns. *The simple exercise of creating candle lanterns can add a sense of adventure to an otherwise ordinary walk into a mine tunnel, or cave.*

into most fizzy-drink bottles), screw on the cap, and cut a small-fingernail sized hole in the side for lighting it...done! I've used this in windy conditions to cross a 5,500-metre pass, so it's a fairly reliable light source. To light the lantern in the wind, poke the struck match quickly through the lighting hole as it flares, and with the bottle held on its side, light the wick. Smaller bottles will tend to overheat and shrink/sag. A cord through the top breathing holes will enable it to be hung which is also the best way to carry them. Milk bottles are even better than PET bottles in many ways as they are heat resistant, and they often come with a handle. Cut a cross in the middle of the lid and the candle can be pushed through this into the bottle.

Minimising Impact

This is an activity with environmental impacts even when the impacts are minimised. Bush "tracking" and firewood take time to heal and replenish. It is not an activity for every place or every time. Well intentioned messages about looking after the environment will be shown up as hollow if the students engage with a sullied venue degraded by one's previous visits, or by other groups. So find a friendly farm owner and utilise the back paddock by the bush. Or modify the activity for the front country by bringing your own firewood, using established fireplaces and campsites, etc. What we do as educators, instructors or as individuals must ultimately be sustainable; if the impact from a group has not completely healed before the next visit occurs it will not be. Farmland or grassed bush clearings provide a suitable surface for camp living. Turfing the ground for a fireplace or building a fire on a layer of inorganic soil spread on a tarp will enable fire impacts to be minimised. Or consider twig-burning cookers on an inorganic surface. Wherever the activity is undertaken, it should be adapted to ensure impacts are not only minimised, but are also sustainable; leave-no-trace is still the ideal.

A Few Final Words

One of the merits of this activity is that it gives a fairly ordinary route a real feeling of adventure. You don't have to travel far and nor would you want to initially; the Roycroft pack comes a distant second to a Macpac in terms of comfort. And you can bet at least one student will need some running repairs to their pack. Besides, they will need plenty of time at the other end to construct their shelter. ►



Bottles Camp. *Minimum equipment trips must be adapted to the area. Farmland and other modified landscapes make a great backdrop for such trips.*

It takes the best part of half a day for first timers to build the above from scratch. The project can be abridged by using webbing slings for the straps rather than flax, or using a fertiliser sack like a pikau, instead of making a frame pack. It can also be made more challenging by removing more "essentials" such as matches and sleeping bags and using instead, flint and steel, blankets and the like.

It is definitely not a precise science, and you will find construction becomes an evolving art. Figure out what works best for you and go for it. Leaving room for some creative input from your students will ensure design evolves.

Acknowledgements to Mors Kochansky who gave me a glimpse of how rich outdoor education could be, and whose practical ideas shared during a trip in Canada in 1992 form the basis for the above.

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Mark Jones tutors in outdoor education at AUT University. He and Sally Rowe live in Paremoremo (on the outside) with their two children and four chickens. Mark is a NZOIA assessor holding Level 2 awards in Rock, Bush and Sea kayak, and Level 1s in White Water and Alpine.

President's Report

Spring! What a rejuvenating season it is! It's time for change and new growth, to get out paddling, even though it might be cold, you can still kid yourself the water will get warm soon, longer hours of daylight for climbing or tramping mean less time in the dark and more time for that extra climbing pitch or kilometer to walk. A perfect time to get out into the outdoors and enjoy flora and fauna around New Zealand with friends and family.

The NZOIA Executive have been busy with spring changes popping up everywhere. By now you may have heard about two key changes. Firstly; the decision to relocate the NZOIA office to Nelson, and secondly; a change in the status of our relationship with Skills Active.

Office Move: There was much debate amongst the Executive about this, and careful consideration of the implications of not being based in Wellington, the significance of being based at a smaller region, other potential locations, and staffing implications. In the end, Nelson was the winner! A few reasons that helped us decide were; the ability to attract the right staff, and budgetary considerations. Moving the office to Nelson allows NZOIA to continue to attract the quality staff we require, and to operate within budgetary constraints. Matt in particular will continue to regularly meet with our stakeholders and strategic partners in Wellington. Rest assured, we are acting strategically to build the right staff team for NZOIA.

People who work for NZOIA need to be passionate, active practitioners with a strong background in teaching, instruction, assessment, and personal outdoor recreation. One person said to me, "**When you walk into the NZOIA office, you know these people have been out in the field**". NZOIA staff (and

the Executive) believe in what they do and spend time in the outdoors. Once we get established, I encourage you to drop by and say hi.

Working Relationship with Skills Active: A lot of time has been spent negotiating a clearer understanding of what our original MOU meant to each organization and what the consequence would be if we continued or discontinued. Admittedly there has been quite a lot of confusion, and most have found this very unproductive. Skills Active and NZOIA have both decided to work separately now. I suggest if you are interested in finding out more information go to the link at www.nzoi.org.nz to read more. Our parting has ended amicably, and now NZOIA will focus on what it does best, its core business; assessment and training. All qualifications will remain as they are at present, including the new NZOIA leader level qualifications.

It is exciting to have new staff on board and I personally extend a large warm welcome to those folks. Having people in these two new roles, i.e. the Programme & Membership Manager (PMM) and Project Manager (PM) plus the wonderful staff we have presently, now gives us a boost to improve our service and resources for you. I also thank all members for keeping engaged with NZOIA to make our Association a prominent and useful organization for you in industry.

Lastly, it was fantastic to see so many of you at the ONZ Forum on the 28 - 29th October in Wellington and the NZOIA AGM was a great success. I really encourage as many of you as possible to make it to the NZOIA National Training Symposium in October 2012. Look out for the updates on this and **BOOK IT IN NOW IN THAT DIARY!** Be part of the discussion, be part of your association. Keep in touch and enjoy the spring.

Andy Thompson, President, NZOIA



Executive Update

Membership and Assessment Data

In the year to the end of June our membership peaked at 885, a 19% increase, and registrations increased 12% to 729. Assessment participation jumped 90% largely due to assessment centres getting underway, but there was still a 9% increase in regular assessment activity; and training course participation, while still a small part of our overall operations, increased 35%.

Funding

While we are in the middle of a three year funding cycle with SPARC our other major supporter Water Safety NZ recently considered our annual application for financial support. Once again WSNZ have generously supported our projects and initiatives with a total funding package of \$69,000.

Ministerial Risk Management and Safety Review

NZOIA is now part of a Project Advisory Group established to provide guidance to ONZ and TIANZ in their implementation of the government policy that came out of this review. TIANZ has responsibility for two initiatives; the Generic Guidance Tool, a code of practice aimed at assisting new operators who are in the establishment phase; and Activity Specific Guidelines, essentially operational codes of practice for a range of activities. Rachael Moore has been appointed to manage this work within TIANZ. ONZ meanwhile has employed Sue Gemmill to manage their responsibilities for investigating mandatory qualifications for certain activities; and for developing information systems and particularly incident reporting.

ICT Project

Our new website and ICT platform is now well down the development path and looking good. We are aiming to trial the new site alongside the existing one during November and it should be all go before the end of the year. The new site offers considerably more functionality and should be easier to navigate and a better source of information and services for you as users. Assessors in particular will notice a marked difference as we develop online reporting tools and provide functionality so that assessors can set up their own assessment events. In terms of efficiency our aim is to link our member database with a new course management system and our banking and accounting software. It will become far easier to enrol for a course online and a new log book feature will allow members

and people working towards their qualifications to maintain their log on the website. This feature will be confidential to each member but will enable you to provide access for assessors prior to assessment or revalidation. We'll keep you posted and provide guidance once the new site gets going.

Staffing and Office

The task of recruiting for the role of Programme and Membership Manager has not been as easy as we expected, particularly given our strong preference for someone with strong industry experience and a good knowledge of NZOIA. In August the Executive made the decision to shift our office from Wellington to Nelson in the belief this would prove more attractive to outdoor people. We are pleased to announce that Penny Holland has accepted this position and will be starting in late November. Steve Scott has now left our employment after ten years of dedicated and diligent service, and Jim Hepburn and Jill Dalton who were prominent on the Executive at the time Steve was employed joined us in the office for a farewell lunch; we wish Steve well in his future endeavours. Ajah Gainfort has jumped in temporarily to tide us over in Steve's role, while Mandy Armstrong continues to fill the gap left by Kim; our sincerest thanks to both of them for their willingness to assist over this transitional period.

So, we're moving to Nelson straight after the AGM and will be taking up a lease in Waimea House where we'll have sufficient space for everyone; more about our new premises will be sent out soon.

We've also advertised for the new role of Project Manager – Programme Development and will have interviewed and completed selection by the time you read this. This position is focussed on working through the syllabus review process and redevelopment of all our Level 1 and 2 qualifications.

Assessment centres

We are pleased to report that CPIT, Aoraki, Tai Poutini, Whitireia and Otago polytechnics, plus OPC, are now all established as Assessment Centres and in the process of integrating the Leader qualifications into their programmes. Already 63 leader qualifications have been passed through this process this year. Other tertiary providers who have not yet discussed these opportunities with NZOIA yet are very welcome to do so and should contact me directly.



Matt Cant, Chief Executive, NZOIA

Technical Subcommittee Report

November 2011

2011 Assessor Conference

The 2011 NZOIA Assessor Conference was held at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) on 5-6th August after being postponed in May due to earthquake chaos. In the last eighteen months the NZOIA assessor pool has effectively doubled with there now being approximately eighty current assessors. The conference had a good mixture of new and experienced assessors which provided balanced discussion and debates on a variety of issues.

The main focus of the conference was on the Leader qualifications. It is vital that these relatively new qualifications are moderated early on to help establish the standard. This focus provided a good opportunity for various viewpoints, examples and interpretations of the leader standard. Many tertiary institutes who offer outdoor programmes are now assessing the Leader qualifications within their own programmes. Other topics included:

- Update from Matt (CE) and Andy (President)
- Chris B (Field Officer) presenting the Assessor Moderation process
- Stu Allen presenting the newly updated Assessor Manual

The NZOIA Assessor Conference in 2012 will be held prior to the Training Symposium in October at Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre (SEHOPC).

Assessor Applications

Applications are still being sought from NZOIA qualification holders to become assessors of NZOIA qualifications. Priority will be given to those who have access to assess candidates for leader qualifications. Assessor application forms can be requested by emailing ao@nzoia.org.nz

The NZOIA assessor one day workshop date for 2011:

- Wellington 24th November

A minimum of 6 people are required for the course to run.

Please note: this is an application process. Acceptance onto the course is not guaranteed.

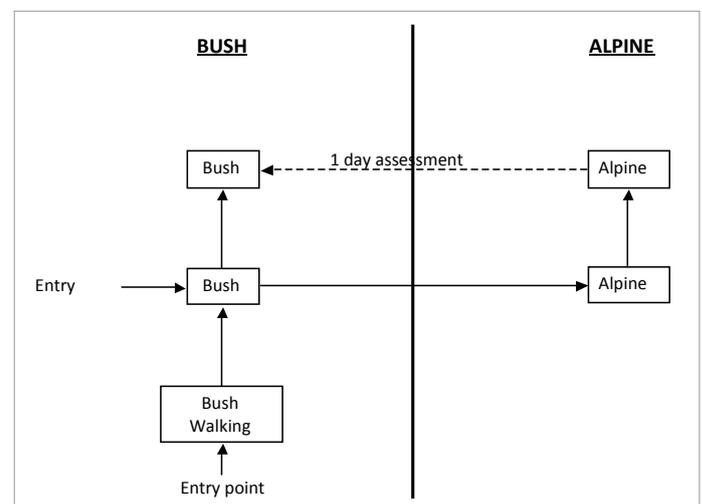
Alpine – Bush qualification update

In 2010 NZOIA conducted surveys of Bush and Alpine qualification holders and Assessors of these two disciplines to determine how we might better structure these qualifications in future (as part of our current review of all Level 1 and 2 qualifications). As a result of this survey the following changes to the Bush-Alpine qualifications will be made:

1. Bush 1 scope will be extended to include all mountain, non-technical terrain in summer (no snow, now snowfall forecast) conditions.
2. Bush 1 to be a prerequisite for Alpine 1 (see figure 1)

3. Alpine 1 to be a prerequisite for Alpine 2 (see figure 1)
4. Overlaps between Bush 1 and 2, and between Alpine 1 and 2 are to be reduced to avoid re-assessing competencies already tested at Level 1. These will be dealt with the review of the Level 1 qualifications.
5. All current Alpine 1 and 2 instructors will be offered a **FREE** one day assessment to gain either Bush 1 or 2 without model students. These courses will be advertised and run in both islands over the next three years (before December 2014).
6. Current Alpine Assessors will similarly need to gain either Bush 1 or 2 by the same process after which they may apply to become Bush assessors.
7. All current Alpine 1 or 2 instructors and assessors are to gain Bush 1 or 2 by this process within **three** years (Dec 2014) or their Alpine qualifications will become invalid.
8. Instructors who hold **both** Bush and Alpine qualifications will be required to attend a revalidation refresher workshop for Alpine every three years, and for Bush every **five** years.
9. A one day assessment course will be provided for new / future Alpine 2 instructors to enable them to gain Bush 2. Normal one day assessment fees will be charged.

The new Bush and Alpine Qualification Pathways



(Figure1)

Alpine 1 to Bush 1

North Island

One day assessment date: 25th November 2011

South Island

One day assessment date: 9th December 2011

(Craigieburns area tbc)

Alpine 2 to Bush 2

Assessment will be run during 2012. There will be one offered in the North Island and one in the South Island.



Field Officer Update: Chris Burtenshaw

Cold snowy pass-times have never been my cup of tea, with the nick-name “Lizard”, it’s obvious I belong in the sun and not in the snow. However, when I have to, I can manage small amounts of snow. So having confessed that, it’s with the bravado that comes with having done something wholly virtuous that I tell you about my latest assessment observation, this time near Turoa ski field. Things worked out OK; it was easy to find the group (I was given a grid reference and found a group of people in helmets. That must be an Alpine 1 assessment). Sometimes it’s good observing activities you’re not too familiar with: You ask questions that folks who are familiar with the activity never ask and you see things through fresh eyes. This time the experience was really valuable for me and I learned a lot that I’ll be able to apply to assessment moderation. Thanks everyone for accommodating me.

A few weeks previous to that I ended up doing some volunteer work on the West Coast. Leaving Christchurch late in the day on a Friday placed me in the middle of a strong westerly storm over Arthur’s Pass. Horizontal rain and incredible noise when you’re in a rag-top. These were probably the worst, windy, poor visibility, conditions I’d been driving in, the windscreen wipers were being lifted off the windscreen by the wind gusts and it felt like the roof may be ripped off! Conditions were so intense that they were incredibly distracting from the art of driving. At one point it dawned on me that I couldn’t really focus on the driving, but I kept driving anyway. This was an interesting point. I felt like I was no longer able to drive with a good margin of safety, but chose to keep driving anyway. Several thoughts aided this decision:

- The option of stopping and sitting it out is really unpleasant
- The thought that the weather may get better if I continue on
- There’s a warm meal and bed waiting for me
- Other people are still driving

So despite all that training and experience, managing risks and making good decisions, I chose to continue on when it was, I imagine, a much more dangerous option. I fell for “Hut-Suck” (a cosy bed & meal waiting in Greymouth) and some good old risk

shift (other people are keeping on going, therefore it’s OK) and got away with it. A great example of nonspecific transfer not working if ever I saw one!

And thank goodness, the venison was great, the home brew awesome, instructing fun, and climbing adventurous. It was great having a weekend away from shaky Christchurch, and thanks to all the people I worked and played with, in particular Jack. I’m sure I’ll be over again with all the Christchurch crags closed.

And on that note, I have a volunteer job I do, I’m the “Access Business Manager” for the NZAC, who have formed a new Access Fund. Wearing the Field Officer hat and ABM hat at the same time sometimes can be useful. The Christchurch CC has closed access to a lot of tracks and crags in the Port Hills due to the risks associated with earthquakes. The Council is intending to have Engineers look at some of the crags with the aim of declaring some of them open. Some recreational climbers have been ignoring the bans and as yet I don’t know of a confrontation with authorities, but as spring comes on, sooner or later I’m sure there will be. Professional groups would be wise to take their rockclimbing, abseiling, and walking away from Christchurch and the Port Hills or into an indoor wall.

It’s worth remembering that every person in Christchurch has had a crash course in risk management. Parents are putting a huge amount of trust in providers of outdoor activities while the risk of major shakes is still high. Our responsibility then is to ensure children are happy and safe.

Please, climbers and instructors. Be patient. There is progress being made on the path to reopening recreation assets, but for various reasons it will be a while before we have free reign. In the mean time I hear Mike Atkinson has been developing routes near Mt Somers and Lindsay Main routes in the Paparoas area.

Regards, Chris Burtenshaw
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EMAIL COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS



Emails to members is one of the primary methods that NZOIA communicates with its 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.

Understanding Back up



Got me? Got ya.' featured in the June 2011, Issue 56 of the NZOIA Quarterly. An article written by Mike Atkinson, this focused on the options for the climber to transition from climbing to descending. One of these options, transitioning to abseil, uses the French Prussic attached to the leg loop. The French prussic attached to the leg loop below the abseil device has been the most common used in New Zealand in recent times but it has some limitations and there are alternatives. Chris Burtenshaw, NZOIA's Field Officer, addresses this in the following article.

Chris Burtenshaw, Technical Field Officer

Recently I learned of an incident where a person abseiling with a prussic below their descender on the leg-loop of their harness had the leg-loop buckle come undone due to the upward force on the buckle. The buckle was doubled back and the incident was easily repeatable and observable.

The supplier of the harness was contacted and subsequently the manufacturer. The emails I read regarding this incident implied the manufacturer was aware that there may be an issue and that, acting on feedback, they were going to rectify by using a higher friction webbing in the buckling-up parts of their harnesses in the future.

Abseiling with a French prussic on the leg-loop of a harness is a common method of protecting an abseiler in New Zealand. When I heard this story I felt like informing people of all the options available for self-protection and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

I want to start by saying that there's not a consistent approach to abseil self-protection across all the activities that use abseiling and this is for well thought out reasons. In summary:

- Industrial abseilers use self-locking descenders with a shunt as a backup on a second rope. This has a high degree of redundancy and in using mechanical devices there's less scope for user error. The down-side is that it's equipment and weight hungry.
- Canyoning often uses no backup because often short abseils are done under the duress of running water (no prussic to get jammed or snagged is safer). However on longer abseils clients are belayed and operators/recreational canyoners are proficient at locking off the device when needed.
- Caving: Similar to canyoning, with the added challenge of cramped, confined spaces, with mud thrown in. In certain applications a shunt is used as a backup.

So that leaves rockclimbing and alpine climbing as the main areas where abseiling is done using a prussic for self-protection. Prussics are good for this because they're a light, multi-use, piece of equipment. I know of three different types of systems commonly used and I'd like to cover the pros and cons of each.

First the prussic/autoblock knots available for use. There's a whole bunch of them: Classic (prussic), Hedden, **Klemheist**, Bachman & **French**, to name a few. Only the knots underlined are going to be covered here because they have properties that lend themselves useful for abseil backup, namely: they're simple and (relatively) easily releasable. They're also in common use.

The other knots may do the job fine.

The Klemheist is relatively user friendly when used above the descender. So is the Classic and the Hedden by the way.



The French Prussic

Fig. 1a & 1b

The French Prussic has less initial grip but is really easily controlled when below the descender. Another thing I like about it is that it's quick and easy to tie (see above) even with wet and gloved hands.

Now I'll cover three basic abseil rigs that use a backup arrangement.



Prussic above

Fig. 2 (usually the Klemheist)

Advantages: Very little equipment needed, a generally positive block is provided. Not dependant on body position to be effective.

Disadvantages: Once prussic is loaded can be tricky to release (I recommend learning the foot-lock technique). One hand always has to be above the descender controlling the prussic.

Some people believe there's an issue in that the whole weight of the user comes on to a single prussic if the user lets go of the rope, this is true. I still hold that this is a commonly used and valid option.

Screwgate biner on the prussic or not?

My thing about where to use screwgates is that you need to prioritise where you use them. The descender is the most important place when abseiling, followed by the prussic. You can 'dog-ear' (oppose the gates) snap-links. Using screwgates for both is best practice. But if you're running out of gear, anything is better than nothing.



Prussic below, on the leg loop

Fig. 3 (usually a French prussic)

Advantages: Easy to control, both hands can be on the break end of the rope (more positive control). Doesn't need much equipment.

Disadvantages: Sometimes fiddly to get running right. If the hip with the prussic on it rises up towards the descender (this can happen if the abseiler becomes unconscious) the prussic can ride up against the descender and become disengaged, or jammed. If the harness has leg-loop buckles and if the leg-loop webbing is low friction then this can cause the leg-loop to become undone, as happened at the start of the story.

References:

The story of Mr & Mrs Prussic. Ray Button, Autumn 1999 Climber NZAC
Life On A Line. Dr Dave Merchant (second edition) www.lifeonline.com



Prussic below, on the belay loop

Fig. 4 Descender on a 'cowstail' (usually a French prussic)

In this photo I'm holding the end of the 'cowstail' out of the way for clarity. This usually has a biner in it that can be clipped somewhere out of the way (into the descender biner).

Advantages: Both hands are on the break end of the abseil rope in a strong and comfortable position (not thumb on bum). Prussic can't get near the descender, no matter what. Easy transfers on multi-pitch abseils and Easy transfer off anchors and on to the abseil rope at the top of a pitch.

Disadvantages: Needs more equipment. Tricky to manage when going over an acute angle at the start (descender typically drags over the edge, not unsafe but can need to be aggressively managed).



Chris Burtenshaw
 Technical Field Officer
 NZOIA

Advertise in the Quarterly

Avertisement	Format / Size	Cost
Half-page advertisement, black & white only	horizontal 186 mm wide x 132 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 contrast may alter. Please enquire for affordable advertisement design rates. Send your advertisement to: The Editor, NZOIA, P.O.Box 1620, Nelson 7010 Email: ao@nzoi.org.nz

As an organisation, NZOIA strives to increase its level of professionalism, including how we work in a general sense. We've had a Code of Conduct since Jo Straker collated one in 2001, but we need to give it more prominence.

However, the Code is not for the organisation but is principles, values, standards, and rules of behaviour for individual members. Our Honorary Members (Ray Button, Jill Dalton, Grant Davidson, John Entwisle, and Jo Straker) have revised it, and now we want members' input before we adopt it as our professional guidance.

Please contact Stu Allan with your thoughts by 15th November: stu@activevoice.co.nz

Code of Conduct

A NZOIA member has responsibility for promoting the highest standards of outdoor instruction. Professional integrity is key to the credibility of an instructor or guide.

An instructor or guide has privileged interactions with people. This brings considerable responsibility and expectations regarding behaviour. It's important that NZOIA members are aware of these responsibilities and expectations, and realise that any breach could result in repercussions such as the loss of NZOIA qualifications.

Safety

- Take all practicable steps to safeguard clients
- Balance opportunities and risks to develop effective strategies that manage risk
- Use clear and understandable language to tell clients about the risks related to the activities
- Encourage and support clients but never force them to do an activity they don't want to do, unless their opting out brings a risk to themselves or others
- Refuse to follow any request or policy that compromises safety

- Alert individuals and organisations when you notice unsafe practices and, if necessary, take direct action to protect the public from imminent danger

Relating to clients

- Respect the confidentiality of private information shared by clients unless the chance of harm to others is revealed
- Recognise the values that exist in all cultures and encourage others to appreciate that diversity too
- Avoid intimate relationships with course participants
- Ensure your work isn't affected by illicit or prescription drugs.

Professional practice

- Accept responsibility based on current competence only, and decline work that is outside your level of competence
- Contribute time and expertise to activities that promote the value, integrity, and competence of the outdoor sector
- Contribute freely to the knowledge base of outdoor instruction and guiding by sharing knowledge at conferences or in newsletters and journals
- Help in times of public emergencies by offering leadership and technical skills, providing that you don't endanger yourself or your clients
- Be aware and considerate of other recreational users and colleagues
- Interact positively with trainees and assessment candidates
- Support colleagues who are working to this code

Representing NZOIA

- Distinguish between statements you make as a private individual and those you make that represent NZOIA or your employer
- Ensure you're a current NZOIA member when using an NZOIA qualification in promotional material or as a professional credential
- Acknowledge NZOIA's intellectual property in your writing

Sustainability

- Respect environmental resources and do everything you can to ensure they're maintained for future generations
- Where and when possible, act to enhance our environment

Revalidation Reminder!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Who needs to come in for revalidation this year?

Qualifications gained before 30 June 2006

Not yet revalidated one of your qualifications? You need to contact NZOIA as you have missed the 31 December 2010 deadline.

Revalidated one or more qualifications already?

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 contact NZOIA if you have not yet attended the relevant revalidation refresher workshop.

Qualifications gained 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

You need to contact NZOIA if you have not yet attended the relevant revalidation refresher workshop.

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? Talk to them directly.
- 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, read through the booklet 'A Guide to NZOIA Qualification's Revalidation and Registration December 2010', or contact us.

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.nzoi.org.nz/member_only/your_details.asp#qualifications

Contact the NZOIA office directly if you are unsure of how to log into the members only section.

* * Congratulations * *

Congratulations to the following members who recently gained NZOIA Qualifications:

Alpine 1	Beatriz Boucinhas, Peter Munro, Josh Geddes, Tony Wright, Peter Cammell, Jess Marriott, Dan Lynton, Drew Coleman, Luke Middleton, Sally McDonald, Daniel Werner, Kevin Webb, Jared Partridge
Abseil Leader	Surinder Edwards, Dauwie Morgan, Rachel Subritzky, Rebekah Burbery, Hanna Meads, Ben Watkins, Charlie Hartstone, Vaughn McWhirter, Kennan King, Lou Henderson
Bush Walking Leader	Peter Barnes, Tom Allen, Allan Taylor, Ingrid Booiman, Stephen Graves, Susana Scott, Sophie Trueman, Matthew Clements, Matthew Sheat, Alan Haslip, Michael Lynds, Barry Scott
Bush 1	Mark Windust, Philippa Rees, Wendy Davis
Cave 1	Alan Ford, Neil Francis, Chris Stephenson, David King, Andrew Kendrick
Kayak Leader	Adam Kennard, Andrew Goswell, Anna Drabble, Anna Konlechner, Brad O'Sullivan, John Bollen, Alana Wood, Quintin Graham, Toby Stanton, Tim Shaw, Cameron Wallace, Emma Kirkham, Leroy Pit, Mark Parfitt, Andrew Stuart, Susana Scott, Liana Stupples
Kayak 1	Sean Callagher, Quinn Pote, Jason Harvey, Peter van Lith
Rock Climbing Leader	Surinder Edwards, Dauwie Morgan, Rachel Subritzky, Rebekah Burbery, Hanna Meads, Ben Watkins, Charlie Hartstone, Vaughn McWhirter, Kennan King, Tim Heetkamp, Moritz Muno, Stephen Hart, Freya O'donoghue, Krissy Ridder, Christopher Knight, Tom Robb, Erin Strampel, Thomas Termet-Schuppon
Rock 1	Caleb Murray, Katie Gray, Mike Baker, James Hunt, Taylor MacKinlay, Steffen Poepjes, Bill Lavelle, Sarah Smith, Wendy Davis
Sea Kayak Guide	Philip Dove

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 Phone: 03 539 0509

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!

Five years on...

Update on progress since the 2006 Membership Survey

Five years ago, 264 NZOIA members (roughly 60% of the membership at that time) completed a survey designed to inform the Executive and help guide our activities. Large parts of the survey were devoted to finding out what you thought NZOIA should focus on over the next five years. Now, we're thinking it would be useful to hear from you again... but first, we want to let you know what we've done in response to the main themes from the last survey, and where we are currently at.

First, who were you?

Respondents in the last survey:

- were mostly male (77%);
- identified primarily with being NZ European (85%);
- were generally employed in the outdoor industry (83%);
- mostly described themselves as being involved in 'outdoor education' or 'outdoor recreation', but also worked in schools, polytechnics, outdoor administration, adventure therapy, and other related areas;
- included 23 students;
- and ranged in age from 19 to over 60 (most were between 24-43 years old).

Respondents were also more likely to live in Canterbury (26%) than in any other single area in the rest of NZ (next highest – 10% from Auckland)... We're not sure whether this reflects the superior survey-completion abilities of Cantabrians, perhaps just that lots of NZOIA members live in Christchurch, or whether the whole of the CPIT outdoor programme sat down together to swing the results...

Second: What you suggested, and what we've been doing:

Ideas for NZOIA's activities came from answers to the following questions: "What could NZOIA do to provide me with better value?", "What additional services would you like NZOIA to provide?", and "What changes in NZOIA's functions would you like to see over

the next five years?". Answers to these three questions were often similar. Here, in roughly decreasing order, are the five most commonly mentioned – and what we've been doing since then.

1. "Provide more ongoing training and professional development."

This has been a significant area of progress for NZOIA, and has taken a considerable amount of our time and resources. More effort has been made to provide pre-assessment training courses, and the training calendar, available on our website, is scheduled early to allow members to plan. The other significant area of change has been the development of the revalidation process and workshops. The benefits of this are well described by the respondent who suggested 'Provide more professional development for instructors that is not linked to assessment. This would provide an arena for the exchange of ideas, and for the more isolated instructors to catch up on the latest thinking/methods, etc'. Feedback from revalidation workshops held so far is that, in the main, they have been found highly useful and non-threatening. Additionally, the revalidation process is contributing to our national and international credibility.

What has been somewhat disappointing is the low uptake of the training, given that lack of training was seen by members as the single biggest barrier to progressing through the qualifications scheme, and because 96% of respondents said that they wanted NZOIA to run trainings! On the basis of this we have successfully sought external funding to keep costs down and provided an additional 50% subsidy on all kayak courses through targeted funding from Water Safety NZ – but we've had to cancel a bunch of courses because of insufficient registrations. This is a bit confusing given the earlier feedback from members. We'll be finding more about where your thoughts are about the whole training/revalidation issue, in the next survey.

"Improve member resources."

This is an area of ongoing work for NZOIA. We've made significant progress in some aspects – for example, the Quarterly is being used more as a tool to share ideas and educate each other, and the website, which provides some material (e.g. the resources section), is being radically changed to become more user-friendly. Some members requested 'training manuals' (such as those provided by the British Canoe Union). NZOIA has tried this in the past with a kayak manual and an employers guide, but incurred significant losses due to insufficient sales. **However, our work with Skills Active has allowed the development of a range of learner and assessor resources and pre-assessment workbooks for the Leader Qualifications; this may in time follow through into Level 1.** Other printed manuals may be reconsidered in the future, and we are building website capability to enable more technical information to be placed there.

Issue A: The Executive is keen to maintain NZOIA's current approach to technical and instructional issues, which promotes a critical approach (i.e., consideration of various techniques that facilitate a safe, quality experience) rather than 'one right NZOIA way'. Any manuals and learning resources will be developed with this in mind.

Issue B: Currently, developing printed manuals is not a high priority given NZOIA's other commitments. We encourage members to maintain

currency and develop their skills by attending workshops, reading from the wide variety of publications already available, and liaising with other outdoor professionals.

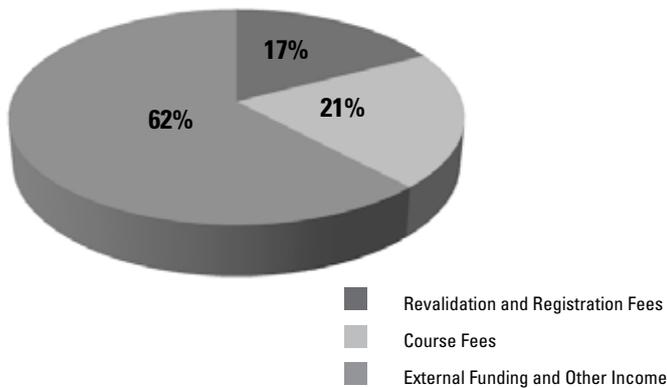
Issue C: Concerned about being adequately prepared for your assessment without having a manual to which you can refer? The best advice we can give is that you attend an NZOIA training course prior to assessment. This ensures clarity about assessment course content, format, standards and expectations and provides clear guidance around personal performance and areas that need to be improved. If you can't get to a training course, other tips for preparation include: talk with others who've recently been assessed, make sure you really understand the syllabus, have well more than the minimum personal and instructional experience, and read all you can... This should all contribute to you being well prepared.

2. "Revision of fee structure"

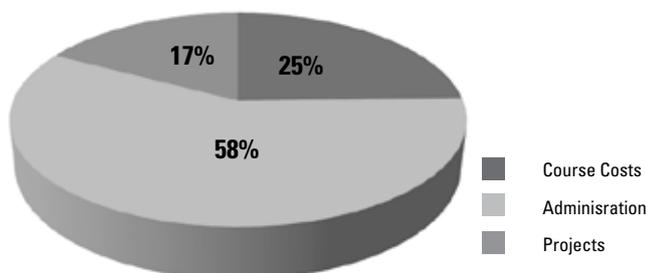
We've had a few changes here ... Firstly, roughly one in six members back in 2006 suggested some kind of a reduction in fees. Since then we've moved on from 'membership fees' (at that time \$200) to a system of Annual Qualification Revalidation and Registration fees. At current rates this means that the vast majority of members (those with 1 or 2 qualifications) pay \$145 or \$190; and those with three or more pay \$235. In real terms, because of inflation, \$200 would be around \$250 today. Secondly, we have introduced a 50% lower annual registration fee category for people holding only leader level qualifications, and this is further reduced by another 50% for students (who also get a 50% reduction on the annual revalidation fee if they hold Level 1 or 2 qualifications).

Our ability to hold fees at these levels so far has been due to a considerable effort in sourcing external funding – as you'll see from the following graph, membership fees actually only represent a small proportion of what it costs to run NZOIA.

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



Course costs – the direct costs of running training, assessment and revalidation courses such as assessor fees and travel. Also assessor support costs including their training.

Administration – staffing, office rent and power, executive committee, phones, stationary, website, liaison / advocacy, membership cards, bookkeeping, accountant, lawyers, bank fees, ACC, auditor, graphics, advertising.

Projects – qualifications review, assessor manual, safety management system development, IT development, Quarterly, DoL review, regional forums, international cross crediting, canyoning qualifications development, wall climbing forums, programme evaluation.

"Improve NZOIA's profile – national and international – and do more advocacy."

Lots of people suggested this, especially with regard to getting the value of qualifications more widely understood. A significant part of NZOIA's work over the last 5 years has been working towards streamlining qualifications between NZOIA, Skills Active, the MSC, and NZOIA qualifications are, in the main, well-respected and recognised. This also reflects the work of our assessors in keeping standards high, and the good work of NZOIA qualified instructors. You are the most effective marketing tool we have! Our prominent role in the recent Department of Labour review of the adventure tourism sector, and the significant increase in external funding we're receiving, are indications of the degree to which we are now recognised at a national level.

Internationally, a cross-crediting system for qualifications is a work-in-progress. We're liaising particularly with the UK, and will cross-credit UK awards (however they don't yet accept ours...). We're working with the UIAA to internationally benchmark all the rock/bush/alpine qualifications, which should give you more portability in many nations. Additionally, we're working for recognition of sea kayak qualifications in Canada, and climbing qualifications in Australia. We're about to release our new system for instructors arriving (or returning!) to New Zealand, to achieve 'recognition of current competency' with NZOIA; we hope this encourages other countries to do the same...

3. "Unify and collaborate with other organisations."

This was the 3rd most common response to 'what changes in function would you like to see in NZOIA?' - 25 people mentioned it – and there was general support for NZOIA to 'amalgamate with like organisations'. Interestingly, the large majority of respondents also said it was highly important for NZOIA to remain independent from other industry award schemes, to ensure NZOIA award standards were maintained... Somewhat contradictory! However, in addition to a (somewhat confusing) message from members for us to collaborate, there have been other good reasons to do so (gaining funding, government recognition, a collective voice, economies of scale, etc). So, until very recently:

- we shared office space and equipment with Skills Active;
- we liaised extensively with Skills Active to develop the new joint leader qualifications align our qualifications with the National Qualifications Framework (making it possible, but not compulsory, for members to gain credits by passing assessments);
- and we had a tri-partite agreement in place between NZOIA, the MSC and Skills Active for the further unification of qualifications.

Obviously NZOIA's recent non-renewal of the tri-partie agreement is a departure from the work that we have been doing to collaborate. This DOES NOT reflect any lack of commitment to unification where it works for all parties involved and we have not closed this door. The Executive spent a lot of time considering this decision; ultimately we considered the immediate requirements involved in getting qualifications on the NZQA Framework would jeopardise our ability to provide quality, respected qualifications.

For the background to NZOIA's decisions, please see: http://www.nzoi.org.nz/resources/doc_library_details.asp?catID=33&name=NZOIA%27s+Relationships+with+External+organisations

We remain committed to collaboration and working towards unification. ►

4. "Improve organisational structure and communications."

We thought so, too! A big project we're currently working on is the re-structure of our office staff (huge thanks to Steve Scott for the many years he's put in as our Admin Officer for the past 10 years), including creation of some new positions. We now have a Field Officer (Chris Burtenshaw), and we've combined the previous Training and Assessment Co-ordinator role with the Administrative Officer role, to create a position of Programme and Membership Manager (**we look forward to having Penny Holland move into this position early December – Mandy Armstrong and Ajah Gainfort are doing a great job for us temporarily**). The plan is that having one person manage these areas should make finding information, and booking assessments and courses a whole lot smoother and more seamless. The other big project is the development of a new website (which you should see by the end of the year) and IT system which will work alongside the Programme and Membership Manager – hopefully the website will be so good you'll be booking extra courses online, just for fun...

Third: A few things you suggested, but we're not doing...

5. a) "Provision of legal support."

It would be great to be able to offer this to members. Unfortunately we would have to dramatically increase fees!!! Refer back to point 3 above... However, we do provide professional support at times of serious incidents where it is needed (some organisations have internal support structures / counsellor provision). This means we will provide someone experienced to give moral support through the aftermath of a traumatic event.

b) "Provide members with an insurance scheme."

We've investigated this; unfortunately it's not feasible due to huge variances in individual needs.

c) "Provide members with discounts on outdoor equipment / clothing."

Actually we think this is a good idea, too... Don't forget the current Bivouac deal (20% off purchases if you show your membership card) – apart from this, obtaining further discounts hasn't been a priority, but it is on our 'to-do' list!

Other projects that National Office and the Exec have been working on include:

- moderation of assessments and assessors;
- auditing our qualifications;
- re-working our post assessment feedback system so we can more effectively use the information you give us;
- and starting a Facebook page for NZOIA for info sharing (we're hoping you will go here to organise ride-sharing, find instructors, and find others with whom you can organise training, assessments or revalidations).

Chris Burtenshaw has also been working to liaise better with instructors operating in more isolated areas, and is co-ordinating the **National Training Symposium** for 2012.

So there you go... A quick snapshot of developments in NZOIA as they relate to the 2006 survey (if you want to see the results of the entire survey, they will soon be available on the new-look website). This period has certainly felt busy and the many more projects the Executive and staff have been working on are well documented in the Quarterly ... but hopefully we are somewhat on the right track! Rest assured, Exec meetings are lively and full of debate as we endeavour to represent a fairly diverse membership...

Anyway, the next membership survey should be coming your way soon. We look forward to an update on how you see NZOIA!

*Cheers,
Your Executive Committee*

NZOIA will remain independent

This is to inform members of changes in NZOIA's relationship with Skills Active and Mountain Safety Council (MSC). This has also been sent out as a member email.

The key changes are:

- We're no longer planning to align NZOIA qualifications with Skills Active's qualifications (although that may be reconsidered later in 2012).
- We'll not renew our understanding with Skills Active and MSC to develop the NZ Outdoor Registration Board but will continue it on our own.

Business as usual

In terms of NZOIA's operations, it's business as usual. We have a strong and clear vision of where we're heading. Our credibility and reputation is based on the quality of our qualifications and assessment process, which we're very careful to protect.

We'll continue to offer our 21 qualifications across nine disciplines to our members, we'll continue to support our assessor pool, and we'll continue our revalidation developments to ensure our qualification holders are up to date.

Press release

The three parties have written a press release explaining what has occurred - please see:

http://www.nzoi.org.nz/resources/doc_library_details.asp?catID=33&name=NZOIA%27s+Relationships+with+External+organisations

Background

For the background to NZOIA's decisions, please see:

http://www.nzoi.org.nz/resources/doc_library_details.asp?catID=33&name=NZOIA%27s+Relationships+with+External+organisations

Questions or comments

If you've any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with:

Matt Cant, Chief Executive Email: ce@nzoi.org.nz Ph: 021 222 7331

or Andy Thompson, President Email: Andy.Thompson@op.ac.nz Ph: 021 735 536

NZOIA
Excellence in Outdoor Leadership

NZOIA NATIONAL TRAINING Symposium

4th – 7th October 2012

Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Turangi

- /// **An annual opportunity to train, up-skill, and revalidate in any of the NZOIA qualification areas**
- /// **Inspirational speakers and trainers**
- /// **Meet other instructors and connect with your industry**
- /// **Will combine with the NZOIA AGM**

Contact: fieldofficer@nzoia.org.nz



A Facebook page is currently being set up for the Symposium – details to follow soon.

Early bird tickets on sale from the end of January 2012



NZOIA
Excellence in Outdoor Leadership



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.

Assessment Calendar

The assessment calendar is now published only on the NZOIA website 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 Phone: 03 539 0509

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

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 Phone: 03 539 0509

http://www.nzoi.org.nz/training/training_calendar.asp



bivouac/outdoor

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.



Outdoor Research Helium Jacket

Outdoor Research's most compressible storm shell is so light it practically floats, or at least it's so light that you won't notice you're carrying it until a sudden downpour bursts into your day. When a big, exposed objective puts you on route for a full day stretching into dark, this jacket packs into its own pocket and can be clipped to your harness for quick access if you need protection from rain, wind, or cooling temps. And it includes all the features needed for true functionality, without any bulky excess.

Ultralight, waterproof/breathable 2.5-layer 20D Pertex® Shield DS ripstop fabric

Fully seam taped

Single-pull hood adjustment

Ultralight, water-resistant zips

Front zip has a 19cm inner stormflap

Zippered napoleon pocket

Stuff pocket at side hem with hook/loop closure

Elastic cuffs

Single drawcord hem adjustment

Weight: 193gm (men's size large) 163gm (women's size medium)

\$229 RRP

20% DISCOUNT TO NZOIA MEMBERS*

plus a percentage of your purchase supports NZOIA

*Discount is off RRP, not to be used in conjunction with any other discount, special or offer

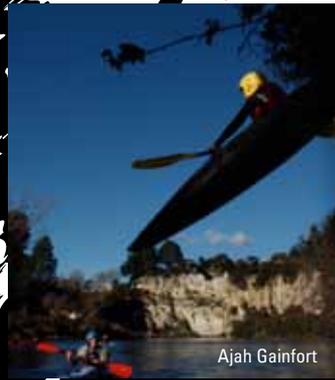


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PLANTING THE SEEDS OF ADVENTURE



Photos supplied by NZOIA members

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.