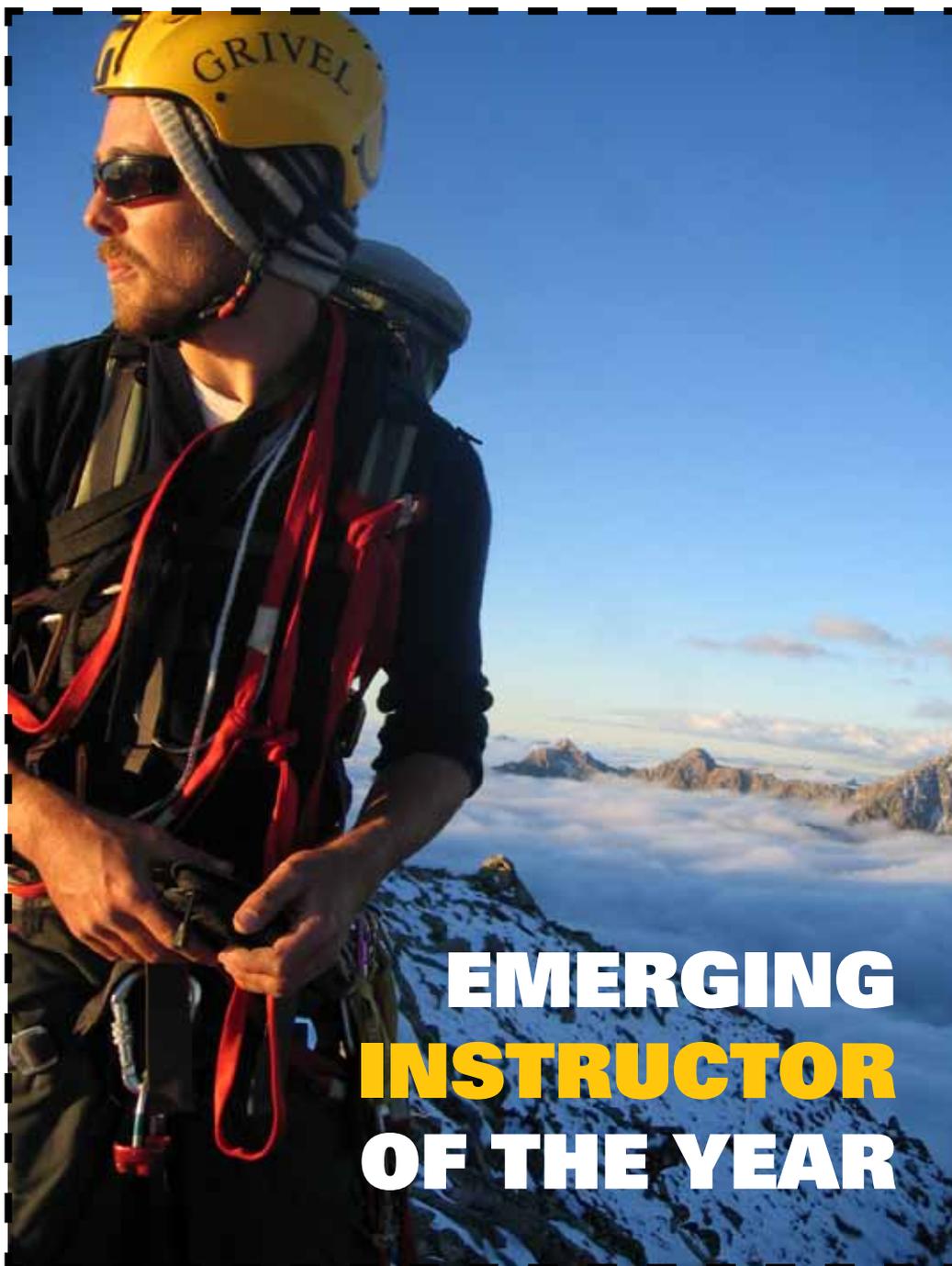


NZOIA QUARTERLY

ISSUE 50

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND OUTDOOR INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION



Looking west after summiting Mt Temple

EMERGING INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

This award recognises someone who has demonstrated enthusiasm, passion for the outdoors and excellence in instructional skills and techniques. The Emerging Instructor seeks to achieve relevant industry qualifications and continues to personally challenge themselves in their own adventures. NZOIA is pleased to congratulate **Jye Mitchell** as the 2009 winner of this award. ▶▶▶

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Outdoors New Zealand
Mahi Ngahau ā-Waho Aotearoa
'Representing New Zealand's Great Outdoors'



Merry Xmas
from the
NZOIA team

Wishing you a Merry
Xmas and a Happy New
Year!!!

XMAS HOURS

The *NZOIA* office will be
closed from mid-day on
24th December until
Monday 11th January.

NZOIA gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following organisations:

JYE MITCHELL: EMERGING INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR



Jye Mitchell

“Most of my first experiences in the outdoors were done off the back of a travel guide. I spent my years before New Zealand travelling through-out the North America, Europe and Asia.

My outdoor enthusiasm evolved when I signed onto the Certificate in Outdoor Recreation at Tai Poutini Polytechnic. I remember in the first few weeks noticing how my tutors were full of genuine smiles and passion for their work, and that left an impression on me.

When I graduated from the Advanced Certificate of Leadership and Guiding I knew the next thing I needed was mileage and lots of it. Rather than aligning myself with an outdoor pursuit company or education centre I took a risk and became my own company.

The first few years are definitely going to be some of the most challenging of your career and if you don't have some determination it's easy to fall off the scene.

I had some fantastic support from the Tai Poutini staff, in particular Dave Ritchie, Jo Parsons and Christine Worsfold. Whilst they're now considered my peers I still see them as role models and mentors.

I figured out fairly early on that I was getting kicks as much from the interactions with clients, as I was from the pursuits I was teaching them. I think that's a principal factor in sticking with outdoor instruction and really enjoying it.

I'm currently contracting myself out to high schools, outdoor pursuit trusts and organisations in the Canterbury area. A lot of my client base is high school students, who I think are custom built for receiving new information. It blows me away how they'll

learn a completely new skill and by the end of the class I'll see them teaching it to someone else.

Whilst I think the fundamentals of the outdoor industry will always reside in getting out amongst and appreciating the natural environment, I think adventure therapy has space to grow into new areas. I would like to be part of that process.

There certainly seems to be a strong sense of finding low impact ways of enjoying ourselves and I think the outdoor industry can really step up and be a major player in this area. Hopefully with me as a part of it.

Just recently I got off a two day heli-rafting trip up the Wanganui with 14 people. We flew up to the raft drop, and then hiked up to Smythe Hot Pools. The setting of the hot pools was easily one of the most inspiring places in New Zealand I've ever been. We convoyed down in rafts and kayaks, had another dip at Hot Springs flat near the take out and then went on to Hari Hari to gorge ourselves. It was a firm reminder of just how many beautiful spots there are out there and that it's going to be a busy summer checking them out!



Jye Mitchell

1. Nomination by Virginia Bowden – YMCA Christchurch

"This person has impressed us with his professionalism when instructing and his positive attitude to both his clients and colleagues. He maintains a high personal standard of work and encourages the same in his workmates, he leads by example. In the last 16 months he gained NZOIA qualifications in Rock 1, Kayak 1 and Bush 1.

He is an asset because of his versatility. He teaches kayaking, indoor and outdoor climbing, he has been involved in climbing competitions, he is experienced in setting challenging routes and has been a Climbing Club instructor. He also leads Environmental Education days for holiday programmes. He displays a passion for helping young people learn and grow through adventure education. His professionalism and commitment has been recognised in the Christchurch Outdoors community and he is now establishing himself as an Outdoor Instructor for several schools.

His professionalism is exemplified by his devotion to personal development as an outdoor instructor which sees him constantly giving his best in all of his work roles as well as pursuing his personal adventures in climbing, kayaking and tramping. He is always willing to help and to offer his advice and feedback where appropriate; in the same thread he is open to suggestions and takes feedback well from those he works with."

2. Nomination by Dave Ritchie – Tai Poutini Polytechnic

"Jye came to us a complete rookie in the Outdoors but it was very clear from the outset that he was fired by the places we visited and the things we did. He brought athletic talent, enthusiasm, empathy and most importantly, self discipline and a clear sense of purpose to his studies. It was clear that he would excel as a leader in the Outdoors. What we were surprised by was his ability to encourage and cajole others to excel as he did. He has a way of creating momentum around an idea or action that was infectious and incurable once it took hold.

Now that he is 'out there' on his own he is continuing in the same vein, getting ideas, making them happen and enrolling others on the way. He is a generalist with a bent for paddling (even if his usually perfect left side roll went on vacation during his assessment; we all suffer a little under the Logie gaze!) who is demonstrating a talent for programme organisation and an ability to "step up and say yes" when the occasion demands. Jye is an excellent role model for the profession and the pathway."

THE NZOIA TALL TOTARA AWARD:

This award is presented annually and was this year added to the programme at the Outdoor Excellence Awards Dinner, a function that has become a highlight of the annual Outdoors New Zealand Outdoor Forum.

The Tall Totara is presented to a member of NZOIA who best fulfils the aims and objectives of our Association, recognising the outstanding quality of their instruction and their contribution to the development of outdoor education. The 2009 recipient is **Ian Logie**.

Nomination for Ian Logie NZOIA Executive Committee September 2009

Ian is far more than just an excellent instructor; he is an ambassador for NZOIA. He is an ambassador of the values of the Association, and of the value of having an association such as ours and the qualifications we provide.

Ian has been a member of NZOIA since 1994. He is a holder of our qualifications and is a respected member of the Kayak assessor pool. Ian has served on the national Executive committee, is an active participant in technical committees, and has made valuable contributions to qualifications development and writing.

As a lecturer at Aoraki Polytechnic Ian has a busy schedule and works hard to nurture his students to become excellent instructors and educators. Like many other assessors who are similarly involved in tertiary education, he also finds the time and maintains an enthusiasm for training and assessing for NZOIA when not engaged with his own students. In this respect Ian is a most willing worker; he has the 'can do' attitude. Ian is one of the few people to get out there and drum up business by encouraging kayakers to step up and attend training and then assessment...Ian's the one who phones up and asks NZOIA is there any money left to subsidise a course. He's out there in the community making a difference.

Ian is a somewhat quiet and thoughtful chap. He can be relied upon for a well considered and informed opinion; a balanced point of view. He's also a good listener who's willing to adapt and change. He's a good person to have on the team and as such a real asset to NZOIA.

Ian is part of the solution.

Ian Logie, team leader of outdoor education at Aoraki Polytechnic in Timaru was awarded this year's tall totara award by NZOIA.

After nearly a decade at Otago University studying economics and accounting, Ian did his first course through NZOIA in kayaking, something he "didn't take to right away but worked hard at it."

After that he never looked back.

He continued to learn after that both formally and informally picking up skills from people who had received formal training. He picked up a wide variety of skills. Ian says one of the most important things in life is to keep being a student and further develop your skills.

He has done work for Maritime New Zealand investigating fatalities and has also done work as a kayak assessor.

Ian says the highlights of his work in the outdoor world have been kayaking around Stewart Island, being chased by sea lions and helping students learn and grow.

He has never regretted not getting into the financial world and says his career in outdoor recreation has been most rewarding.

"It's a career that's not just based around earning money. It's a career which gives you the chance to balance the physical, mental and spiritual aspects."

He also enjoys crafting tomorrow's young adventurers and gets great personal satisfaction from seeing where his students end up.

"I encourage my students to seek out new challenges and embrace them."

He says he is honoured to have received the Tall Totara award which is proudly displayed on his mantel place.

"It's a complete honour, it's always nice to be recognized by your peers."

Ian remains uncertain of where his future will take him but intends to keep learning and educating for as long as possible and continue to have great adventures.

"I'm going to keep paddling until I'm too old and decrepit."

Thanks to Anna Geddes, Aoraki Polytechnic for this interview

IAN LOGIE



“ I’m going to keep paddling until I’m too old and decrepit. ”

2009–2010 Revalidation Refresher Workshop Calendar

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

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

Workshop Course Costs

All workshops are one day duration and cost **\$150** per person

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 6 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: nzoi@skillsactive.org.nz or phone **0508 475 4557**

Changing face of AATC

..... Mark Lewis

AATC staff adventure race



I started working at the Army Adventurous Training Centre (AATC) in December 2006. After growing up, and completing my apprenticeship as an outdoor instructor and tertiary education in Christchurch, it was great to move back south after chasing work for a number of years in the North Island. Compared to Wellington, the outdoors is so accessible from Christchurch and I had a job where I could continue to push outdoor pursuits and develop as an educator, without holding back Josie's career aspirations at the same time.

When I arrived at AATC it had firmly starting moving towards a focus of delivering leader development instead of outdoor skills courses for the New Zealand Army. This change in focus started a few years earlier and was confirmed and mapped out at 2006 strategic planning. At the same time, the Deputy Chief of Army was interested in running leadership training for senior leaders and out of this was born the Senior Officers Adventure Race (SOAR) which was conducted in early 2007. The delivery and success of this program confirmed AATC's new role as the experiential leadership development unit within the Army.

This change in focus has not seen AATC move away from delivering rock, kayak and mountain programs. One of the strengths of these 6 day skills based programs is the ability to deep end soldiers in challenging, real experiences and see how they manage stress. Through soldiers having the opportunity to learn more about how they manage stress and developing strategies to better manage stress, the soldiers will be more effective on operations. To be able to offer new ways of challenging soldiers, AATC developed a 6 day alpine touring course. There are not many workplaces where you can get an Iroquois for 5 days to recce program options based from Tekapo. It was pretty surreal to be able to get deep into the Southern Alps and out again in a matter of minutes

and then watch a pilot walk across the tarmac with a fuel card, put the nosel of the pump into the machine and do it all over again. This year we ran an alpine touring program for a group of Officer Cadets. The snow and weather conditions were so good that it almost made you forget you were at work. With 20cm of fresh snow the first night and another 30cm the second and favourable avalanche conditions it looked like being a good start to the week. It just kept getting better though - waking each morning to clear skies, no wind and fresh tracks. It was starting to seem like we had been teleported out of Aotearoa.

Another memorable experience from this year was the staff adventure race, held over 5 days, where we raced from the summit of Mt Nicholas (overlooking Lake Wakitipu) to the outlet of the Wairaurahiri (south coast). Every couple of years AATC conduct staff training that includes all instructional staff. With a number of new staff coming on board, and the fact that none of us had experienced an adventure race but were now delivering up to four a year, the choice was made easy when we reflected on the outcomes for SOAR (role-modelling, challenge, networking and leadership development). This activity helped to bring new staff into the culture of the centre, improved the working relationship of all members and improved the delivery of adventure race programs through being able to use personal experience.

AATC also conducts disciplined based staff training at least every two years. This year the rock instructors went to Arapiles, Victoria, Australia. Arapiles was the ideal venue for the up skilling of NZOIA Rock 1 instructors and keeping NZOIA Rock 2 instructors current. With Arapiles' sheer quantity of quality rock at all grades and Victoria's predictable weather (not sure if Victorians even know what rain is) there was plenty of opportunity for all to hone personal rock and instructional skills and complete numerous classics accents. Doing a couple of laps of Tip Toe ridge in running shoes and a chalk bag with Jim Masson on the last day (we were too baked to do anything else) was a great way to finish the week feeling like a 'real' rock climber again.

For those interested in working at AATC in the future, the minimum qualifications required are:

- Risk Management
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Care
- NZOIA Rock 1

Most civilian employees can deliver courses in two disciplines and hold at least one NZOIA level 2 qualification. With the focus of AATC programs being leader development, it is also expected that staff have skills, qualifications and experience in facilitating adult learners. If you want to get more information about AATC, feel free to contact me during work hours on 03 363 0231 or mark.lewis@nzdf.mil.nz

Mark Lewis

Note: see back page for more photos from AATC

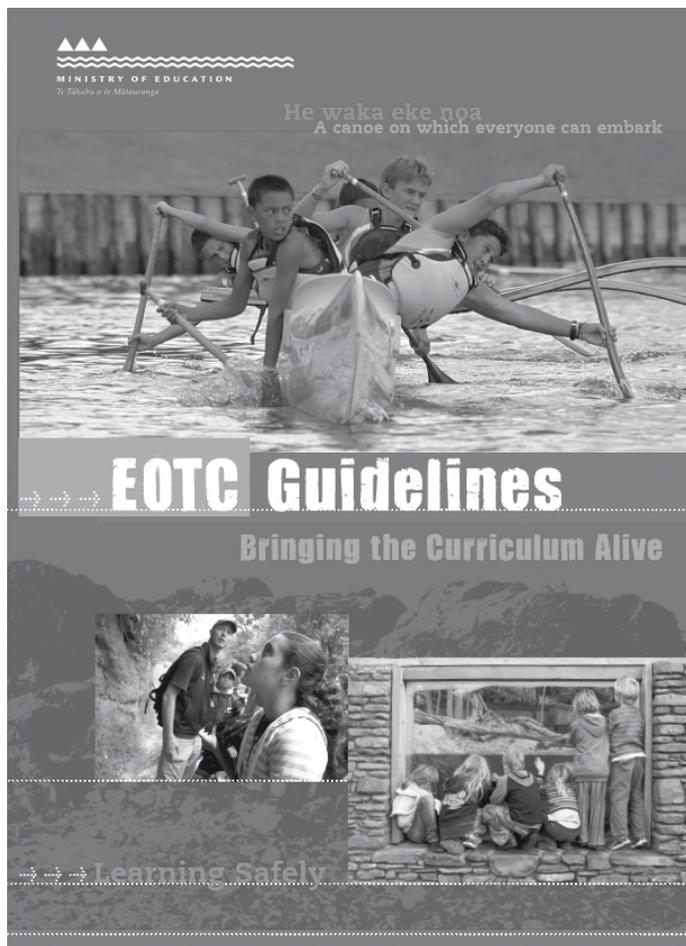
EOTC guidelines now available



The Ministry of Education has distributed the revised Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) guidelines to schools. *EOTC Guidelines: Bringing the Curriculum Alive (2009)* replaces *Safety and EOTC: A Good Practice Guide for New Zealand Schools (2002)*.

Ministry staff will be available to present information about the new EOTC guidelines to schools, clusters of schools and education sector groups. If you are interested in attending an information session, please email the Ministry at: eotc@minedu.govt.nz

The EOTC guidelines are also available electronically from the Ministry's Te Kete Ipurangi (TKI) website at: www.tki.org.nz/e/community/eotc



Quarterly Name Competition

We need a new name for the Quarterly; it's got a new look so let's find a more inspiring name that better reflects what we do...

When thinking about this do consider that NZOIA has a broader membership than in the past and this is likely to expand further. Many of our members work as leaders and guides and may identify themselves in those terms.

The name can also include a by-line. At the moment this is: 'Newsletter of the NZ Outdoor Instructors association'.

Send your suggestions by email to the NZOIA office: ao@nzoia.org.nz If applicable include the reasons for your suggested name or an explanation of what the title means / how it links to what we are all about.

\$100 Bivouac voucher if the name you suggest is chosen

Closes 31 December 2009

Outdoor Activities: Guidelines for Leaders

This resource outlines current, accepted practice for running a wide variety of outdoor activities. The guidelines aim to assist outdoor leaders to provide quality outdoor experiences for their participants.

Outdoor Activities: Guidelines for Leaders is presented in two sections.

Section A contains general guidelines that are applicable to all activities while Section B contains specific guidelines for some 42 outdoor activities.



You can order your copy of Outdoor Activities: Guidelines for Leaders by contacting Outdoors NZ.

Phone: 04 385 7287

Email: safety@outdoorsnz.org.nz

Copies cost \$35 incl. GST

Outdoors New Zealand
Mahi Ngahau ā-Waho Aotearoa
'Representing New Zealand's Great Outdoors'

NZOIA Fee Concessions

Did you know we give reduced rates for people who are full time students and also to people who hold Leader qualifications only? That means if you are a student with one or more Leader qualifications you get double the discount!

	Instructor and guide qualification/s holder	Student with instructor / guide qualification/s	Leader qualification holder	Student with Leader qualification/s
Enrolment Fee \$	100	50	50	25
Annual Revalidation Fee \$	100	50	50	25
Annual Registration Fee per qualification \$	40	40	40	40

Why is this? Well, it's all about reducing barriers to participation in the qualifications scheme:

- We offer a concession to students because of their low income level and to encourage them to be part of NZOIA and the qualifications scheme
- The reduced fee for Leader level qualifications is because many of the people who take these qualifications are likely to be at the beginning of their career and on a low income, or students. And again, we want to encourage people into the qualifications scheme at the beginning of their career and then assist and encourage them to move up to the instructor qualifications

Please encourage your students to take advantage of the fee reduction.

If you employ staff or have colleagues who work at Leader level, please encourage them to get into the qualifications scheme at these reduced rates.

Congratulations * * * * *

Congratulations to the following members who recently gained NZOIA Qualifications:

- Alpine 1** Stephen Parker, Malaika Davis, Heather Rhodes, Campbell Potter, Belinda Manning, Matthew McLeod, Allan Kane, Joshua Hudson, Mark Mandeno, Diane Chambers
- Alpine 2** Keith Riley, Rupert Gardiner, David Williams
- Bush Walking Leader** Donald Hill
- Bush 1** Philippa Russell, Allan Kane, Shaun Allison, Timothy Bartholomew, Gareth Hutton, Ivor Heijnen, Amy Devlin, Nick McCulloch, Shanan Miles, Zoe Gilmer, Kelly Smith
- Kayak Leader** Robert Paterson, Nikki Henderson, Lee Vaughan
- Kayak 1** Stephen Hodgkinson, Nathan Topp, Matthew McLeod, Mark Davis, Luke Faed, Warwick Kain, Carla Laughton, Brent Matehaere, Piripi Matthews, Mat Woodall
- Rock Climbing Leader** Luke Middleton, Sally McDonald
- Rock 1** Philippa Russell, Llewellyn Murdoch, Paul Burrows, Blake Hanna, Jessica Marriott, Sophie Ballagh, Hillary McDonald, Michael Roberston, Sophie Watson, Flynn Battaerd, Adrian Fastier, Lenna Palzer, Gavin Gunston, Derryn Cooper, Anna Boyce, Maika Hemera, Joshua Milligan, Danny Dyer, Vaughn Filmer, Jeff Sanders, Zoe Gilmer, Sophie Hoskins, Julian Malcolm
- Sea Kayak Guide** Paul Skerten, Ben Allen
- Sea Kayak 1** Matt Foy, Tom Bryant, Shay Gill, Rohan Haskill, Claire Sykes

Custom and 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: nzoia@skillsactive.org.nz **Phone:** 0508 475 4557

Executive Update

A new look for the Quarterly

As you can see we've decided to refresh the Quarterly and hope you like the new look? Anne Johnston is now working as our graphic designer with Ajah Gainfort taking over the Executive Editor role from Richard Dunn, to whom we offer our sincerest thanks for doing a sterling job over the past few years. As you'll see later in the newsletter we're hoping to come up with a new name that is a little more inspirational and that links better to what we do and stand for. There's a prize up for grabs so send in your suggestions. By now you will have received a complimentary copy of Ki Waho which NZOIA has at last been fully involved in. I'm sure Outdoors NZ will welcome your feedback, though at this stage the future of the magazine is uncertain.

Outdoor Forum and AGM

It was great to see so many members at this year's Forum and many thanks to those who stayed on or made a special effort to attend our AGM.

After a number of years service Richard Dunn has stepped down from the Executive as he and his family are heading overseas for a while. Similarly Linda Wensley has chosen to make room for someone new after a similar period of time on the Executive. In both cases their dedicated and thoughtful input has been a positive influence on our Association and made a real difference; we wish them well. New to the committee we welcome Jo Parsons and Sam Russek (both profiled in this edition), and also Andy Thompson who becomes an elected rather than co-opted member. Mark Lewis and Simon Graney together with Grant Davidson as President continue their second terms. For some time both Steve Milgate and Paul Chaplow have made themselves available as co-opted members; while Steve has generously offered to continue, Paul has stepped down to focus on his new role with Outdoors NZ.

The annual Forum just seems to get better every year and I really encourage those of you who have not attended one of these gatherings to make the effort next September. Garth Gulley really did the lion's share of the organising this year; the high turnout and success of the event are a tribute to his initiative in pulling people together and creating a stimulating programme. While all the contributors had a significant hand in ensuring the success of the event, the moving presentation by Grant Davidson reflecting on the Mangatepopo tragedy was an experience few will forget. Once again the Awards Dinner was a highlight and it was with great pleasure that we were once again able to present the Tall Totara and Emerging Instructor awards at this event.

Qualifications Review

Continuing the thanking people theme...I'd like to acknowledge the large numbers of you who took part in the online survey as part of the qualifications review. The information gained will serve to inform decisions about the future and is greatly appreciated. The process is far from over with regional forums about to take place and a further call for feedback that will be emailed out to catch those unable to get to a forum. Please keep up your involvement; it makes a difference.

Training and Assessment

Nothing is as constant as change they say, and so it is with our training and assessment coordination. Jess who's been fulfilling this role since July is moving onwards and upwards and we welcome Ben Dorrington who's taken over the position at Skills Active. This is a rapidly expanding role and the new position Ben has accepted reflects this. In a similar vein we are pleased to announce that Garth Gully has joined our staff on a part-time basis and will be working on a number of specific projects; this again is a response to our expanding workload.

I wish you all the best for the festive season in the knowledge that for half of the membership it's wind down time and a chance to look forward to personal adventures, while for the other half it's wind up and brace yourself for the busy tourist season. In either case I hope the summer is a productive, enjoyable and safe one. Merry Christmas,



Matt Cant
Chief Executive

Addendum to 'Backing-up The Belayer'

In the last issue of the Quarterly (Issue 49) a technical article on backup belaying was published. The author of the article was Mark Jones, Lecturer at AUT and NZOIA Rock and Bush assessor. We apologise for omitting to include his name and thank Mark for his article.

The technique described in Mark's article of using a prusik above the belay device as a back-up is one of a number of techniques that an instructor can choose to employ dependant on the circumstances. This technique would be entirely acceptable if used in appropriate circumstances on a Rock 1 assessment. Please refer to the original article for further details and the author's suggestions and cautions about when this technique may be useful.



Te Ngahere

Jo Straker - CPIT

In the last edition of the Quarterly, we introduced Te Ngahere as a regular feature. The focus is to include information and stories about bush, cave, rock, and mountain environments. While Te Ngahere can be translated as the bush or forest, contributions about lakes, river, and sea environments would be equally welcome. The over-riding purpose is to raise awareness and knowledge about the sites we use for our instruction.

“ Back in 1978 when I first started working at the Outdoor Pursuits Centre, the New Zealand Educational Institute put out a *Year Book of Outdoor Education*, and in a recent bout of tidying up I came across it and started reading some of the articles. Many stressed that activities included not only tramping, climbing, and abseiling, but also nature studies, conservation, social studies, art and craft. There were also articles discussing urban outdoor activities, health, creativity, thinking, and building a connection with the natural environment. Interestingly, it stated that the future of outdoor education lay in developing strategies for personal development. Since then, the language of personal and social development has tended to dominate many outdoor education practices. **Concepts such as self-confidence, self-esteem, self-efficacy, trust, and decision-making became the rationale for outdoor education with challenge and adventure becoming the medium.**

With this shift to adventure, some environmental educators began to doubt the capability of outdoor education to address environmental issues. Consequently, environmental education was developed as a separate strand. Environmental education traditionally focused on scientific and ecological studies of the environment, as well as conservation issues, but in the last two decades, there has been a tendency to integrate social, political, and economic concerns. This resulted in a shift from teaching the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to protect the environment towards encouraging a critical action approach, which challenges normative assumptions of how to live on the earth. **In Australia and Britain there has been a cohort of writing which stresses the need for outdoor education to (re)-forge stronger connections with environmental education and especially education for sustainability (EfS).** At Christchurch Polytechnic, the outdoor-based degree programme (BRecEd) has also been taking initiatives to integrate EfS with a more traditional outdoor education focus. However, some policy makers and industry leaders suggest that environmental education and EfS, is subversive and has no place in schools. The Bush administration, cut funding for environmental education because of its political agenda, and the National government recently announced cuts to environmental education (EE), education for sustainability (EfS) and 'Enviroschools' in the 2009 budget.

This has supported the rise of another related term 'place-based education', which "potentially appeals to a broader range of participants in communities and schools. Whether people identify with or are alienated by 'environmentalism', they can still appreciate and care about the places where they live" (Gruenewald, 2005, p. 263).

Te Ngahere hopes to promote a wider agenda for outdoor education especially one, which addresses care and appreciation of the places we work as outdoor educators. **The more we know about the area the stronger connection we have, and more we can encourage others to build connections.**

Every year, I run a course, which travels slowly through the Harper Pass area, we travel up the Taramakau and down the Hurunui. This year Skertz, one of the students, introduced me to Wayne Barrar's photographs. Barrar's photographs display some of the complexities and ironies inherent in the relationship between people and the environment. There are usually no people in his photos, yet human influence is present. For example, he has photographs of dam construction on the Motu and Moawhango rivers, walkways in Fiordland, or the ordered rows of a pine tree plantation. Humans have influenced most of our natural scenery in some way, and Barrar dramatically demonstrates that. Skertz encouraged us to take photos with an underlying story that linked the human interaction with the natural environment. **Walking over Harper Pass, looking for and thinking about that human connection, opened up another way of seeing the land. Instead of searching for the picturesque, I became more aware of how culture has influenced what I see.** Cowpats and gorse in the Taramakau was not just something to grumble about, but a potential photo and teaching opportunity.

Originally Maori crossed Harper Pass to trade in pounamu and then in the 1860s, diggers and stock drovers heading for the West Coast goldfields travelled through it. The Taramakau, which flows for 80 kilometres from Harper pass out to the Tasman Sea, was dredged for gold and under the mining act of 1886 was designated a "sludge channel". As a 'sludge channel' tailings, mining debris, and waste-water could be discharged into it. That an Act of parliament can rename a river making it a sludge channel is fascinating. Imagine paddling down the Buller sludge channel, or rafting the Tongariro sludge channel.

Fortunately that piece of legislation has now been overridden, and punga, fuschia, lemonwood, and manuka are reclaiming many of the tailing terraces; further demonstrating the complexity of culture and nature interactions.

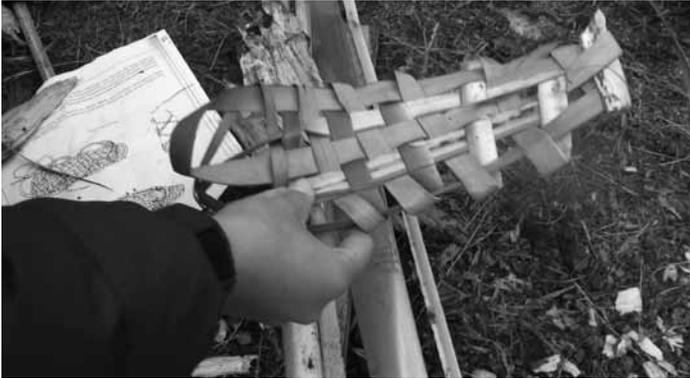


Photo by Paul Skertz

In 1955, John Pascoe wrote that Harper Pass, 3,152 feet is as important to pakeha mountain history as Browning's Pass is to Maori legend. For it was over the Harper Pass that Europeans, Harper and Locke, first crossed the Main Divide in 1857 with the help of Ihaia and two other Maori guides. They towed their swags in an old canoe along the side of Lake Sumner, and left horses near the head of the Hurunui. In the middle of November, they crossed the pass to Westland, where thick bush and flooded rivers made the going slow. **After twelve days, they reached the coast, floating on a flax raft for the last stage. Along the way, they had to replace their footwear with flax sandals. Last May, Hunter carried a bundle of flax into Lake Kaurapataka, so we could make our own sandals. Fortunately, we didn't have to use them, but it brought the story alive.**

On an earlier trip, I remember squashing into the classic cedar and totara hut at Locke Stream where Evan read out the diary entries of Caroline Chevalier's crossing in 1866. At that time, Christchurch had been settled for about 16 years and only had about 6,500 people living there. Caroline was advised not to go on the trip as it would be 'too arduous for a woman' but she did, and became the first woman to ride over the Southern Alps. Her husband's legacy was a series of paintings.

"... the path was just for one man or beast and either side was overgrown with close undergrowth - it was hard work for the poor horses for it was not only steep but there was little foothold, all rolling stones - little by little we rose curved in and out often unseen to one another. The rapid torrent was on my left side deep down on my right rose the wall of boulders."

"The soil seemed to cling and after an hour of boulders we came into patches of trees wild wild scrubby bushes with soil at the roots which was simply liquified mud."

Caroline Chevalier

It was a moving account of the difficulties of travelling with easels and horses over the Pass. At the end, Evan encouraged us all to write a short piece in our own journals in the style of a 19thC diarist – the journal entries that night were some of the most powerful ones written on the trip. Moreover, as we crossed over the pass the next day we imagined what it must have been like back then, and tried to identify where the horse bolted, and where the 'shoot' was.

Names are not enough; we need to delve into the history, culture, names, geology, and ecology of the area. It helps to find out something of interest and build a story around it and in that way others become engaged too. As outdoor professionals, we should try to take more time to introduce our students and clients to the places we go, so they can build up a better understanding and appreciation of where they are. ”

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<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/european-exploration/6/3>



Crossing Harper Pass

Until 1866, when Nicholas Chevalier drew this sketch, Harper Pass was the main route from Canterbury to the West Coast. In that year, a road over Arthur's Pass was finished and Harper Pass was used only by keen trampers. Arthur's Pass was more direct, while Harper Pass had some steep sections, shown in this sketch of the artist and his wife coming down from the pass. The drawing is titled 'The shoot after passing the Hurunui Saddle', an alternative name for the pass. The Hurunui River was the route to the pass from the Canterbury side.

Jo Straker - CPIT Lecturer & NZOIA Assessor

Qualifications Review

Stu Allan

The NZOIA / Skills Active qualifications review project primarily aims to check whether the qualifications are fit for purpose. It involves sample interviews, a survey, regional forums, and recommendations that may result in changes to the syllabuses and then lead on to these qualifications being placed on the National Qualifications Framework.

Statement	% Yes	% Neutral	% No
Qualifications are at the right level	68	15	17
Kayak qualification levels are too high	43	16	41
Alpine 1: add instruct rope & crampons	56	18	26
Rock 1: add instruct leading on bolts	59	15	26
Level 2s should be able to supervise trainees	83	8	8
Set up endorsements	62	13	25
Credit shared skills in assessments	64	12	24
Offer an internal assessment option	55	17	28
Retain some external assessment	73	13	13

The review has completed its second stage – a wide-ranging survey. 292 people completed the survey (about a 30% response rate); many thanks for your input. Here are some selected summaries.

Fit for purpose

There is a strong sense that, overall, the qualifications are at the right level, given the introduction of the new entry-level qualifications (Leader qualifications). Naturally, the picture is more complex when we look at the detail.

“The dynamic nature of moving water”

In general, there are mixed views on whether kayak qualifications are too high. However, there’s general acceptance that kayak qualifications are harder to get because “The dynamic nature of moving water requires highly skilled instructors”.

Kayak 2 holders believe (2 to 1) that the levels are right. On the other hand, employers’ believe (3 to 1) that Kayak 1 and 2 are at a higher standard than the job market requires.

I don’t believe that these results support major change, but they do indicate a need for ongoing discussion, especially with employers.

“Alpine 1 is about basic travel”

There’s some support to make a small change to Alpine 1, but we need to proceed carefully. The comments

indicate that we should include instructing clients in the use of crampons (as distinct from simply demonstrating cramponing), but not include instructing clients in rope skills. However, there are strong comments for and against change and, given the risk when clients fall when wearing crampons, serious safety issues are involved.

Some people think that Alpine 1 in its current form should be recast as a Leader qualification. This could be part of the mix in another project where NZOIA and NZMGA have begun discussions on a common pathway for mountain guide and instructor qualifications.

In this survey, we did consider a pathway from Bush 1 through to Alpine 2 with confusing results, eg those people with Bush 2 supported it but those with Alpine 2 didn’t. Again, there seems to be a need for more discussion.

“We don’t all work on the Port Hills”

Obviously, by placing bolt anchors, Christchurch climbers have a lot to answer for, removing all the fun of playing with toys at the top of crags. Seriously, there’s little doubt around what people want in Rock 1, that is, retain placed-anchor skills but add in instructing leading on bolts (to reflect common practice, eg one comment was “Every Rock 1 is teaching out of scope after day 1 or 2”).

The need to retain placed-anchor skills in the qualification reinforces the fact that we’re offering national qualifications that won’t always fit everyone’s particular needs perfectly.

Level 2 instructors should mentor and monitor

It’s accepted that supervising trainee instructors is a key role of Level 2 qualification holders. There’s also support for the Level 2s to train instructors and direct programmes.

There are mixed views on calling Levels 2s Senior Instructors, although the Level 2s liked the term. One suggestion was that we call them Sir or Madam.

Add-ons will only serve to confuse industry

There’s support for endorsements to qualifications but some concern that it would make the system too complex and too expensive. If NZOIA takes this path, it could

affect each core syllabus, eg the issue of whether Rock 1 includes instructing leading on bolts or whether leading on bolts is offered as an endorsement.

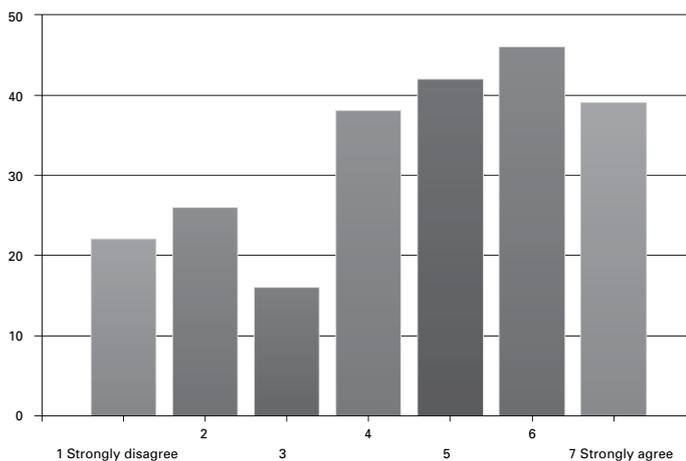
Why double assess your own qualifications?

Although there's support for crediting shared skills when assessing, there's considerable concern around how this might work, eg "Ideally yes but sounds like a nightmare to do". Various people noted that assessors already make assumptions around candidates' skills due to time pressure.

There's an inherent lack of trust

There's support for internal assessment providing that an external component remains. Because this could be the most significant shift in the qualification system, I'll include the full quantitative response.

We should offer the option of internal assessment for all or some of the syllabus for instructor qualifications



The employers were even more strongly in support (5 to 1) and the Level 2s were more cautious (37 to 30 in support). The comments were often cautionary, reflecting the support for the statement that followed in the survey – that a one or two-day external assessment should remain even if an internal assessment option is taken, eg "As long as it's moderated well".

Conclusion

There's a lot of information in this survey and what I've covered is selective only.

It seems that an internal assessment option is acceptable if we ensure there are safeguards to minimise inconsistency. That will be the focus for changing a system that's working reasonably well.

There are many other issues for ongoing discussion, some of which are mentioned above. In addition there are issues such as new qualifications (there's little current support except for a Multisport Kayak qualification) and whether there are instructor knowledge and skill deficits. On the latter issue, there is a clear view that instructors are adequately skilled, something I will explore in a future newsletter.

The next stage in this review is the December regional forums for people from all parts of the sector, irrespective of their connection to NZOIA or Skills Active. After these forums, there will be further opportunity to have input into those matters which the survey hasn't given clear direction; you can expect to be emailed about this.

Finally, the NZOIA Executive and Skills Active will weigh up the results of the consultation process, balancing these with other factors, and begin the process of any change that's considered appropriate.

Stu Allan – Active Voice

NZOIA Research Awards – Applications Invited

NZOIA wishes to promote research that relates to the delivery of outdoor programmes and that adds to our knowledge and understanding of this. We believe there is a need to further develop research capacity in the outdoor sector and want to constructively encourage such endeavours, particularly among tertiary students and those embarking on research for the first time. To support this we have accumulated a small pool of research money and now offer up to four NZOIA Research Awards per annum. The Awards are designed to support small scale research projects and will most likely be up to \$1000, however larger scale projects will also be considered.

How to apply for the Awards?

Complete the proposal of interest form and send to NZOIA. This can be downloaded from our website. Website index item:-

Resources / Document Library / Document Category / General Information / NZOIA Research Awards Application

If you wish to discuss your ideas or for further information please contact: Matt Cant: ce@nzoia.org.nz

Aspects of Leadership Ray Hollingsworth

Stewardship, the next evolutionary step in outdoor leadership

I suspect that those of us who work in the outdoors in some educational capacity, are on the verge of another paradigm shift or way-of-looking-at-the-world. Our awareness of mankind's impact on the natural world has been heightened by the efforts of people like Al Gore and Tim Flannery. Through them, we can see that we are vulnerable to the changes wrought on natural systems by the rise of the techno-industrial-global economy. Changes like extreme weather events becoming more frequent; disease vectors becoming more widespread as soil, air and water temperatures slowly rise; landscapes transformed by drought, deforestation, forest fire, and the expansion of the human population; salination of soil and diminishing aquifers attributed to industrial agricultural practices; the cost and cause of a rising sea level.

Both Flannery (2005) and Gore (2006) highlight the origins, cost and cause of political policies that promoted a mindset that saw nature as an obstacle to be overcome and a way of living in the developed world that was – and is – resource greedy. Outdoor enthusiasts as diverse as Edward Abbey (1973), Marc Reisner (1986), Junko Tabei (2000), and Graeme Dingle (2005), have written eloquently about the impact of 'progress' on place. Having this heightened awareness, knowing that something truly big is going on in the outdoor world, surely we must ask ourselves: **What is the responsibility of the outdoor educator who knows that the planet is in trouble?**

There is some reference to past paradigm shifts in the works of Cronon, Temple, and Bunting. Cronon (1995) suggested that the American wilderness was a man-made concept whose relationship to people had evolved from being a thing feared, to a medium that enabled a closer contact with God, to being an elitist playground for the rich, and then to being a source of recovery for those suffering the ills of modern society. Temple (1998) traced a similar change in paradigm through New Zealand literature, in the relationship that New Zealanders had with the bush. From the clash of world views between Maori and Pakeha, (where one saw the bush as the

source of mana, food, kaupapa, whakapapa, and the other saw it as waste unless used), through to a nation searching for its identity, and finally, to a perspective that recognized what had been lost and strived to retain what had been left.

In NZ outdoor education terms, these paradigm changes progress from the early days of exploring and experimenting with what was possible, to a semi cowboy/semi professional attitude, to a more systematic and professional approach. The history of The Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre of NZ (Moody, 1998) illustrates these paradigm shifts. I suspect the next evolutionary step for those of us working in the outdoors as guides, educators, and instructors, the next paradigm shift, is to more actively look after the outdoors, to more fully become stewards. To not just endeavour to role model and educate and to promote the oxymoronic 'safe adventure', but to lobby and agitate as a cohesive group.

Bunting (1990) suggested that although outdoor adventurers were dependent upon the natural environment to provide appropriate settings for their experiences, **the importance of being good stewards of the environment was a factor that was often overlooked or ignored.**

"[These methods] of adventure education may not be an option for future generations due to the deterioration of our adventure environments."
(Bunting, 1990).

Nearly two decades later, Bunting's words still have value. Working in the outdoors, however outdoors is defined, requires a conscious effort to understand what is there, why things are as they are and what is needed to protect what exists. Stewardship – being a guardian or custodian or kaitiaki – embraces all of these things. It acknowledges history, ecology, geomorphology and politics, but implies one more important facet: deliberate action. In other words, outdoor practitioners need to consciously and deliberately look after their interactions with the outdoors and with other outdoor users, so as to provide for their future.

"Learning to honour the wild – learning to remember and acknowledge the autonomy of the other – means striving for a critical self-consciousness in all our actions. It means that deep reflection and respect must accompany each act of use, and means too that we must always consider the possibility of non-use. It means looking at the part of nature we intend to turn toward our own ends and



asking whether we can use it again and again and again – sustainably – without its being diminished in the process” (Cronon, 1995).

Cronon’s “the autonomy of the other’ no longer exists in NZ, as most wild places rely on intervention in some form - eg pest management or regulation of visitor numbers - to survive. Is it possible that the autonomy of outdoor users, the ability to play and teach and earn a living in a wide variety of settings, also no longer exists? That little by little, the freedom to recreate, educate and have adventures in the outdoors has been eroded by access issues, procedural governance, legislative restrictions, and fear? A recent article in North & South magazine (Philp, 2008) suggests this to be happening. And if this is so, then surely what remains to us is worth cherishing and guarding? What

freedoms we have are worth fighting for, because what we have as outdoor educators, is the position and power to influence others, for the greater good of society. There has never been a more important time to use our influence.

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Ray Hollingsworth, AUT University lecturer in various outdoor subjects, admits to being a reluctant activist, compelled often to put off doing today what can be done tomorrow. However, garnered by the impending climate crisis and meltdown of the global economy, he walks and promotes sustainable living, whenever he can.

Ray Hollingsworth - AUT Lecturer & NZOIA Member

Revalidation reminder * * * * *

Who needs to come in for revalidation next 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.

NZOIA EXEC PROFILES:

“ My name is Sam Russek. I hail from up Northland ways and moved to Otago to study Physical Education. I ended up being mind washed by the many outdoors types that lecture and teach at University of Otago (thankfully!). I managed to escape Dunedin with a climbing rack and an ice axe. I then travelled around climbing, adventuring, and working the retail game (to get cheap gear of course) and to put myself through teachers' college in Christchurch. I had a strong urge to travel but managed to get an amazing job at Abel Tasman College, aka Motueka High School, teaching Outdoor Ed and PE. While there, the staff helped me develop my outdoor skills and knowledge further into instructing. A few years later the gypsy genes again came out so I put teaching on hold for a life of contracting and sea kayaking in the Abel Tasman. During those two years I did a lot of work for NMIT and Tai Poutini, gaining from great experiences working with top instructors and awesome students. Currently I am back at school helping develop an OED program at Marlborough Girls' College.

What I bring to the NZOIA Executive is to be a representative of the peoples voices, what



the teachers/instructors and guides want from NZOIA, also a passion for developing NZOIA and making NZ the leader in Outdoor Education. ”

Sam Russek



Instructors

Combine your passion for people, learning and the outdoors into one unique job.



Outward Bound New Zealand is looking for some exceptional candidates to join our instructing team in 2010.

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- Are passionate about working with and developing people
- Have experience, qualifications and skills in a range of outdoor activities
- Are committed to their ongoing professional development

Outward Bound offers a very competitive employment package including: salary and employment conditions, accommodation, challenging and rewarding work, excellent staff training and development opportunities.

All positions are based at Anakiwa, in the beautiful Marlborough Sounds.

Applications for our next 5 day staff selection course close 15 January 2010.

Information and application forms can be found on our website, www.outwardbound.co.nz or from David Mangnall, Training Manager, Outward Bound New Zealand. Private bag 403, Picton 7372. Ph: 03 520 8290 Email: dmangnall@outwardbound.co.nz



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- understand the place of cultural practice and beliefs

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\$620 Motel (twin share, own bedroom)

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“ Hi there – a quick intro to me. Grew up in Westport, studied Ecology at Otago. Freelance instructed around South Island (NZ Kayak School, secondary schools, Polytechs, DoC etc) before a 3yr stint at Outward Bound. Moved to Hokitika 3 years ago, where partner Keith Riley and I are doggedly converting 10 acres of gorse into a livable space.

I currently work in the Outdoor Recreation Department at Tai Poutini Polytechnic in Greymouth. I'm in the field about half of the time, teaching mostly kayak and a bit of rock, seakayak and bush. Lots of office time is spent organising programmes, pastoral care and all that good stuff. We have a fantastic, small instructing team of Dave Ritchie, Keith Riley, myself and Paula Roberts. We hire in a lot of 'talent', so I get fantastic opportunities to work alongside a huge variety of outdoor professionals.

I believe in and value NZOIA, and would like to contribute to it remaining credible and valued by the industry. I am excited about the recent moves forward with revalidation and recently had the privilege of attending a 'refresher' – we (the participants) decided this refresher was much more of a 'revalidation workshop' than a reassessment and it was a fantastic opportunity to network, share ideas, upskill, pick up tidbits from others working in the industry and discuss 'current best practice'. I think these will quickly become a valued part of people's qualifications.

I hold Kayak 2, Bush 2 and Rock 1. I'm a baby raft guide – I squeezed in a guiding course just before I started full time at TPP. I've been dabbling in this since – it's great to be on the sharp end of the learning stick and have another way to see and run the rivers.

I've just had a year's LWOP approved, so next year will probably bring a little California, BC and Alaska time - boating, climbing and general adventuring (professional development



of course). Right now I'm recovering from a very burnt forehead from a recent ski-touring trip and getting excited about an upcoming 3 week stint being a 'Safety Field Guide' ("please ma'am, step away from the penguin") in Antarctica. I try to sneak in a little horse riding, biking and gardening when I can.

Back to the point...I'm super keen to be a part of NZOIA working for YOU – so please feel free to call or email if you've got thoughts!

Cheers, Jo ”

Jo Parsons

Advertise with us...

Advertisement	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, PO Box 11-090, Manners St, Wellington 6142
email: ao@nzoi.org.nz

2009–2010 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.nzoia.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	\$75	\$150
2 day courses	\$150	\$250

All other courses including bush, alpine, rock and cave

Course Duration	NZOIA members	Non - members
1 day courses	\$150	\$250
2 day courses	\$300	\$400

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.

Important notice: Ideally there should be a period of several months between training and assessment. This allows you time to work on any gaps that have been highlighted by the training course. It is NZOIA policy that you cannot be trained and assessed by the same person within a one month period; because of this booking training and assessment within a one month period is not recommended and may lead to disappointment.

Please plan ahead to allow for this as NZOIA is unable to confirm who will be a trainer or assessor until after the application closing date.

Applying for a training course

Applications for enrolment can be made online or by contacting the Training and Assessment Coordinator. Applications need to be received at least 6 weeks before the actual course date, however applications will be accepted beyond the closing date until the course maximum is reached. Places on training courses are allocated on a 'first in (with completed application form, summary sheets 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.

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:** nzoia@skillsactive.org.nz **Phone:** 0508 475 4557

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

2009 Annual Reports

President's Report 2009

The outdoor landscape has changed over the past 18 months and will continue to do so. A major driver for this change is the unfortunate series of fatal and near miss incidents in the outdoor education, outdoor recreation and adventure tourism sectors. Rightly so, a lot of public scrutiny has been directed towards us. The latest news is the Prime Minister's directive to the Minister of Labour to conduct a review of safety in the adventure tourism sector. Such a review will, by necessity, send ripples through all aspects of outdoor operations. It is how we respond to that scrutiny that will be the measure of the strength and resilience of both our 'industry' as a whole and NZOIA specifically.

With the incidents that have occurred and the call for increased accountability and standards, I believe NZOIA has a clear and more important role to play in the year(s) ahead. The importance of skilled, experienced and qualified staff that are seen to be equipped with contemporary skills and knowledge will become more important. Clear training pathways and an unambiguous progression of qualifications is vital. Reflecting on this, I hope all members will see that the moves the executive have taken to build partnerships, remove ambiguities, review qualification structures and levels and introduce a revalidation scheme for qualifications are timely.

I am pleased to say that there have been significant developments in all of these areas over the past year which further enhances the reputation of NZOIA, its qualifications and its members. I would like to mention a few key successes:

NZOIA and Skills Active

Our strategic partnership with Skills Active has continued to develop and strengthen. We are striving to develop a single training and assessment pathway for outdoor instructors that leads to Registration (recognition of currency). The focus of most activity has been the development of Leader level qualifications in rock, bush, kayak and mountainbike. We are also exploring opportunities for greater collaboration in the coordination of training and assessment events by drawing together the strengths of NZOIA's current system with Skills Active's coverage through regional offices and field staff. Special mention must be given to Paul Richards of Skills Active who has helped guide this process to success within an organisation that is, by nature, bureaucratic and process driven. His efforts have been integral to the success to date.

NZ Outdoor Registration Board

All renewing members are now receiving the new Registration cards as we progress through the transition into the revalidation and registration process; and further changes to our membership structure will be required over the coming year to see this transition through to completion. The task of establishing requirements for revalidation proved a complex and difficult challenge as we tried to balance practicality and equity with credibility. Undoubtedly the system will need to be refined as we learn from experience and feedback over the next few years; this is new territory for us.

The Executive Committee

Membership of the Executive is a time consuming and at times challenging task. Satisfaction is derived from seeing initiatives reach fruition and from tangible evidence that governance decisions are having a positive impact on the Association. The current committee and those that immediately preceded it can take heart from our membership growth as an indicator that hard work and tough decisions are paying off.

Maritime New Zealand

For the first time I can remember, I have seen a Government mandated regulatory agency really engage with industry, actively listen to messages, and then act in such a way that it takes and acknowledges industry work and builds on it. MNZ have recently announced that rather than creating new qualifications and standards, it will use those qualifications developed by NZOIA and Skills Active as the benchmark for commercial operators. This is a great step forward for NZOIA and I would like to thank John Marshall and Colin Sonneveld for their considered thought and initiative in partnering with us.

Water Safety NZ

WSNZ have been a strong advocate and supporter of our work in the aquatic field. Despite having financial challenges of their own they have strived to continue to support initiatives we put in front of them. Their vision for a collective of strong, independent organizations, working together to achieve water safety outcomes is a compelling model.

Mountain Safety Council

For many years there has been an unfortunate tension between NZOIA and MSC, where the two organisations share a common purpose and should be walking together in the outdoor safety landscape. The worst manifestation of this could possibly be viewed by competing qualification schemes for the same environments that led



to mistrust and even animosity between the two groups. I have been enormously cheered by the approach of Ross Meder, Darryl Carpenter and the MSC Exec in working with us to finally remove these barriers and work towards a single qualification pathway for all. I believe we are poised on the brink of significant developments in this area in the year ahead.

Photo courtesy of Kaipoi High School



Executive

All of this progress does not happen by itself. It is the result of people working hard with a belief in what we do and its value for our members and the public of New Zealand.

We are very fortunate to have Matt Cant driving our little ship forward as Chief Executive. Matt has an unbending belief in the value of training, qualifications and the strength of industry defining its own fate through collective input through an organisation such as NZOIA. If we had someone in that role simply treating it as a job, we would not have achieved nearly as much progress. Squeaky wheels do make a difference in this world!

My thanks to our elected members Linda Wensley, Mark Lewis, Simon Graney and Richard Dunn; and to those who volunteered for co-option, Paul Chaplow, Ajah Gainfort, Andy Thompson and Steve Milgate. In particular thanks to Linda and Richard who are stepping down this year after both serving since 2005.

Thanks also to AATC who have provided support for Mark in his role as committee member and Convener of the TSC; and to Andy Thompson for stepping up and taking over the challenging TSC role.

Finally I would like to thank all of you – people willing to continue to pay your membership to a professional organisation of peers in times of financial stress. Without you we do not have a reason to be in existence.

These are exciting times. Keep reading your emails and the NZOIA Quarterly. If you want more involvement we welcome it. All members of the Executive are able to be contacted for questions of clarification on any point and we welcome the interaction with our members.

Grant Davidson – President

Chief Executive's Report 2009

2009 has seen a continuation of the growth in membership and assessment activity that has been a positive and encouraging feature of the past few years. Alongside this growth has been considerable development work in terms of what we provide to members and employers, most significantly the development of Leader level qualifications and introduction of the qualifications revalidation process. Continuing our strong commitment to work collaboratively with other organisations within our sector considerable effort has been expended in consolidating our relationship with Skills Active, and in working towards a more unified future with NZ Mountain Safety Council.

Membership and Awards Data

Over this year the Association has continued to grow with membership peaking at 661, a 10% increase. 179 candidates have presented for assessment events representing 12% growth in this area. In particular there has been a marked increase in kayak and sea kayak assessment activity compared to last year, with over 100% increase. While some of this may reflect cyclic demand for courses, there have also been significant assessment methodology changes that have increased our flexibility and thus the accessibility of Sea Kayak Guide assessments; consequently seven Sea Kayak Guide assessment events took place compared to two last year. Overall 35 assessment events took place compared to 30 last year.

Changes to Assessment Methodology

To date the most significant change in assessment methodology has been the shift to running single assessor assessments on occasions when candidate numbers are low; this continues to contribute to increasing numbers of assessments taking place. Significant progress has also been made towards improving how we cross-credit new migrant instructors who hold overseas qualifications. A distance learning and assessment package has been designed to assist new migrants to assimilate into the NZ working environment – the Migrant Instructor Learning Course (MILC). In addition, a matrix of common overseas NZ qualifications is under development to clarify what can be cross credited, where the syllabus gaps are, and what must be done in terms of assessment to complete the cross-credit process.

Other aspects of assessment methodology are similarly being considered in order to improve accessibility to the qualifications scheme. These include the concept of accredited Assessment Centres, workplace assessments, independent assessors, and transferability from Level 5 National Certificates to NZOIA qualifications.

Leader Level Qualifications

NZOIA now has four Leader level qualifications developed in partnership with Skills Active. Emanating from clear direction provided through the Outdoors NZ facilitated qualifications alignment process, and following extensive sector consultation, we will soon have two clear but different pathways to an identical qualification; a major step forward in creating a more rational and unified future. Leader qualifications in Bush Walking, Abseil, Rock Climbing and Kayaking are now finalised and on the assessment calendar. Sea Kayak will follow soon and Mountain Biking will shortly be available through Skills Active.

Review of Awards

As most members are aware a large scale qualifications review is currently underway. This review will impact both on syllabi content, standards and how we assess. Stu Allan has been employed to run the consultation aspect of this process and thus provide a degree of independence that will hopefully result in more robust outcomes. All aspects of these reviews aim to recognise and adapt to our changing environment; meet the modern needs of members, employers, clubs and volunteers; and reduce barriers to participation in the qualifications scheme without diluting the credibility and standards we have established.

Finance and Funding

Overall our financial position is good with final accounts showing a surplus. 2009 has been challenging in terms of our accessibility to external funding sources with a small decline overall. In the current recessionary climate this situation is likely to continue. We thank SPARC for their base funding and Water Safety NZ and NZ Community Trust for their continued support over the past year.

Training

This has been a disappointing year in terms of uptake of training opportunities. The introduction of a full training calendar in 2007 was a direct response to the 76% of respondents who in the 2006 member survey specifically supported NZOIA running a training calendar; and the 35% who indicated that a lack of training availability was the most important factor preventing them from moving up to a higher qualification.

Revalidation and Registration

Establishing a fair and workable qualifications revalidation process has been the greatest challenge facing NZOIA over the past few years. Central to it has been the concept of attendance at practical workshops that are focused on updating and refreshing skills. It is our aim that these courses will form a stimulating and informative affirmation of competence as a pathway to the registration scheme; and that this will provide greater assurance to the public and employers that NZOIA members are maintaining professional standards and credibility.



Photo courtesy of TSB TOPEC

Staff

Steve Scott our Administration Officer continues to work diligently and efficiently in the day to day running of the Association. With increasing membership and course activity Steve has faced considerable challenges and increasing hours of work, Thank you Steve. The role of Training and Assessment Coordination has recently shifted from Janette Kear to being managed by Skills Active. My sincerest thanks to Janette for the enormous effort she put into the job at a time of considerable growth in activity.

Also over this year a number of members have undertaken contract work for NZOIA or assisted us and Skills Active with development of the new Leader qualifications: Mike Atkinson, Jill Dalton, Lindsay Simpkin, Don Patterson, Steve Garside, Ian Logie, Matt Bennett, Chris Prudden, Garth Gulley, Wayne Putt, Chris Tews, Fiona McDonald, Brett Leong and Graeme Swift are all acknowledged for the interest, commitment and professionalism they have brought to their respective tasks.

Core business of the Association is our assessment and training courses, the successful delivery of which falls upon members of the assessor pool and a number of other Level 2 instructors. Our thanks to all those who have trained and assessed on our behalf and who continue to make the scheme the success that it is.

Liaison

NZOIA maintains representation at Board or Council level with Water Safety NZ and NZ Mountain Safety Council. Steve Milgate is our delegate to the MSC and has for the past two years been a member of their Executive and greatly assisted the process of bringing our two organisations closer together. Steve also sits on their Alpine Committee, and on the Bush Committee Mark Jones represents us. I am our delegate to Water Safety NZ and have represented us at their Non-Powered Craft, Water Safety Education and River Safety Education Forums.

Matthew Cant – Chief Executive

2009–2010 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	Sea Kayak 1 upgrade	\$250
Bush Walking Leader	Abseil Leader	\$470
Kayak Leader	Rock Climbing Leader	
Cave 1	Rock 1	
Canoe 1		
Bush 1 + Bush 2	Rock 2	\$630
Alpine 1	SKOANZ Sea Kayak Guide	
Cave 2	Sea Kayak 2	
Alpine 2		\$800

BOOKING FOR AN NZOIA ASSESSMENT

1. Complete the prerequisites as detailed in the syllabus - they are 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 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: nzoia@skillsactive.org.nz Phone: 0508 475 4557

http://www.nzoi.org.nz/qualifications/assessment_calendar.asp

Contributions to the NZOIA Quarterly

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

Please forward all items to: Administration Officer, PO Box 11-090, Manners St, Wellington 6142

Or email: ao@nzoia.org.nz

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



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the boxes and made it into our product line-up!



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