NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Well here we are bowling straight into another year, hopefully you have managed to grab a bit of time for yourself somewhere in the Christmas break.

If we step back into 2010 briefly, your exec met in Christchurch on December 3rd, a few portfolios were shuffled around, the year summarized and pretty much wrapped up. We also had a meeting with Skills Active to finalise the changes to the guide awards and discuss the future of the raft guide award. Then we all headed our separate ways looking forward to the new year ahead.

A quick summary of the river rescue workshops. I was fortunate enough to be at both the North and South Island workshops and well what can I say, they are going from strength to strength. We had a fantastic turnout with good numbers at both workshops the South Island workshop had 59 people attend which is our biggest yet. It was also our first workshop with good numbers of river boarders along. For those who attended the workshops then you will have seen these folks in action personally, those boarders zipping around the river makes my swimming look like bloody hard work. PaulE and Koryn are going through all the feedback and looking to refine and implement any changes to keep these evolving workshops on the pulse for the dynamic environments we work in.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2011 workshops

NORTH ISLAND - RANGITAIKI – 7th – 11th November
SOUTH ISLAND - MURCHISON – 14th – 18th November

Any changes to the proposed dates will be advertised on the website.

We had a couple of early Christmas presents. The first and most important was the results of the Court of Appeal from River Valley against the three charges under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. Congratulations to Brian, Koryn and the River Valley crew for continuing with the fight and having the three charges revoked in the High Court. The impact here is not only huge for River Valley but the whole industry. For anyone who is interested here is a link to read more http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=469187326497.

The second great present was news that MNZ have financially supported the NZRA workshops for 2010, this is fantastic for the NZRA and all its members. What this means is keeping costs down for all members. MNZ have supported the workshops in the past but in later years we have relied on sponsorship from WSNZ but due to funding cuts we missed out in 2010 so it is great to have that support from MNZ once again. It highlights the relationship that NZRA has with MNZ and is looking to build further with cementing a working relationship in the auditing and investigation processes.

They have also provided some funding towards to updating and reprinting of the logbook. It is hoping to bring this into line with appropriate elements from the river boarding sector and include the new rule 81. This will be a winter project but will not be finalized until the new NZRA format is decided.

With the river boarders coming on board we are looking at changing our name (NZRA) this requires a constitution change for us which we will be doing at the AGM in the North Island in November, what we are wanting from members is suggestions for a new name so get on face book in the New Zealand Rafting Association Members Only and have your say. It is a closed group and as a financial member you have the option to be a member. If you are not on face book, email is still good – nzraftingassociation@xtra.co.nz

Well that all form me for now enjoy what’s left of Summer

Steve Brown
The River Rescue Portfolio has always been a challenge over the years as we continue to try and keep 'everybody' happy. The feeling over the past couple of years is that we are kinda on our way with the Workshop beginning to take on more of a "course" than a sharing of ideas forum that it once was, so definitely a sense of consolidation it seems. Saying that however, I think it is vital that everyone is clear on what we as training providers, assessors and the NZRA are in actual fact trying to deliver, so I hope this helps as we are bumbling our way through this over and above our normal jobs!

Firstly. The "training days" are intended for assessor level trainers to actually teach the content of the Rescue Unit. The idea is to refresh, familiarise and learn the content that the Rescue Unit contains, and in only 2 days! This is often seen as a way of being accepted for the "workshop" but also mistakenly taken as having passed the Rescue Unit, therefore, some participants feel if they qualify for the Workshop, then they must surely hold the Rescue Unit!? NOT TRUE.

Just so it is clear, you will still need to pass an Assessment from an assessor showing that you have competencies in the Rescue Unit as per the normal assessment procedure. By being accepted on the Workshop, quite simply, the trainers have given you the all clear that you are not going to be a liability to yourself or others by attending. Now this leaves a hole in the process for International guides, or guides "needing" the Rescue Unit via attending the Workshop to be able to pass guide awards etc.. well I am onto it and will try and layer in having assessors and potential assessors available to follow you through the workshop or some other way of assessing you demonstrating your competencies. All good, don't panic... we are on it... just gotta figure out how to do it now so everybody is happy, you, the assessor, the assessors boss... easy!

So, with that in mind, I am currently in Queenstown helping the local river boarders get up and running with training and assessments of their new Units for navigation and of course, fitting their quite different rescue skill set and approach to rescues into "our" Rescue Unit and vice-versa. Square peg, round hole grasshopper.

At this stage things are going well with the local guides being force fed a bunch of stuff that until now only applied to rafts. My challenge has been to show them the content in the Rescue Unit is something that not only the rafting community but also the kayaking and most of the mountaineering communities all use in some way. An example would be that a pinned anything will require similar techniques for extraction... same same but different, so it is at this point that I want to urge the river boarding community to hang in there with us and understand what we have worked fairly hard for a fairly long time at picking and choosing content that we feel fits our environment and hopefully they will see what fits their sector.

I also urge the rafting and kayaking communities too, to accept the things that they too can learn from an outside perspective looking in, in regards to the river boarders, as I anticipate some cool cross over stuff in the next years or so, so lets keep our minds open everybody and see what we can all achieve as we are still the part of adventure tourism that is setting standards and leading the way.

See you all next year, flippers and ropes at the ready. Koryn
EXECUTIVE

With the retirement of Rachael Moore from the Executive there were no nominations received to replace Rachael. However this was not seen as an issue with the previous co-opting of Tak Mutu onto the Executive in 2009 in the role of River Boarding Advisor and the proposal to have a North and South Island Riverboarding representative on the Executive.

There were only two nominations for a South and North Island Representative for the Executive. Tak Mutu for the North and Rosemary Mirza for the South.

Therefore the 2010/11 Executive and their specific portfolios are:
Steve Brown (Chairperson) - Water Safety NZ, Qualmark
Paul Eames - River Rescue
Grant South - Maritime NZ
Tim Marshall - Wild Rivers, Raft Racing
Nick Chater - Marketing/Fundraising
Koryn Gould - River Rescue
Tak Mutu - Skills Active, River Boarding
Rosemary Mirza - River Boarding

Many of you will have met Tak on the North and South River Rescue workshops over the last couple of years, but to introduce Rosemary here’s a short profile from her.

I am born Canadian with adventure thick in my blood. I spent numerous years as a guide for an outdoor pursuits company in the Irish countryside. I had some sidetrack adventures [as you do!!!] around the world. One of these side trips took me to New Zealand 12 years ago. I completed my biological conservation research in the steepland forests of this great country. And that was it, I was hooked. I spent my days in the NZ bush and up the ridges as a wildlife ranger. Between contracts, I also went back to Ireland as a guide and Canada as a ski and board instructor.

I have now been here permanently for 7 years, minus some more adventurous trails elsewhere, as a Kiwi citizen. I enjoy winters teaching skiing and boarding. I spend a good 8 months of the year in white water, guiding for Frogz White Water Sledging for nearly 7 years, and have been the Operations Manager for Frogz and Serious Fun [both now under the same umbrella for the last three years] for 2 years.

Welcome on board Rosemary and it’s great to see you step up for your industry and become actively involved.
River rescue as sex toy ditches rider

A bizarre decision to ride an inflatable doll down a flood-swollen Yarra River blew up in a woman's face yesterday when she lost her latex playmate in a rough patch. The incident prompted a warning from police that blow-up sex toys are "not recognised flotation devices".

Police and a State Emergency Services crew were called to the rescue when the woman and a man, both 19, struck trouble at Warrandyte North about 4.30pm yesterday. They were floating down the river on two inflatable dolls and had just passed the Pound Bend Tunnel when the woman lost her toy in turbulent water.

She clung to a floating tree, calling for help while the man stayed with her. Fortunately for the pair, a passer-by called triple zero while while a kayaker took life jackets to the pair. Police and the SES crew hauled the water-logged thrillseekers to safety.

But, with Queensland in the grip of a deadly emergency and 50 rescues from flood waters around Victoria in the past week, police were not amused at the pair's "stupid" actions.

"We've got people busy with rescues and to have to divert resources to that sort of thing is not ideal," said Senior Constable Wayne Wilson.

"Most rescue organisations would frown on people behaving in such a manner because there are people out there who are in genuine need of assistance," he said.

The rescued pair were checked by ambulance officers but did not require medical attention.

"The fate of the inflatable dolls is unknown," said Senior Constable Wilson.
COLIN'S CORNER

River rescue can save lives

Since 1980 there have been 25 fatalities in the NZ commercial rafting sector, 23 passengers and 2 guides, spread across 10 rivers. 12 fatalities on North Island rivers and 13 fatalities on South Island rivers. From those accidents 14 fatalities were a direct result of entrapment from rocks or logs, 1 fatality was a result of entanglement in a throw bag rope while the raft was surfing in a hole and 10 fatalities were the result of flush drowning where the passenger has taken a long swim, aspirated water, or in the case of one passenger on the Shotover river, who suffered from a heart attack during a swim.

North island commercial raft fatalities (E = entrapment F = flush)

- Kaituna river – 2008F
- Rangitaiki river – 2001E
- Mohaka river – 1984E, 1984E
- Waiohine river – 2004E

South island commercial fatalities (E = entrapment F = flush)

- Rangitata river – 1989E throw bag
- Kawarau river – 1992F (PFD came off)

(NB. The fatalities across the decades don’t all relate to the operators on those rivers today)

For each of the 3 decades since 1980 there have been approximately 100000 passengers per year

During the same period there have been at least another 15 significant entrapment rescues which would likely have resulted in drowning if the guides rescue attempts failed – but they didn’t.

Any time someone ends up in the water from a flip, wrap or swim the potential to become entrapped or aspirate water is real. Even intentional rapid swims can go wrong as was the case in 2004 on the Waiohine river where a girl became entrapped and drowned on an underwater log.

How can we reduce flush drowning?

Along with a persons general health, medical and physical condition it is likely that a persons potential to drown is also related to their propensity to panic when thrown into the water. The panic reflex may increase when the water is colder. Rafting passengers are well protected from the effects of cold with wetsuits and thermal wear but there will always be the potential that the initial shock from falling into cold water will cause them to gasp and to panic which could result in them aspirating water. Most times water aspiration will result in coughing and spluttering but if it’s combined with some downtime there is increased likelihood of respiratory distress. The panic reflex is not just related to cold water. In 2008, within weeks of each other, on the Kaituna river with a water temperature of around 15 degrees Celsius, one person drowned and another nearly drowned from complications related to aspirating water after a flip at Tutea falls. Neither person appeared to have had any lengthy downtime associated with their swims.

Making passengers aware of the risks of rafting is a requirement for all commercial raft trips but the real test is to try to prevent them from panicking if they flip or swim. Along with viewing photos or video footage, of flips wraps or swims, participation in mock flips, mock swims, or cold water face splashing are all options which could make...
passengers more aware of the reality of white water, particularly if they are not water savvy. However participating in mock flips or swims is not always practical and there is also risk of injury from mock flips even before a trip starts. Flipping in flat water has few similarities to flipping in a white water rapid so its test is limited and may not necessarily weed out those who may be prone to excess panic in the real situation. Regardless, effort should be made to match the person with the type of trip. Grade 4/5 rafting may not be suitable for all takers and operators and guides should practice robust screening techniques to ensure that only those who are aware of the risks and who clearly want to participate are taken rafting.

Options to reduce passengers having long swims include; having realistic high water cut off levels which are well within the skill set of the guides who are working on the rivers for that season. Most of the flush drowning which occurred in the 1980s and 1990s were from rafts which were operating at higher flows than they are today. Having rafts run ‘truck and trailer’ in support of each other on longer continuous rapids provides the guides the opportunity to support each other if there are flips or swims. This was the case on the Rangitata river where a passenger swum from near the top of the ‘pinch rapid’ and was chased by another raft which was in close proximity. The passenger was rescued and successfully resuscitated at the bottom of the rapid. Using safety kayakers or rescue rafts on some continuous flow rapids where rapids link together also provides the opportunity for downstream containment of swimmers which has the potential to reduce long swims.

The risk of running ‘truck and trailer’ on continuous flow rapids is that rafts may collide if any of the lead rafts get off line and get washed against bluffs or rocks or if they get caught and surfed in a hole. Guides must be mindful of their proximity to other rafts to allow for plan B options whilst still maintaining the overall line of support.

Passenger PFD must be well fitted to ensure their airway floats as high above the surface as possible. If a passenger is wearing a PFD which is not well fitted it will ride up around their arm pits resulting in their head being barely above the surface. Passengers who are not fitting the PFD correctly due to body shape or size should be encouraged to use a crotch strap. Guides need to be vigilant that the PFD is fitted properly.

Having well developed throw bag rescue skills is another option which in some circumstances will reduce the length of swim a passenger may have. One of the fatalities on the Shotover river resulted from a passenger having a long swim after the passenger let go of the rope during a throw bag rescue.

Rope entanglement can be avoided by having well maintained and secured throw ropes and neatly stowed bow and stern lines. Having a sharp and easily accessible knife can also save lives if there is any rope entanglement.

**How can we reduce entrapment drowning?**

Any time a person ends up in the water there is a risk of entrapment particularly during times of low flow. Rafting operators and guides need to identify potential entrapment hazards on the river to determine if there are any specific safety measures which should be taken, particularly in regard to known sieves, undercuts and log jams. Although it’s not possible to identify and guard against all entrapment hazards and sites it is important to make sure that rafting passengers know how to avoid contributing to their own entrapment.

Options include actively warning passengers not to stand up in moving water and to pro-actively swim away from hazards. When swimming steep drops or in shallow water flips it is important that passengers know to curl into a ball to keep their legs and feet away from the bottom of the river. If a passenger washes into a rock when they are in the white water float position or if they were actively swimming head up, head first to avoid the hazard it is important that they know they should try to push themselves sideways and away from the rock as apposed to trying to push away directly against the current.

In some cases of entrapment the entrapment site has been at the immediate area where a raft has flipped or wrapped and the person who became entrapped is likely to have been landed on by other passengers or they have been forced deeper underwater by downward currents or in the case of one of the fatalities on the Shotover river caught between the rock and the wrapped raft. There are also some cases of passengers being entrapped as they were swimming a shallow rapid and a number of cases where the passenger was witnessed trying to stand up in the moving water before they became entrapped.
COLIN’S CORNER (cont’d)

During a raft flip if passengers don’t panic they are less likely to thrash around trying to resurface faster than the re-surfacing effects of their PFD, or they will calmly get themselves out from underneath the raft. Any efforts to surface sooner by pushing downward against the river bed or against other swimmers could increase entrapment potential for themselves or others. On the Wairoa river during a swim through the ‘chicken chute’ of the ‘rollercoaster’ rapid one passenger was witnessed trying to push another passenger to the surface and ended up getting himself entrapped.

River rescue – knowing what works and having current rescue skills

When someone becomes entrapped their chance of successful rescue and survival is often relative to the guides ability to access the entrapment site and to stabilize the person whilst an extraction method is identified and set up. If you can’t physically reach the entrapment site and the persons head is under water by the time a system (tag/snag line or tethered raft) is set up across the river it’s likely the rescue will become a body recovery, unless the guides are highly skilled at hasty rescue, and the river banks provide for good working platforms.

Short of physically swimming to the entrapment site and stabilizing yourself in such a way that you can support the victim until extraction is organized by other guides, one of the best tools for rescue is the tethered raft, but only if it is used efficiently.

With a tethered raft some of the questions to ask and situations to consider include:

- Can the raft be lowered by rope directly downstream and maneuvered sideways with paddles without the need to reach ropes across the river to create a ‘V – lower’?
- Can a vector line which is attached to a stable or anchored line enable the raft to be moved sideways to access the entrapment site?
- A dynamic V-lower or raise with ropes on both banks allows the raft to be hauled up river or lowered down river efficiently
- Always maneuver the raft using maximum assistance from eddies and slack water and always keep the raft flat on the surface to reduce drag.

 Ideally there would be two guides in the tethered raft, both keeping the raft flat on the surface as it’s maneuvered efficiently into position. Once at the entrapment site the rescuer can be supported by the other guide if they need to reach below the surface to grab or attach a line to the victim.

 Each rope should be attached to the raft, either directly to the bow D-ring (if its in good order) or as a self equalizing anchor spread across 2-3 D-rings. There is also the option of looping a rope or sling around the bow pontoon, although this may involve slicing a new drain hole in a self bailing raft, unless it’s a lace in floor.

 Ideally there will be a guide in charge of each of the two ropes which may be attached to the raft. Each guide would then use his/her crew to provide the required person power to maneuver and hold the raft in position.

 When using a V-lower (a rope on each river bank) the rope teams would generally use a dynamic belaying technique, adjusting rope angles as required to gain the greatest amount of efficiency and direction. Only when the raft is in place at the entrapment site, or if the current is beyond the strength of the rope team, would static anchors be set up. Setting static anchors reduces the maneuverability of the raft because the rope angles can no longer be changed, unless a vector line is added.

 The greatest chance of success in an entrapment rescue is when there are 4 or more guides actively involved. Most of the successful entrapment rescues to date have involved 3-4 guides. For a tethered raft 4 guides means that there could be 2 guides in the raft and 2 guides, along with their passengers controlling each of the two ropes.
The reality of commercial rafting in NZ often means there could be less than 4 guides and on some rivers there may only be one guide. Where there are 2 or less guides a successful entrapment rescue would generally require being able to physically access the entrapment site without ropes. However, 2 guides who fully understand the principles of rope rescue and who are apt at using the crew to maximum effect with holding ropes could execute effective rescues using the tethered raft.

Performing effective rescues is only possible if the guides are fully conversant and current with rescue techniques. In a life threatening situation if a guide has to take a few moments to remember how a particular system, anchor or knot works then precious time will be lost. When we are dealing with a rescues situation where there is only 3-4 minutes for success the skills must be second nature. This only comes with practice and pre-anticipating rescue scenarios on the rivers you work on.

As a guide, to be effective at river rescue you have to know the rescue techniques as well as be able to coordinate a rescue team. You also have to be physically fit and be able to efficiently access the river by swimming, running on the bank, jumping from rocks, or catching micro-eddies in your raft.

Performing river rescue comes with inherent risks if there are attempts to physically access entrapment sites. Raft guide Bob Murray lost his life in the mid 1980s trying to save the life of a rafting passenger who was entrapped on ‘see thru’ rapid on the Rangitikei river. The passenger was rescued but he became entrapped downstream and was unnoticed by the other guides who were focused on rescuing the passenger.

When performing rescues guides must be aware of their own actions as well as the actions of the passengers who may be involved in assisting in the rescue. The more you practice in realistic rescue scenarios the more apt you will become at making decisions about river rescue during pressure situations.

Part 81 and NZRA river rescue workshops

Part 81 - commercial rafting operations comes into force 1 April 2011. In the new rule there is a requirement that senior guides and raft guides who are trip leading on grade 1-2 rivers maintain currency in river rescue at 3 yearly intervals. Options include attending the NZRA river rescue workshop or participating in in-house or regional river rescue training. The in-house or regional river rescue training must be verified in writing by a national rafting assessor as being consistent with national standards in river rescue. Other courses in river rescue may also be accepted. This will be done in consultation with the NZRA.

It is anticipated that guides will still practice their river rescue skills at intervals much less than 3 yearly as it is shown every year at the NZRA river rescue workshops that skills become rusty if they are not used regularly. Everyone walks away from the NZRA river rescue workshops having learnt something more about themselves and more about river rescue involvement. Listening to the instructors planning and debriefing it is clear that they are also learning more each time. Although the river rescue currency in the rule is focused on senior guides, operators are encouraged to ensure that the raft guides are also increasing their skills in anticipation of becoming senior guides. If raft guides are not planning on upgrading to senior raft guide awards there is still a responsibility to further develop and maintain your river rescue skills as the other guides you work with have to rely on you as well if it all goes pear shaped.
Hi all, I hope you have been having an excellent summer along with the varying water levels to make life interesting. Here are a few words from the Raft Racing and Wild Rivers corner.

Raft Racing. In November we held the NZ R6 selection races on the Kawerau River near Rotorua. With the usual suspects turning up to contend to be the team flying the flag for NZ, there was a good challenge in front. 2 mens teams and 2 womens teams fighting it out for the top spot.

We started with the sprints, girls out first with Okere Girls setting the pace with a time of 1.48.2 and second was Kaitiaki with 1.55.8. Boys were next with team North South clocking in a 1.43.7 just beating Cracka Woody who clocked a 1.44.2

Next race was the head to head, which was won by Okere Girls and the North South Boys. The girls race had to be re run, after Okere Girls jumped the line, and was clear on review of video. In the second run it was a clean start with the same outcome with Okere Girls out in front at the finish line.

Slalom up next, where the teams coming second needed to step up and win this or it was all over. Slalom has two runs and the best single run wins.

Girls up first with the following results
Kaitiaki - Run 1 - 134.5+10=144.5 Run 2 - 135.6+10=145.6
Okere - Run 1 - 126.3+5=131.3 Run 2 -124.3+5=129.3
Okere Girls winning with their second run with the overall time of  129.3 seconds

Boys results:
Crack a Woody: Run 1 - 106.3+20 =126.3 Run 2 - 109.7+10=119.7
North South: Run 1 - 112.4+0=112.4 Run 2 -110.0+5=115.0
With a clean run on their first run North South was unbeatable with the time set of 112.4

This gave us a clear results sheet with Okere Girls and North South Boys off the represent New Zealand at the worlds!

Good luck to teams selected and go hard with your training!

Okere Girls: Denise Martin, Nikki Kelly, Kelly Wood, Claire Sykes, Sarah Uhl, Alana Whiteman, Bernie Murch, Rachael Moore

North South: Bob Mclauchlan, Nick Chater, Bernd Sommer, Troy Dolman, Tak Mutu, Tyrin Thomas, Tim Pickering

A Big Thanks to Andy Fuller along with the help of Bruce Webber. Andy basically set up and ran these selection races, with all of Andy’s back ground in Slalom racing and local knowledge helped create this to run real smoothly, and a great day for all involved! Cheers Andy and Bruce to the help you have given me to!

The R6 World Rafting Championships are held in Turrialba, Costa Rica, Oct 4–11, 2011 on the Pacuare River in Costa Rica. For more details visit the 2010 WRC page on the IRF website

From all of us here in NZRA we wish the teams all the best

Tim
I hope most companies have received the wild river post cards that NZRA created for us all to put out there to our clients this summer. Along with receiving them I also hope that they have been put to the right use and support. Talking with your clients and along with your help and their support we can show John Key our PM the value of rivers and need to protect some if not all of the remaining wild rivers for future generations to come.

From our clients, I have seen an overwhelming support to this cause, where most are happy to place their name on the card along with where they from and post it in our home made post box in our entertaining area, which in turn is cleared every couple of days and put in the real post box across the road.

Other than this, the Mokihinui Dam battle is still on and it looks like it might be in the Environment Court in April 2012. At this stage there is a lot of testing going on in the river valley, from hydrologists, geologists through to animal counters. All trying to work out what the impact would be and then debate about it in court. Along with the massive 100-year flood they had go through there in late December has also raised a few questions, with how the dam would have coped with that amount of water. If you have any issues regarding rivers around you and wish for us to know about it and help spread the word, or even maybe get NZRA behind something to help protect or have an industry voice in, please email me or Raewyn and we will see what we can do.

All the best for the remaining of 2010-11 season
Tim

Not so long ago Tor Prestimo lost his life on the Rangitieki River. A little background on this so as to get the feel for the words to follow. Tor had 6 years rafting experience in his home country Norway he had arrived in New Zealand and was keen to get the New Zealand award and try to pick up work. River Valley had decided to let him hang around out the at river valley, to do a few trips and see how he got on. He had done 6 trips down the river guiding different sections and the crew felt he was doing Okay.

The day of his accident the river flow was med - medium high, there were two boats and two guides in each boat on the river. The trip was lead by Koryn Gould.

To keep this brief they headed off down the river, Tor was doing some guiding under Darren's supervision. They got to the main rapid, Tor was doing fine and it was decided they would run truck and trailer ...so off they went. Koryn in the lead boat got hung up a little against rocks part way down. Tor's boat came up against him and flipped. Tor never came to the surface, something none of us would wish for.

Sometime after the accident I was contacted by a law firm about being an expert witness for the defence on the case, as Maritime New Zealand had decided to prosecute River Valley and Koryn as trip leader on the day under the Health and Safety in Employment Act. Knowing the river and a little of the back ground I was surprised. Knowing nothing about court rooms, and how it all works within, I was not so sure I wanted to be involved, but I was told all I had to do was pass on my knowledge and advise the court on how things happen in the industry. I must admit I was naive enough to think I
I must admit I was naive enough to think my role would be as a technical advisor for the courtroom, not I was the rafting person for the defence and the prosecution had their own rafting expert, in Stephan Crawford. It certainly took on the feel of us and them. Stephan I’m pleased a friendship is stronger than a court room chess game.

Over three days I saw photo’s, heard evidence, questioning, and after that three days we had run out of court room time yet I had not had my turn on the stand and I can tell you by this time I really felt there had to be some clarification on some issues for the judge to make an informed decision.

I was told I would get a chance in three months time but more than likely the judge will have made his decision. I was horrified and can still remember coming home and thinking about the whole thing all night, Koryn who is so confident on the river a shattered person, what the hell was the point of all this.

I got up at 4am in the morning and wrote eight pages of notes on matters I felt had needed some clarification for the judge, these for some reason never got to the Judge’s desk so in three months time I had to read these to the court room. I really felt by then it was just a process and the prosecution lawyer got very focused on what was written on the ops plan and hazard board.

The whole way through the case I felt it was treated as though a person had lost thier life on some mechanical machine where guards can be put in place and not in the dynamic environment where we work, where conditions change by the minute.

The prosecution were looking at a number of rocks and river features as potential hazards. We work around hundreds of hazards every day many of which we don't know exist. Discussing for hours what was truck and trailer, is it this far apart or that far apart, should that have been the way it should have been run.

If there is a couple of things I really thought about was that an Ops plan and Hazard ID board can only ever be guidance documents, for as soon as you leave a rapid behind on a river you have no idea what happens to that rapid until you see it next.

As people working in the outdoors we need to act on what we see in front of us out there and make sound decisions based on that. Shaping our actions to suit the many elements of our job and this is what can not be valued enough is that the experienced people in our industry passed on that assessment processing ability so we can all learn from any errors of judgment that can happen in life.

So it was with much relief when all involved in the Tor Prestimo case received news that River valley had won the appeal, in essence another judge had read my notes at the same time as all the other material and made a decision that there were no charges.

A river is a river and unless people are doing really dumb stuff, a river must be treated as such.

Koryn I hope this helps keep you in the industry of which you love and we value your expertise and input you put back into the industry.
RAFTING GUIDE 2011 - JAPAN
Company name: ABC-JPN (Alps Boken Club Co., Ltd.)
Rafting guides with Working Holiday Visa

ABC-JPN, an outdoor company located in Nagano Prefecture, Japan, is looking for rafting guides who will be able to work with us this coming season in 2011. We have experienced in employing foreign raft guides for several years. You will be able to get work experience and to enjoy Japanese culture.

Please refer to the conditions below:
- Part of your airfare will be paid.
- Accommodation will be prepared. (Guides need to pay utilities)
- Worker's compensation insurance will be prepared.

Work Period
Early May to the end of September 2011 (vacation mid June to mid July)
River: Mainly, Tenryu River, Grade 2+

Guides should
- Have Working Holiday Visa
  (Eligibility for Working Holiday Visa; under 30 years-old and has never got the Working Holiday Visa before).
- Have either Grade 3 or above license
- Have an international driver's license
- Memorize and be able to perform brief safety talk to customers in Japanese
- Learn basic Japanese for smooth communication

Contact:
Ai Imamaki, at ABC-JPN
in-222@abc-jpn.com
www.abc-jpn.com

RAFT GUIDE REQUIRED FOR ITALY

Guide required to work with Totem Adventure in Italy.
Class 4/5 river guide and safety kayaker for summer season 2011 from June to September.

Please contact info@totemadventure.com
My name is Jason, I'm the manager of Rafting Newfoundland. Not sure if you're familiar with our operation, but we run rafting trips down Exploits River in Central Newfoundland, Canada. The portion we run features class three rapids.

We are in the process of hiring for our 2011 season, and we would appreciate it very much if you could add us to your job posting for qualified students/members.

We're planning to hire four guides in total (we already have one confirmed), but we may only have full time work for 3.75 guides. It would be ideal to have three exceptionally qualified guides, and one eager and promising beginner that is seeking time on the river and will be happy even with slightly less work than the other guides.

We run a short 12 week season (we operate from mid-May to early Oct, but are only really busy from mid-June to mid-Sep), but pay well to compensate. Guides can expect between $6,000 - $7,500 (Canadian Dollars) for the 12 weeks including bonuses. We start at $110/trip through the peak season, and offer bonuses throughout the season. We offer our guides free accommodation in riverfront cabins.

Web site www.RaftingNewfoundland.com

Jason Nault
Administration, Marketing & Web Design
Riverfront Chalets & Rafting Newfoundland
P.O. Box 661, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
Canada A2A 2K2
Reservations: 709-486-0892
Office: 719-387-0866
Cell: 709-293-3690
**AGM MINUTES 2010**

*The AGM started with a moments silence in respect to the Pike Creek Coal Miners.*

Colin Sonneveld (Maritime NZ) and Even Freshwater (TIANZ) were welcomed to the meeting.

**Apologies:** Southy, Tussock, Noel Rusden.

Moved: T Marshall    Seconded: P Eames  Apologies accepted.

**Matters Arising** – NZRA Affiliate membership with NZWA is to be addressed by the Executive.

**Chairman’s Report** – Steve thanked the current Executive for all their work behind the scenes, reinforcing that they do this in a voluntarily role. Some of the results of their hard work is reported in portfolio updates. Memberships have increased from 120 to 220 by dropping the membership fee. Steve and Raewyn visited companies around Rotorua to encourage guide memberships and to keep in contact with companies and projects such as Wild River campaign. More membership gives NZRA a bigger voice. The NZRA thanked River Valley for the donation from the Tor Prestimo fund to which the association has been able to purchase static lines, carabiners and other rescue equipment.

**Financial Report** – Some areas highlighted in the annual accounts was the slight drop in membership fees, but minimal compared to lowering the fee by a third. Also noted that workshops do not break even so as to maintain the low cost to the guide, we rely on sponsorship and grants. Meeting expenses have increased significantly as we are becoming more involved with organizations such as ONZ, WSNZ, Maritime NZ and riverboarding.

Moved: PaulE    Seconded: R Moore  That the Annual Accounts be approved.

Raewyn requested that the NZRA purchase a small gift in token of thanks to Brent Bruce our retired auditor who has audited our accounts for nothing before retiring.

Moved: T Mutu    Seconded: G Campbell-Lloyd

It has been suggested by the new auditor Ken Bain that we do a financial review rather than an audit.

Moved: R Moore    Seconded: T Marshall

**Profile Updates** –

**Skills Active** – This profile has been a flurry of activity in the last few months with both riverboarding and rafting standalone components, and rescue skills and trip leading now separate to allow for any sector in white water. For raft specific the changes are more at Assessor level. Changes for boarders have been huge with the introduction of awards. There are to be bulk assessments for both boarding and raft if sufficient numbers. Skills Active have produced new assessor resources. There is information coming out on training agreements in order for Skills Active to obtain funding for development and monitoring of our current awards.

**River Rescue** – River Rescue continues to be a living portfolio. The new format is receiving good feedback and training days are proving their value to understanding the differences, particularly for overseas guides, riverboarders. The skill set is the same. It is important that we continue to receive feedback to develop the workshops for industry needs.
New Zealand Rafting Association

AGM MINUTES 2010

Wild Rivers – Tim attended a conference in Wellington with groups like NZRA put together to have a combined force and voice to protect our rivers. NZRA’s best way to get their voice in behind this is the postcard campaign. Rivers of 10 cumecs or more are open or already have dam proposals on them and surveys have been undertaken since the 1960’s. It’s important when these are given out to clients to sign that they are aware we are trying to protect the remaining wild rivers. Donation boxes for Wild Rivers campaign can be set up if wanted. If anyone wants to get in behind the Wild Rivers campaign more please talk to Tim.

Water conservation orders on rivers are not fail safe, rivers could still be open to damming proposals.

Raft Racing – 2010 saw two selection races, the R4 in March in Murchison in July, and the R6 in Kawarau in November. Both races saw a poor representation from the South Island. There’s no point in alternating races between north and south until such time as the south becomes active. The R4 teams competed in the Netherlands in July with the men finishing 9th overall and the woman 4th, but both teams medaling in individual races which has enabled them to receive PEGS grant funding from SPARC. We are hoping to build a funding relationship with SPARC for racing.

Maritime NZ – Colin updated us on the NZRA/MNZ relationship. Southy met with MNZ Director to open up communication levels. We are still awaiting confirmation in writing of the meeting which outlines that relationship further.

WSNZ – The Riversafe programme which was undergoing a big review has stalled a bit. There are to be new resources available soon and raft guides would be ideal to teach riversafe. For the last 2 years we have struggled to receive funding from WSNZ for the training or the workshops. We do not come under their educational banner enough as they see us as commercial. Hopefully the review of new procedures may enable us to fit in for funding better.

Riverboarding – With the tourism review there has been an approach from the Riverboarding sector to come on board with the NZRA as they are not big enough to go alone and some companies are already involved with NZRA through rafting. There was also considerable pressure from TIANZ/Skills Active/MNZ for this to happen along with the setting up of safety guiding recommendations. These are not like the Rafting rule, rather an industry standard. NZRA have assisted with their knowledge to help put together new Riverboarding awards. A merge together is seen as a positive time, moving forward and learning from each other.

Motion: That the NZRA formally acknowledge the membership and representation of the Riverboarding sector on the Executive.

Moved: R Larcombe Seconded: T Phillips

The general consensus at the meeting was that this was a good positive move forward.

There will be requirements for formal changes to the constitution and could involve a name change. The executive are asking for suggestions for a name change which reflects both industries. These can be emailed to Raewyn.

Colin in his talk informed of previous names which we wouldn’t be able to use. These are:

NZPRA – NZ Professional Rafting Association
NZRGA – NZ River Guides Association
AGM MINUTES 2010

General Business –

1. Thanks goes to Rachael Moore, for her amazing energy that she has given to the executive and as an educator. Rachael has retired from the executive. There has been no nominations received to replace her however we will be bringing on board north and south island Riverboarding representatives.

2. Evan Freshwater, TIANZ gave a brief overview on the effects of the Adventure Tourism Review. There is not much for raft companies except for a registration. There will be changes for river boarding companies or companies which do both however: Minimum standard, auditors (ROSA), code of practice.

3. There is now the ability to have Rescue 3 award SRTI signed off. For those who are interested see Rachael.

4. Steve Anderson informed us that Japan are currently looking into a raft guide standard for Japan and are particularly interest in the NZ standards. And there is also interest from Australia with Queensland Maritime currently looking into NZ standards and systems.

Meeting closed at 10.15 pm

ACCIDENT REPORTING ONLINE

ATTENTION - RAFTING OPERATORS

MNZ has recently released online accident reporting. The launch of online accident reporting will make it quicker and easier to report maritime accidents and incidents.

Raft operators can report accidents, incidents or serious harm injuries online by completing and submitting an electronic form directly to MNZ.

All raft operators are required by legislation to report accidents, incidents or serious harm injuries to MNZ as soon as practicable.

MNZ uses the information to track trends in accidents, incidents, serious harm and fatality statistics and to get a clearer picture of where it needs to focus its efforts or develop resources or rule amendments.

The new reporting system has been developed with input from industry stakeholders from the jetboat, rafting, fishing and passenger sectors. Their feedback has been incorporated into the final design.

This system has been designed to be easy to use and readily available to anyone with access to the internet.

The old paper forms (MAR AI 6 and MAR AI 2) are still available to use for those who prefer them, but consultation had made it clear most would prefer to use online reporting.

Report accidents online using the link on MNZ’s home page or go to www.maritimenz.govt.nz/report-online.