Hi all, this is my first chair report for the NZRA. I took over as Chairperson from Southy in April this year. 2013-14 has been a big year for NZRA and I'll try to summarize.

We hosted the IRF R6 World Championships a year ago in Rotorua. NZRA was put on the line doing this and I am glad to say we managed to pull this off without it costing NZRA. There looks as tho there may be some funds left over from the event which will go into future raft racing teams, management and racing events for the future. The IRF has come back to us within the last 3 months and asked us if we can host this event again except for this time in the South Island! SO maybe…lets see… Watch this space…

Just for you all to know the 2013 world champs cost around $550,000.00 to run!!

The building of WERO white water centre seems to be under way. This is a white water park in Auckland, which will consist of two artificial river courses. This could be a great asset to learning, coaching, racing and rescue training in Auckland and for NZ.

The Tourism Review - This came in to effect on the 1st of November 2014. At the first glance we may have thought this was out of raftings’ scope and turned away from worrying about this unless a company provided more than just rafting ie: kayaking, tramping, high ropes etc… Some raft companies have been visited by Work Safe to check to see if they are up to play with the new law and double checking to see if they are operating outside of the Maritime rule and should be audited. Some questions have arisen regarding activities within rafting trips which are outside of the raft, ie swim rapids and rock jumping. This is being looked into by MNZ and WorkSafe. MP from MNZ and NZRA are trying to understand what is going on here so we can keep the industry informed and legal! Lets hope common sense prevails

River Rescue workshops for NZRA and the Tourism Review, this workshop is on the edge of whether this falls under the Tourism Review and it seems NZIOA and WorkSafe have had a lot of discussion on this for NZIOA training courses and schemes. An outcome for NZRA is that we will audit this program / course to be staying inline or equivalent with the new review and then hopefully there will be no grey areas for us in the future and we may with ease provide this course to outside of the rafting industry. I would like to give thanks to Skills Active to continuing to build a strong relationship with NZRA and supporting these rescue courses with paying for SAM’s and providing a great place for modernisation for assessors who are working here together.

Also some recognition must be given to TIA NZ for supporting Rachel Moore to be here. Not only a great instructor who crosses a few areas with Rescue 3 and current nz quals. She can also help us understand more about the current tourism review

On the assessor front, it has come to light with a complaint regarding a trainee guide having alot of trouble being assessed and mucked around by a company. Unfortunately this complaint came to us 2-4 years later. Please if there is any issues out there, write or come and see us sooner than this, ideally at the time of occurrence.

Good news is we are having more guides coming on board with their membership! This is great. The more guides we have on board the better NZRA can perform with funding applications, especially raft racing and Sport NZ.

Raewyn is always looking for more info to put in our Newsletters and interesting stuff to put on our facebook page! That’s enough from me for now.

Cheers, Tim Marshall
New Zealand Rivers Association for Professional Guides

EXECUTIVE REPORTS FROM AGM

Skills Active – TROQ review is well on the way. We are working through process so there’s minimal changes to the Rafting/Boarding qualifications. Guides are encouraged to find out who their LSA (Learning Support Advisor) is. Any queries as to their assessment process should be directed to them, but any issues contact Raewyn. Check your award appears correctly on the register - www.nzrrp.co.nz.

River Rescue – Koryn’s in his second year of co-ordinating the workshops. He would like to thank the support that comes from companies in the avenue of gear, particularly the SI, as in the NI we have a small amount of ropes etc and rafts, but in the South we are reliant on support for all. The trends remain the same in the NI it’s technical rope work and the SI with colder water temperatures they are not as good at swimming. Contents of the workshop are based on the River Rescue unit. A recent site that is proving popular is the gear testing site. If you have ideas, things you’d like to test bring them forth at the workshops. We are continually looking to strengthen/grow and learn from the workshops. Guides need to make sure they are sharp at the basics.

Thoughts for guides - be vigilant, discuss shore safety, are your safety talks relevant to the river.

Wild Rivers – There have been a few things come up in the past year; the govt. looking to remove recreational amenity values from the Resource Management Act, action to get a WCO on the Ngaruroro river in Hawkes Bay, and the issue of Jet boats on the Dogsleg section of the Kawarau river near Queenstown.

There has been a great deal of effort behind the scenes to prepare an application for a Water Conservation order on the Ngaruroro river in Hawke's bay. This has had input from local canoe clubs, rafting operators, Whitewater NZ, Forest and Bird, and substantial financial support from Fish and Game. Unfortunately the process has been put on hold for now, due to Fish and Game being unable to commit to another large expensive campaign in addition to the fights they have on around the country, particularly in Canterbury and Otago. The paperwork is about ready for when the money starts to flow again though.

July saw the release of a National Policy Statement on Freshwater Reform that fails to mention recreational amenity values in any form whatsoever. Go to your local politicians and make sure that they know that they have got it wrong!

Also in July, Kawarau Jet applied for a change in consents to extend their operation downstream from the Arrow confluence to the Kawarau bungy bridge. This would have overlapped with the top of the popular Dogsleg section of the Kawarau – used by QR as well as kayakers. Thanks to the diligence of Doug Rankin from Whitewater NZ, Gordon Rayner and the local whitewater users as well as Vance from QR, this was flagged up and Kawarau Jet withdrew their application in the face of the opposition. Apparently there are some local bylaws that worked in our favour – things like this need our continued support and watchfulness.
An interesting issue to watch is the progress of the on-farm water storage project in the Rangitata watershed. For years dairy farmers have dismissed on-farm storage as being too expensive, and refused to countenance this option. If the project is a goer, then this attitude will face some challenge for sure. On-farm storage allows farmers to take increased amounts of water when rivers are in flood, and store it for the dry times, thereby reducing/eliminating the water takes in low flow when the ecosystems are vulnerable. This benefit is by no means certain though, and depends upon the right rules being put in place and enforced. If this is an issue near you – please get involved as a river user.

So the main message from all this is; be alert, engage with any consultation going on, and spread the word to your friends, colleagues and clients about the threats facing our rivers!

Gwyn

Raft Racing – Great to have this year done and dusted! Great time had in Rotorua in November last year. Many great teams from around the world provided some great rafting and entertainment! A huge thanks must go out to all the kiwis and a few international guides in the back ground that made this happen!! Without you all this would have been much much harder!!! Brazil just held the R4 champs. We had 3 teams head over and compete. Under 19 girls, under 23 mens and women’s. Well done to all in just getting there to start with! An expensive mission to start with! A tough competition, and first time overseas for all of these teams. Under 19 girls had a 3 rd in the H2H and a 2 nd in the Slalom. 4 th over all. Under 23 women had a best placing being a 3 rd in the down river which earned them a 4 th over all Under 23 Mens had a hard comp with a best placing of 6 th in the sprints and a final placing of 9 th over all! Next IRF champs is the R6 to be held in Indonesia in late 2015. Our selection races for this may be held in 13 th and 14 th of Feb 2015 in Rotorua. But still working on these dates and will update all soon!!! See you there! Tim M

Maritime NZ – I guess the main thing we have with MNZ at the moment which needs some attention is the audit process ...who is going to do it in the future what is the frequency and much much more

Personally I think I'd like to see us stay with MNZ ...we have spent years building a repore with them and educating them about what we do. From the appointment of Colin and now MP where we have an auditor that understands our industry and how we work . The issue at present is that there are these other activities that we as operators and guides do as part of our every day raft trips or perhaps side lines to our business ...still water/ river based. MNZ at this stage are not interested in incorporating these activities into their audit. There for it would mean an extra cost to get a second outside Audit

The saddest thing about this is that it is the perhaps kiwi kids that may now not have the opportunity to paddle that inflatable or swim that rapid ...how sad is that ..?

So I would like to see the exec keep pushing for MNZ to include these additional activities in their Audit Frequency is the other thing ...for those operators that are well established and year in and year out are doing a good job with minimal change to the operation ...I'm sure we do not need to be audited every year ...just another cost we have to absorb

So work to do over the coming year ..happy to keep working away at it ..should I be elected back on. Southy
EXECUTIVE REPORTS FROM AGM (CONT’D)

Boarding – The First Riverboarding World championships were held in West Java, Indonesia from Nov 6-10, 2013. There were 60 athletes from 9 different countries. US Riverboarder, Dallas Kane, who worked for Riversurfing Ltd in Queenstown, participated in the event.

The event consisted of 4 disciplines:
- Slalom
- Freestyle Surfing
- Boarder Cross
- Enduro Cross

All events were held on the Sungai Citarum.
You can watch a clip on www.youtube/watch?v=fkjc25rYUs. The next riverboarding championships will take place in Lanquin, Alto Verapaz, Guatemala, between the 12th and 19th of October 2015. This includes 2 practice days and 3 event days.

“The individual race events will include Slalom, Boardercross, and Endurocross, with an optional co-ed team Relay event. Freestyle surfing will not be part of the RWC for 2015, but is likely to have its own competition in the summer of 2016 on the Ottawa River in Canada.”(http://riverboardingworldchampionship.com/). Hopefully this will give us time to recruit NZ competitors. Visit the above official site for details. Rose.

Funding – Securing funding the NZRA’s activities is an ongoing challenge. As an industry representative body it is hard to compete with charities and community organizations, and many of the funding avenues prefer to grant funds to regional organization rather than national so that money can be returned to the region where it is generated. There was also no funding available this year through the Outdoor Safety Committee of the NZ Lottery Grants Board, where much of our funding has come from in the past (via Water Safety NZ). All we can do is persist and hope that we will be able to secure funding again in the future. – Lesley Pijpker

MARITIME NZ

At the AGM MP gave an update on the recent developments with regards to ROCK JUMPING having been identified by Worksafe as an Adventure Tourism activity. MNZ and Worksafe have met and it has been identified as an Adventure Activity which requires registration with Worksafe and does not come under Rule 81. Companies are recommended to contact Worksafe with regards to this activity.

The Executive finally got to meet with Sharyn Forsyth from Maritime along with MP, of which we discussed the rock jumping and other water related activities. Unfortunately at this stage we are unable to resolve the separation of ‘ROCK JUMPING’ from being an additional activity aside from a Rafting Trip,

However there was constructive discussions as to where to with Audits for Raft and Riverboarding Companies with activities that fall outside of Rule 81 (and currently Rock Jumping does just that). The Executive will be surveying all Company members in the coming weeks in order to get a feel for what Industry needs for Auditing requirements, what activities they are not doing because of audit requirements etc.
WORKSHOPS 2015

RIVER RESCUE WORKSHOP DATES FOR 2015

North Island - Turangi 9th – 13th November 2015
South Island - Murchison 16th – 17th November 2015

also we are running an additional workshop aimed at Grade 2 level

MANGAWEKA - 19th – 21st OCTOBER 2015

This workshop is targeted at Grade 2 to National Grade 3 guide level and is accepted for Trip Leading on Grade 2 refresher. An ideal opportunity for other water related activities on a Grade 2/3 environment. It won’t be accepted for River Rescue currency of a Senior Grade 3 or 4/5 or as the pre-requisite for becoming a Senior 3 or 4/5.

Contact Raewyn for Information and Registration packs for any of the workshops at nzrivers@nzrivers.co.nz or download from the website www.nz-rafting.co.nz

It makes it easier for planning for everyone if you get your registrations in earlier, also the workshops will be capped so don’t leave it to the last minute.

Registrations need to be in by 5th November for Turangi and Murchison.

Mangaweka workshop registrations to be in by 3rd October

WANTED - 2nd HAND RAFT for use at South Island Workshops
All chambers need to be working - Please contact Paul E or Koryn
EOY GUIDES TRIP - MOHAKA RIVER

The mighty Mohaka is a river located on the north island, in the eastern central region of Hawke’s bay. The headwaters of the Mohaka are found in the Kaweka and Kaimanawa ranges. There are many gorges found on the Mohaka, some as steep as 200m. The Mohaka is home to many different grades of river ranging form Grade 2 to 3 and the most challenging being the grade 4/5.

Mohaka Rafting hosted a guides trip down the Grade 4/5 section of the river on November 15th courtesy of Norm Brown and Gwyn Ashcroft.

Guides from around New Zealand participated in the trip, bringing their own experiences, stories and knowledge from other rivers to make the trip one to remember.

The Day started with the biggest and baddest of the day, Long rapid. The river swiftly flows into many different channels, accompanied by large boulders with narrow banks and chutes. Only to look up upon the mist of the waterfall coming down from the gorge walls. All the guides were all able to navigate their way to the end of the rapid. The day continued with the guides taking turns on the stick, to get a chance to guide some really unique rapids.

The Mohaka is a unique and special place to raft, kayak and to explore. Many guides come from around New Zealand and other places in the world to see what the Mohaka has to offer. All the guides on this trip loved the Mohaka and ensured they will return.

If you have any suggestions for an EOY trip, or would be happy to co-ordinate one please contact Raewyn at nzrivers@nzrivers.co.nz

2015 AGM
TURANGI - 10th or 11th NOVEMBER
(Date to be confirmed)
Summertime is over and we have had another good year with the River Rescue Workshops in both the North and South going well. We have put in a lot of effort to provide a balanced, “for river users of all types” formula. It is also great that we have had solid and professional support from industry and how non-rafters are welcomed and looked after.

Keeping an eye on any “newbies” and the senior guides helping us facilitators to keep things sharp has just added to the growth and reputation we have achieved. A very big thanks to everyone for this! Remember though, we ARE also mindful of what the rafting community as a whole are wanting, so please let me know if you want us to focus on any particular skill sets!

Huge thanks goes to Garth and the Tongariro River Rafting team, Tim and Solana at Ultimate Descents and Tai Poutini Polytechnic for supplying trailers, 1st Aid kits, comms, rafts, ropes and helping with various logistics so we can continue to run the workshops as cheaply as possible. We really appreciate the support!

**How strong is it? Gear and equipment testing.**

If you have any old equipment, lying about that we could use and abuse (destroy) in the name of real learning, please contact us and we will make plans to get it from you. Very useful and valuable items are:

1. Old life jackets/BV’s
2. Any old rope that we can cut to bits and tear apart.
3. Anything else you have wanted to “test for strength”!!

**New staff, international guides and who can join the workshops.**

If you have any new guides or frontline staff that you are wanting to put through the rescue workshop, they should ideally already have the river rescue unit or have done some level of pre-course training by your senior guides. Please make sure they at least have their knots up to speed prior so they can focus on applications instead of trying to learn a knot AND how to use it at the same time!

If they are totally new to river training i.e. a new bus driver that you want working closer to the river, reception/office staff or an international guide needing to get up to speed with the NZ way/differences, then, directing them to the training days that take place on the Monday & Tuesday before the workshop is highly recommended. If there is an expectation that evidence for assessments might be gathered, please make this known when signing in so we can allocate an assessor to do this.

**Assessments at workshops.**

Over the years many guides, particularly the international guides join the workshop with the expectation of getting assessed and that this is part of the workshop package. They also think they will get signed off for their rafting qualification which of course requires a commercial setting with commercial pax. Please remember that we can only assess SOME of the rescue unit criteria during the workshop and not guiding. Ideally, have your ‘in-house’ assessor contacts us prior to ask us to gather evidence, that way we keep an eye on this for you.

If someone wants to get assessed during the workshop, they will be allocated an assessor at the start i.e. Wednesday morning. The assessor will then talk to the candidate and organise things between themselves, such as assessment costs, paper work etc. If you, as an operator want a staff member assessed for the river rescue unit, again, please make it clear to Raewyn when you sign up the guide for the workshop and guides MUST have their assessment booklet with them.
ASSESSORS

Is Industry recognizing the value of your workplace assessor/s?

Assessors are our industry leaders, trainers and typically, their experience holds each and every operation together from your safety and systems perspectives, team moral and support for your less experienced staff to name but a few aspects.

With this in mind, I want to bring to attention how becoming an assessor and the maintenance required to remain current and to meet moderation every year has become quite a drain on assessors who often have to give up a day or days on the river in order to meet these higher industry requirements. As a result, these demands bring up questions like, “what is the point in becoming an assessor”? OR, “why would I want the responsibility, I don’t even get compensated for all of the effort and costs”!

I would like to encourage all operators to review and consider the experience and commitment your assessor/s have given to help keep rafting as New Zealand’s leading outdoor activity. Let’s look after the sharp end of our industry!

Wishing you all a warm and restful winter!

KORYN

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR 2015

The Executive met in April and there are a few things which are in progress that you will hear more about in the coming weeks.

1. We have requested to MNZ that the Director accept the following as forms of River Rescue currency
   • NZRA River Rescue workshop
   • WRT2
   • RRC-Pro
   • SRT 2
   We have yet to have confirmation this has been accepted.

2. Change the prerequisites for a Senior Guide to include:
   • NZRA River Rescue workshop
   • WRT2
   • RRC-Pro
   And for First Aid US424 or other Maritime NZ accepted equivalent. Please note that SRT2 will no longer be accepted as a prerequisite. Again we are awaiting confirmation.
The Nationals were held on the 11th/12th April at Kawerau. Once again the support from the Kawerau District Council and Canoe Slalom BOP was appreciated with their help to making this a fun event. This year Lee Barton from KDC proposed we try some night racing, so with the financial support of NZCT we were able to pull it off.

We were pleased to have an Open Mens and Open Womens team from Auckland Uni Canoe Club compete. It’s great to see more teams and hopefully they can extend the challenge to other Uni clubs in the future.

Many people to thank for giving up their time, Tim, Sonny and Solana for setting up the courses, Lee and his local team for setting up all the lights, Frans and his camera team for some awesome footage, CSBOP for running the timing system, Buba, Heather and everyone else who helped with the judging.

Check out the results on 2013 World Rafting Championships or NZ Rivers Association Facebook pages or go to You Tube under oparoozy. Check out the Masters Mens sleek slalom run at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Njm53Ax2tQM or the womens Head to Head race at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezzxEfjGT74

Thanks everyone for a fun weekend.

### 2015 NATIONALS RESULTS

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<th>National R6 Selection Races 2015</th>
<th>Overall Results</th>
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<td>TARAWERA OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB</td>
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<td>OKERE OLD BOYS</td>
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Congratulations to the following teams who will be going to the 2015 World Rafting Championships in Indonesia in November/December this year. We wish you all well, some of you have some titles to defend!

**Masters Mens Team OKERE OLD BOYS** – Nick Chater, John Snook, Dai Edwards, Marty Hellier, Troy Dolman and Mike Nuku

**Open Mens Team OFF THE COUCH** – Sam Sutton, Brendan Bayly, Tim Pickering, Joel Flamank, Paul Roozendaal, Bradley Lauder

**U23 Mens Team NGA HOE PANGO** - Aperahama Hurihanganui, Roretana Kerr, Teiwai Macpherson, Aritaku Robens, Turanga Kerr, Rawiri Southon

**Masters Womens Team MASTERS LADIES** – Kimi Chater, Alana Whiteman, Roni Nuku, Meta Faber, Shona Brett, Jen Murray

**Open Womens Team KAITIAKI LAVA BAR WOMEN** – Nicola Kelly, Nikki Whitehead, Sarah Uhl, Kelly Wood, Marnie Forniseck, Corrina Gage

**U19 Womens Team WHITE WATER CHICKS** – Suzy Cumming, Courtney Williams, Paris Taniwha, Kaydi O’Connor Stratton, Claudia Paterson, Monique Hawthorn, Kensa Randle