NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

I am excited and a little overwhelmed to be writing this first report as the Chair of NZRA, thank you for the trust you have placed in me.

A huge thank you must go out to Southy for all his efforts as Chair over the last 2 years. His experience, passion and dedication has contributed so much to NZRA, vastly over and above the call of duty and he deserves some more time for himself, however we are still fortunate enough to still have him on the Executive.

Thanks also goes out to past Exec members (Al and Keith) and also present Exec (Rach, Koryn, Nick Tim, Paul). The time energy and expertise these guys/gals put in is awesome and we are really fortunate to have these guys on board.

As an industry, rafting in New Zealand has had some new and interesting challenges in the past year, and going into this year. The Exec team have all worked hard to make sure our industry has a voice and our members best interests are looked after. I hope we have fewer challenges in the year ahead and that we are able to look towards some more positive projects for our industry in the 2010 year.

The North Island court case finding has been released. Eleven charges were laid, 6 charges have held although convictions on individuals have been withheld pending sentencing. The prosecution has been under the Health and Safety Act. NZRA has concerns and is working through the process to assist and build links and bridges for any possible future accidents/incidents. We hope to have more positive news for the industry in this front in the future.

You will all be glad to hear that Colin Sonneveld is back on deck at Maritime New Zealand. Colin with his rafting background, is a crucial link for NZRA, rafting businesses and all raft guides throughout the country, with Maritime NZ. I am looking forward to seeing Colin down south here again in April.

NZRA has been approached to take the River Boarders/Sledging on as affiliate members. Currently North Island businesses that Raft and Sledge are members so there is a relationship/link here already, so more to come on that in the next newsletter.

Over the past weeks the Exec has been become more involved with the NZ Raft racing scene, after a slow start out of the gates, getting stalling on the odd eddy line, this is coming together nicely with selections to be at the Buller Fest 5-7th March. Hopefully teams are putting their energy into training now we have the dates set.

The Guides ‘end of season trip’ is back! keep these dates 10th-12th April on the clear for a get together. This year it will be on the Whitcombe (fly in). Southy is TL for this trip but details/cost will come from Raewyn as soon as finalized. If you are keen email Raewyn, nzraftingassociation@xtra.co.nz to book your place on the trip.

New River Rescue workshops – I think it is fair to say the new format has started well, there are still a few little teething problems to build on but overall all it looks like good combination of teaching, training, and doing. I was lucky enough to be at the North Island workshop and had a blast. It was great to meet the North Island crews and the instructors were treated like royalty so once again thank you Garth (Tongariro River Rafting) and Piani ka and Luke (Rafting New Zealand). The numbers of Guides we had to both the North Island and South Island workshops was awesome so thanks for coming along. A big thank you also goes out to Guido, Queenstown Rafting for the South Island workshop.
NEWS FROM THE CHAIR cont’d

Thanks again to River Valley for the sponsorship from Tor Prestimo funds for the River Rescue workshops. This funding is to be used to build up ‘rescue kits’ of equipment for the workshops. Funding was also received from WSNZ for the Training section of the workshop and Skills Active for the workshop section. This funding helps to keep the cost to the guide to a minimum.

Following on from successful workshops held in 2009 with the revised Rescue Training and Workshop format, the PROPOSED dates and venues for 2010 will be:

NORTH ISLAND - RANGITAIKI - 22nd – 26th November
SOUTH ISLAND - MURCHISON - 1st – 5th November

Let’s look forward to a great 2010 year for rafting in New Zealand.

Steve Brown

NOTES FROM RAEWYN

Welcome to 2010. It hasn’t been much of a summer for most of us down south and the rivers have been up and down. The Rangitata has been dirty for the first three weeks of this year, so now it’s blue perhaps the sunshine will follow.

Finally after two successful rescue workshops I have managed to collar some contributions to put together a newsletter.

Firstly a huge thanks needs to go out to the team who back in winter last year starting to put together a new look River Rescue training and workshop. Going to the five day format, and in doing so trying to accommodate for all the different levels and looking for ways to push those people up to the next level, was very challenging. Feedback from last years workshops is indicating the new format is the way forward in achieving these goals.

Many thanks should go to PaulE and Guido for coordinating the workshops this year, to Nick, Southy, Rachael, Michel and Koryn for facilitating. These guys don’t just shut off at tea time and Queenstown was extra draining with meetings with Maritime NZ and Skills Active. Thanks also to Steve Brown, Tim Marshall, Cam Ahler and Gwyn Ashcroft for coming along and helping out.

Also to Tongariro River Rafting and Queenstown Rafting for their assistance with the donation of use of rafts, gear and transportation. The support from these companies is huge in assisting to keep the costs down to the guides.

Lastly a special thanks to Rafting NZ for hosting the AGM by opening up their doors to everyone who turned up and the wonderful BBQ. Thanks Luke and Pianika for your time and effort put into this.

Oh, I suppose I should mention the formidable team from Peak Safety of Budgie, Henry and Callum. It is always reassuring that the professionals are on board, to which I am sure Jason was thankful. Hope the recovery has been sweet Jason!

Thanks to all the companies who have taken up the “all in approach” with the guide memberships. The lowering of the guide membership has encouraged a good number of return guide memberships and a few new ones as well.

Newsletters remain a nightmare to get out especially at this time of the year as everyone is so busy. But again I am pleading with everyone if you have something to contribute please take some time out and send it through to me.

You will see the new executive and their portfolios listed within the newsletter. In order to keep you up to date, newsletters from here on will hopefully have ‘up dates’ on the work going on behind the scenes in these portfolios.
As an American Guide I was pretty excited to be doing the course in NZ as well as working on the Rangitikei. Having done several river rescue courses in the US over the year, I thought I had a good idea on what to expect. After the first few days on the training I was amazed by the high standards of the course. The instructors were by far the best at any course I have been at. Paule, Nick, Southy were a wealth of knowledge and lots of character.

The first few days were a great refresher for me. Going over all the basics is always good as we seldom use techniques on bigger volume rivers. I was happy to see quite a few international guides as well as some Americans. We all agreed the training course had a pretty high standard.

By the time the workshop part came around, I had a great sense of confidence that the workshop would be a huge learning experience. It was great to have a bunch of experienced guides join the workshop part. The instructors did a pretty good job with the direction of scenarios and level of realism was spot on. I like the make up of the teams on the scenario's - took the experienced with the not so and that blended very well.

The scenario's laid out were very realistic and the timing aspect of the stations put enough pressure on the teams to perform. I really liked the workshop part of the week as it was of a much higher standard than anything I have done on US based courses.

In ending I would like to thank NZRA for putting together the course and I am so happy to have been a part of it. It is certainly something I would recommend to all non-Kiwi guides. I would also like to thank the Instructors for keeping a high standard and doing a stellar job overall.

I look forward to attending another course and workshop in the next few years.

Have a wonderful summer and my best.

Arnie
New Zealand Rafting Association

NEW RIVER RESCUE TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS FORMAT

My hat goes off once again to the wonderful bunch of people that worked with commitment and dedication to deliver the Tongariro and Shotover Rescue workshops in November 2009. I have had the pleasure of attending these courses for the last two years, and prior to this, two years of similar in-house training workshops from Steve Brown of Wild Earth Adventures and Grant South of Hidden Valleys. My rafting experience has been limited having only completed approximately three very short seasons and the majority of that time training. I have my Grade III guide ticket and it was a goal of mine to use that as a spring board to international rivers and overseas travel. This was not to be, as I was lured by regular holidays, a regular pay cheque and the opportunity to manage and deliver an outdoor education programme at secondary school in Auckland.

My interest in rafting however, has not disappeared, for that matter it has increased for many different reasons since beginning teaching in the start of 2009. In August I applied to my principal for a weeks paid leave to fly down to Queenstown for the rafting rescue workshop in November. A very bold move for a beginning teacher only 6 months into the job, however all he needed was justification in the benefits for myself the school and the students...well, where do I start! Most, if not all rafting rescue skills are transferable across many different outdoor disciplines. I believe the ones that are of most value are crisis management skills, efficient problem solving by using resources wisely and thinking quickly on your feet. Large group management of clients and staff, effective communication and sound leadership are also applicable across all disciplines, and all of these learning opportunities are available on a NZRA rescue workshops.

I was fortunate to get the requested leave and arrived in Queenstown anticipating a busy week ahead. The newly introduced format for the week consisted of the first two and a half days being focused on teaching and training. This targeted several different groups of people, those who had either been out of the industry for a while, those who were new or trainees to rafting and the international guides keen to learn the ways of the Kiwis. These first few days were designed specifically as a pre requisite to the workshop at the end of the week where all participants would be required to show their personal skill level to be of a standard measurable against Unit Standard Rescue Component 21283. This was a significant change to the format of the year before and served as a minimum requirement to ensure all participants had the required skill to take part in the activities of the workshop, therefore decreasing the chance of 'deep ending' people.

The smaller numbers in the training days made for intensive instructor student ratios. Ready access to one on one sessions and discussions with instructors provided maximum learning opportunities. Instructors cleverly identified the different abilities within the group and provided enough challenge for each participant.

River swimming and rope work were two areas of focus in which I felt the most gains were made by participants. The ability to read the river well and to back your swimming ability is a powerful tool for moving around the river quickly and accessing target areas. As always the discussions surrounding mechanical advantage, knots and anchor systems were extremely interactive with many different points of view on how to skin the same cat!
NEW RIVER RESCUE TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS FORMAT cont’d

There is only a very small pool of experience people who run these workshops and the demand on them is high. I feel that these training days could provide further leadership and facilitator opportunities for those people that have been identified in the industry as future leaders, but are not on the executive, or are not assessors or instructors themselves. There is potential for senior guides who are motivated and keen to put their hand up and help out with the training days. This would then provide a breeding ground to develop and mentor up and coming guides into the role of facilitator / instructor.

In the second half of the week the numbers doubled to about 40 people. Many international and Kiwi guides gathered for the business end of the workshop along with those that met the standard from the training days. An array of colorful helmets, throw bags, dry suits, PFDs and rank smelling neoprene, adorned the Queenstown Rafting Company’s front lawn. Several dry land stations were set up, and an intense rotation of first aid, anchors, mechanical advantage, gear, and rules and regulation / Colin’s corner were under way. I was impressed by people from the training days shining through with their rope skills, often showing up their senior guides (it does help to have two days of practice.)

After that flurry of activity the brief was to scoff your lunch and kit up for what was to be best described as raftings version of the coast to coast!! The course was majority river swimming and running over uneven bouldery terrain with a few stationary raft flips and accessing your knife. The Mother section of the Shotover was the setting and even included a swim through the 170m tunnel. After my hour and a half long slog I was gutted when I was not handed a cold Speight’s at the finish line!

The next day started with scenario based first aid, provided with flare by the boys from Peak Safety and then it was back onto the mother section where there was 6 stations set up each with a problem to solve including vertical hoists, zip lines, victim and gear retrieval, platforms and entrapments.

This year the introduction of allocating Trip Leaders to each group as they rotated around the stations provided excellent leadership opportunity for senior guides and also those who were keen to step up. These TL’s participated in a station, then ran a station and also debriefed the station under the watchful eye of an instructor. This new strategy proved very popular as many of the guides relished their leadership role and found out the power of observation and the benefit of learning from mistakes. These stations were an hour long in total from brief to debrief and simulated real problems with real consequences.

The following and final day was the “scenario Olympics”. This final day I feel has revolutionised the rescue workshop and has increased its value considerably. The situation is nine stations 15min long. This again simulates real time and the necessity for efficient problem solving. The time constraint is equal to that of the time it would take for most rescues where there is a threat to life. This proved to be a tough day and a challenge for all, especially if you ran over time as you then lost that time on your next station. I witnessed, and was also part of some poor decisions because of this time pressure and the biggest learning I took from that is at times there are too many cooks and or we tend to have all of this new “stuff” from the week that is floating around in our heads when all you really need to do is approach every situation at face value. Keep it simple. A 2:1 hoist works just as efficiently, and is faster than setting up a Pig Rig!!
NEW RIVER RESCUE TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS FORMAT cont’d

We have a tendency on rescue course to load up our tool belt with all of these fantastic flashy tools but under certain pressures we can become cluttered with ideas and often can end up with option paralysis. My advice is to take a breath, look at the situation and choose the right tool for the job, keep it simple and stick to your strengths. Also realise if something does not work then try another tool and move to plan B or even C if you have to.

I personally would like to have another opportunity to run the nine stations again after a group debrief where different methods, successes and failures are shared. Would this provide clarity and improve efficiency? We all know that perfect practice makes perfect performance....Would having another chance cement further learning?

That aside I had a fantastic week on the Shotover and had the chance to mix with some awesome people. The weather was most kind, considering that most days were in glacial snow melt water. The Mother in law section of the Shotover was in a class of its own for a rescue course. Good solid water flows and plenty of obstacles and features, making an exciting, challenging and realistic environment – one that needed to be respected. I would like to thank the crew at Queenstown Rafting for being such fantastic hosts, donating time, boats and people and not to mention the awesome lunches. The boys at Peak Safety for their enthusiasm and energy with first aid. And to all of the great people on the executive and those ‘roped’ in who slaved hard prior to plan the workshops as well as all week on the workshops to put on a pretty slick performance.

The culture that is being developed with the NZRA rescue workshops is one that is positive and looks at improving the quality of the industry. We are in good hands with some very special people doing some very hard yards behind the scenes. The NZRA provides a strong representative body for its members and with their new initiative to lower membership fees, there should be no reason not to be a member. The support provided by the NZRA under the increased scrutiny of rafting in the media, is also a drawcard for members.

Even though I am now an Outdoor Ed teacher up in Jaffa-land and sometimes drink soy lattes on Ponsonby Road, I still call heavily on my rafting skills and transfer them to many of my programmes. I will continue to be associated with the NZRA because of the support they offer and the good work they do. I look forward to the rescue workshop in 2010.

JT (Jonothan Taylor)
New Zealand Rafting Association

AGM MINUTES - NOVEMBER 2009

New Zealand Rafting Association Annual General Meeting
Date: 4 November 2009
Held at Rafting New Zealand’s Base
Commenced at 7.30 pm


1.0 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Rachael Moore, Peter Bruce, Koryn Gould and Guido Leek. Southy welcomed all and including guests Sue Gemmell (Skills Active) and Evan Freshwater (TIANZ).
Moved apologies be accepted:   Evan Freshwater     seconded:  Nick Thompson

2.0 Minutes of 2008 AGM

Minutes of the AGM were circulated prior to the meeting and were read in brief from the last AGM held at Rangitata, November 2008.
Motion:          That the minutes of the last AGM be approved (minus a couple of typo’s)
Moved:           Nick Chater
Seconded:        Evan Freshwater

3.0 Matters arising from Minutes

IRF – It was reported that more countries are now using the IRF as an award system. We have several NZ Assessors who are able to assess to this standard. These can be round on the IRF website. NZRA Assessors have undertaken IRF assessments in Malaysia and Bosnia and IRF are keen to utilise our NZ Assessors more.

Assessor Pool - We are continuing to build the Assessor pool and are getting more assessors working at the cold face.

Info is there on guidelines for employing safety kayakers with list of recommended skill sets. These are open to comment.

Maritime NZ - Southy reported meeting with Maritime NZ. Positive response that both NZRA and Maritime NZ value the involvement of a Rafting Industry person in the auditing and investigation process. Colin has done a lot of good for the industry in the auditing role and it’s reassuring Maritime NZ appreciate that role.

Investigations – Donald Calder and Southy were involved in water industry investigations. We are working with Maritime NZ to have an NZRA member provide expertise into the Accident Investigation process as it affects everyone in the industry without NZRA involvement in this role. Maritime NZ have intimated they are open to NZRA being involved in this role. Maritime NZ is keen to support the NZRA workshops. We from NZRA and members level should give praise to ownership of our own industry standards.

### 4.0 Chairman’s Report

Thanks were given to the Executive, who continue to work volunteerily. There are some familiar faces who have been involved with the NZ rafting industry for a long time and continue to give it energy and good support. A vote of thanks goes out to the Executive.

Thanks should go out to Paul Eames for encouraging the Executive to lower the membership fee to $22.50 and to companies who have encouraged their guides with a total buy in. It is supporting the industry more with a larger band of members and gives us more voice particularly with other sectors.

Welcome to overseas guides for coming along and taking part in the training and workshops.

### 5.0 Financial Report

A vote of thanks was made to Brent Bruce (Auditor) and Phillip Hyde (Accountant) who donated their time to complete these accounts. Raewyn to send a letter of thanks.

Motion: The Financial accounts as circulated to members be approved.

Moved: Steve Brown
Seconded: Justin Hutton
6.0 Agenda Items

**Funding and Water Safety NZ** – Steve in these portfolios has been liaising with WSNZ and attending non powered craft forum meetings and riversafe which is currently under review. This portfolio is not without frustrations as they need to get to real situations.

The Lotteries Grant who have previously funded the level 2 workshop turned us down this year for the training, however Water Safety NZ have replaced this funding and is much appreciated.

Skills Active continue to support the workshops as does River Valley, on behalf of Tor Prestimo.

WSNZ are having their Inaugural awards and Skills Active have provided a nomination for the NZRA in the prevention award. We are hoping that this nomination will give the recognition from the wider Public and that of SARINZ, Emergency services, Police etc, of the skills of guides within our industry.

**Raft Racing** – Nick Chater reported that the racing is growing with bigger numbers of crews in the Rotorua Wakarama sector motivating. The NZ men’s team attended the world championships and were 13th from 33 teams and only 0.30 sec off gold. After loosing 2 team members at the last minute this is a creditable effort from a team whose first time on the water was at pre race practise and were competing against professionals. A team went to Kashmir cup in India and won. But in order to do well NZ teams need competition. In 2011 Costa Rica is going back to the Camel challenge style with bigger water. Every 2nd year will be the 4 man format. The 6 man pre world selection race will be in April so the challenge is to everyone to get out there and make it happen. The 4 man pre world selection race is set for end of this month.

Skills Active - Southy reported that the rafting awards content are currently being reviewed. The Rescue component and Plan and Preparation will become a generic unit standard able to be used by other industries, other the Guiding component will remain raft specific.

Maritime NZ and Environmental - Wilds Rivers is a group come together to protect our rivers from dams and pollution. There will be a National Wild Rivers day on 29th November except from the Kaituna on the 5th December. Contact details can be made through Forest and Bird local branch.

Rachael Moore requested that the NZRA consider affiliate membership to NZ Whitewater in order to give us more voice in protecting our rivers. Moved: Rachael Seconded: Tim Marshall

Donald Calder suggested that we should check that Affiliate membership gives us voting rights as the NZRA should ensure they have these.

Jeff Horne is currently standing in for Colin in his absence for audits.
7.0 General Business
Evan Freshwater reported on the tourism review.

More information will be requested from company members in the near future and they are asked to support this review with the right information. Review to industry will be out 18\textsuperscript{th} December, submit what’s working where and help. Far reaching, all information supplied will be beneficial to our industry.

He reported that the Department of Labour don’t want to prosecute and that are saying that prosecution doesn’t make for a better industry.

Land and Water forum review of rivers all NZ water use.

Company owners be aware the media are watching the industry, support your peers.

8.0 Voting for Executive

We were in a very healthy situation with nine nominations for an executive of seven. Voting took place and the Executive for 2009 is:

Nick Chater
Paul Eames
Koryn Gould
Tim Marshall
Grant South
Rachael Moore
Steve Brown

Thank you to all those who stood.

Meeting closed at: 8.30 pm
EXECUTIVE AND ROLES

Steve Brown (Chairman)
Telephone: 03 489 1951
Fax: 03 489 1951
Email: steve@wildearth.co.nz
Portfolio: WSNZ, Qualmark and Fundraising

Grant South (Deputy)
Telephone: 03 696 3560
Fax: 03 696 3560
Email: south@hiddenvalleys.co.nz
Portfolio: Maritime NZ

Koryn Gould
Telephone: 021 179 2274
Fax:
Email: mrkoryn@yahoo.co.nz
Portfolio: River Rescue

Paul Eames
Telephone: 06 382 5880
Fax: 06 382 5747
Email: info@rra.co.nz
Portfolio: River Rescue

Tim Marshall
Telephone: 03 523 9899
Fax:
Email: ultimate@rivers.co.nz
Portfolio: Guardianship of Rivers and Raft Racing

Nick Chater
Telephone: 07 362 4399
Fax:
Email: newzealand@multidayadventures.co.nz
Portfolio: Raft Racing

Rachael Moore
Telephone: 021 022 52497
Fax:
Email: wai_not_now@yahoo.com
Portfolio: Skills Active

RAFT GUIDE AWARDS

Just a heads up for a couple of quick and easy contacts. If you have any issues with regards to the issuing of your raft guide award, you should first check with your Assessor that it has been processed from their end and passed onto Skills Active.

The contact for the issuing of cards at Skills Active end is:

Seamus Pomeroy-Lovatt
Client Services Administrator - Completions
Phone: (04) 916 8744
Fax: (04) 385 7024
Email: seamus@skillsactive.org.nz
NZ R4 SELECTION RACE FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NETHERLANDS

To be held at BULLER FESTIVAL - 5 - 7 MARCH 2010

Slalom course up ready at 9am until 8pm on Thursday the 4th of March for training runs.

_Friday 5th_
Slalom races at O'sullies Rapid, Buller River.
Start time 9.00am.
(Buller Fest Extreme race starts at 1pm)

_Saturday 6th_
Sprints and Head to Head races. O’Sullies rapid, Buller River.
Start time 9.00 am (Sprints all done by 10am and we will get at least 1 head to head round done before Buller Fest Slalom start.
Head to head will run throughout the day in between Buller Fest racing (Buller Fest Kayak Slalom and Rafter X starts at 11am)

_Sunday 7th_
Down River Race. Gravity Section, Buller River.
Start time 10.00 am. Race start Gowan Bridge.
(Buller Fest Big Air will start around 11.30am)

We have worked it out that most will be able to compete in other events at Buller Fest if they wish. If they don’t turn up to a race at stated start time they may be disqualified.

Entry fee is by NZ Rafting Association Guide membership - $22.50 (incl GST) per team member.

Entry must be received and payment by 8 pm 14 February on the following form.
NEW ZEALAND RAFTING ASSOCIATION RAFT RACING MEMBERSHIP AND ENTRY TO R4 WORLD SELECTION RACE

All information pertaining to the application will be used in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993. We will retain your details so that we may provide you with information relating to the NZRA. You have the right under the Privacy Act 1993 to access and correct your details. From time to time, we may also send you information on behalf of other organisations (such as TIANZ) which we believe may be of interest to you.

Team Name: __________________________ Contact: __________________________

Contact Address: __________________________________________________________

Contact Email: __________________________ Contact Telephone: __________________________

Team Members:

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TOTAL PAYMENT

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Payment Method (please circle) CHEQUE DIRECT CREDIT OTHER

Please make cheques payable to: ‘NZ Rafting Association’ Bank Account #: 031592 – 0259546 – 00 (Place team name in particulars)

Form returned to by 11 February 2010: NZRA, c/- Raewyn Larcombe, 203 Orari River Road, RD 22, Peel Forest or Email: nzraftingassociation@xtra.co.nz