







Cover Photo: Willz Martin on Tree Trunk

Gorge

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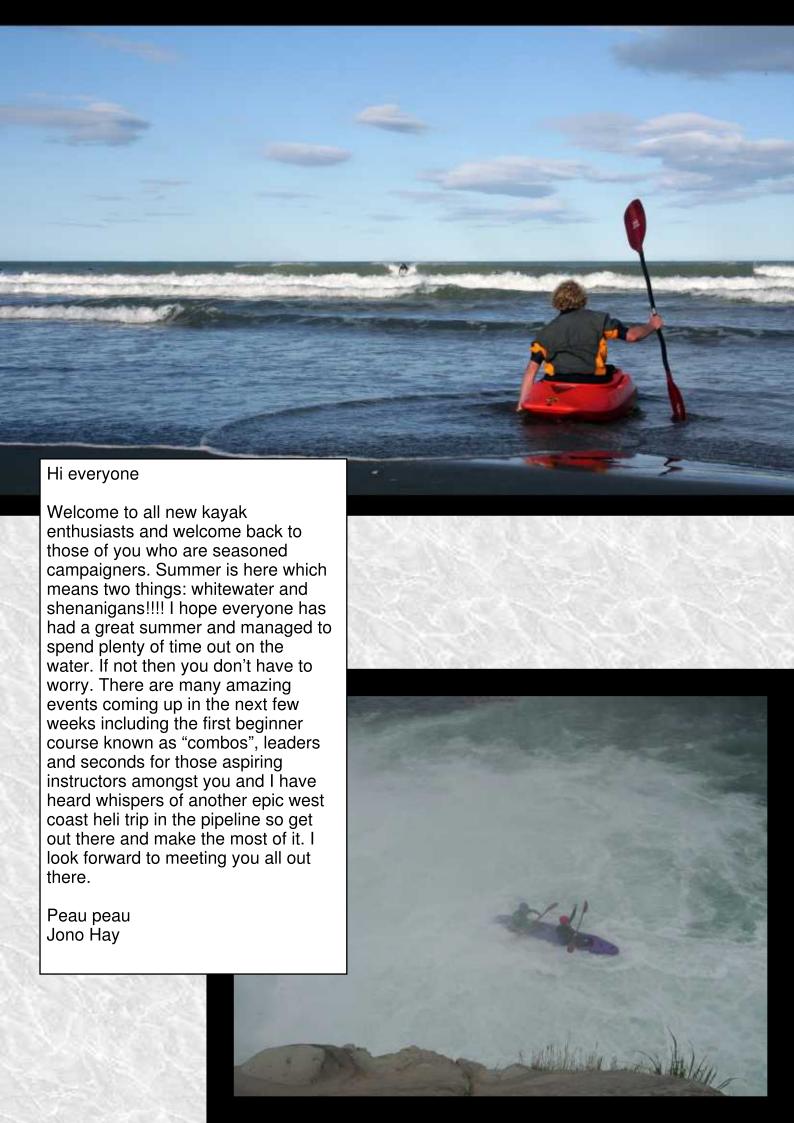
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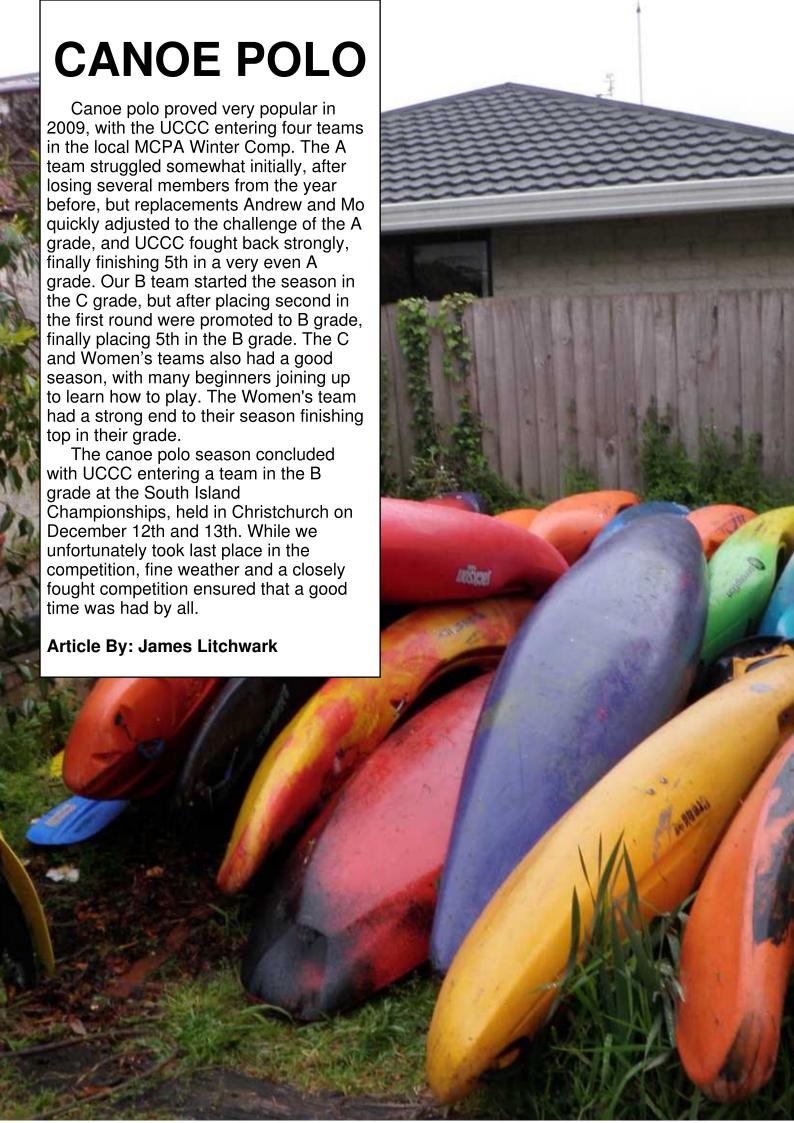


It has been great to see so the UCCC performing so strongly over the past year. Following the second semester clubs day, our membership reached 180 members, the highest for several years. The second semester started with a bang, with parties every weekend, and lots of fresh faces turning up to events. Although the cold weather kept most people away from the rivers, rolling sessions at the pool were very busy, and the occasional surf session also proved very popular. Canoe polo also continued over the winter months, with the MCPA Winter Comp in full swing. As the weather warmed up toward the end of the year, river trips began to pick up again, with lots over eager beginners keen to practise the skills that they had learned in the pool over the winter.

Anyway, the new year has now begun, and the first clubs day for 2010 is fast approaching. I hope to see the club grow even stronger in 2010, and look forward to meeting all our new members (and catching up with all the returning members as well).

James Litchwark







SUMMER BOATING

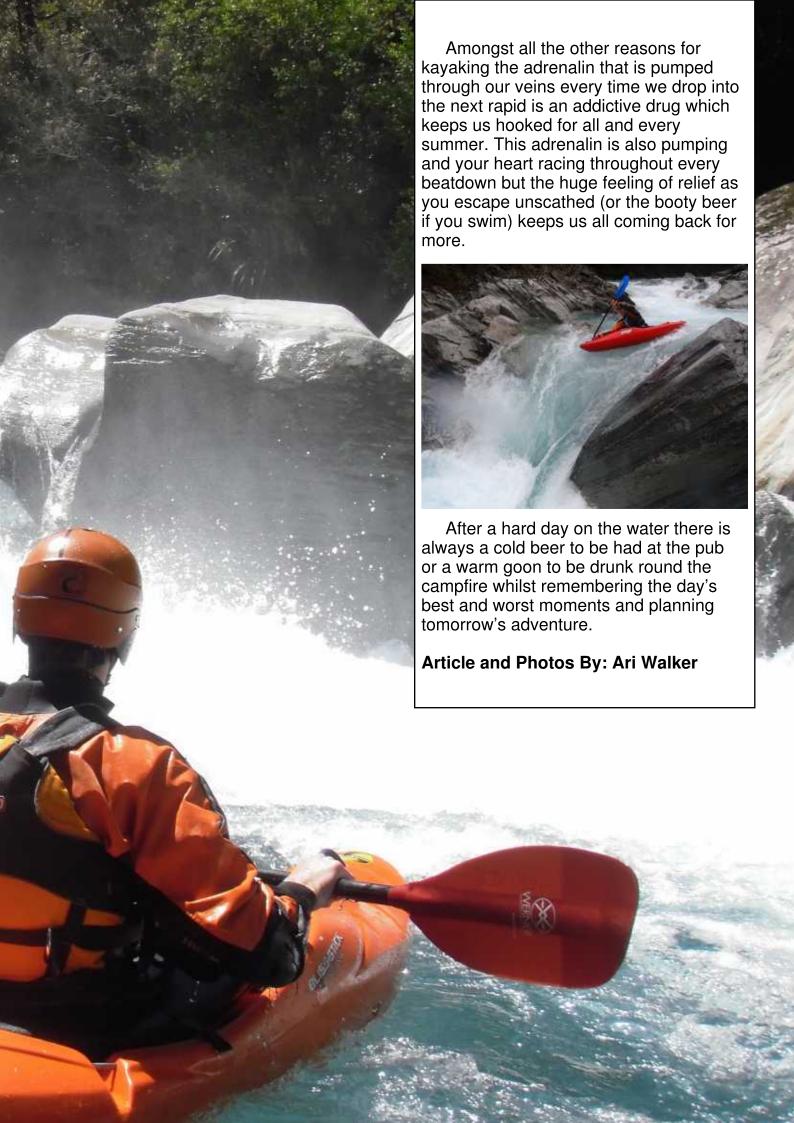
Every summer herds of likeminded people from all over the country migrate to central paddling locations such as the Kaituna for clean and social boating, Murchison for the huge variety of white water and an amazing kayaking atmosphere or Hokitika for full on creeking action. Although we are all in different parts of the country (or world) we are there for the same basic reasons. Sweet white water, good friends, good times and the occasional good line.



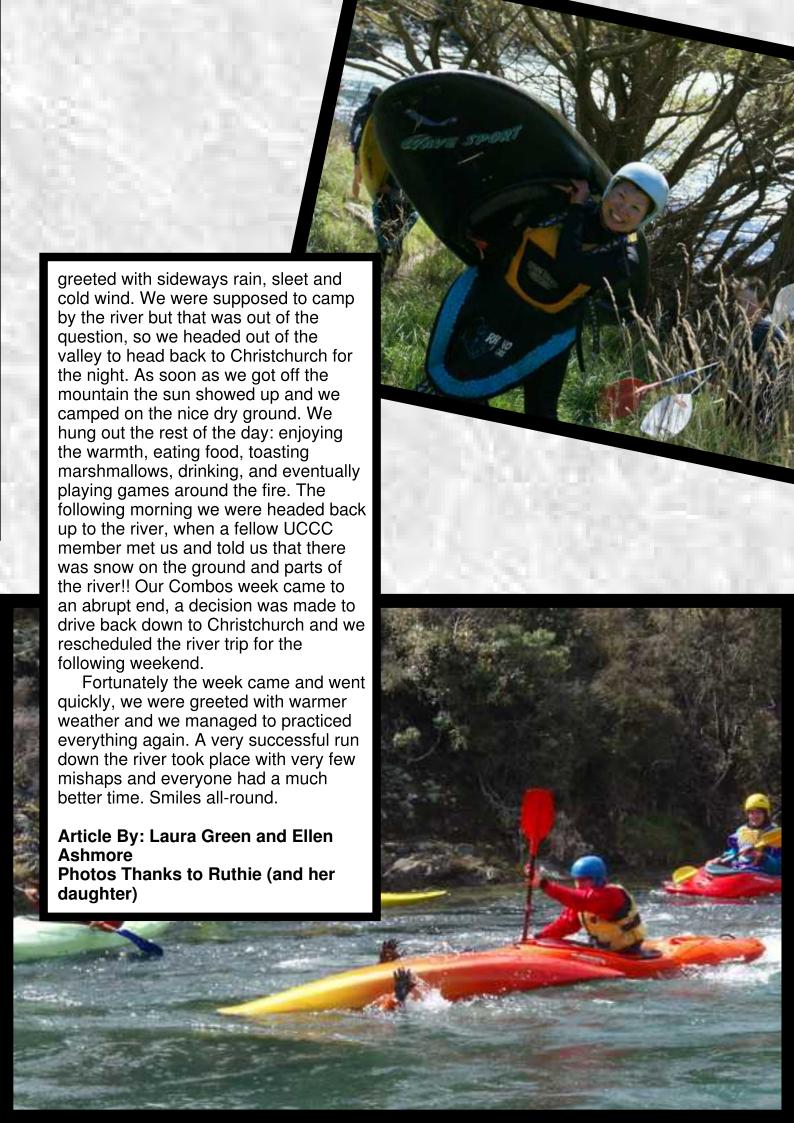
Kayaking takes us to some of the most remote and scenic locations the world has to offer. Many of these places can only ever be seen by fellow paddlers but as a paddler all are seen from a different perspective. We see the true size of the shear gorge walls, the beauty of the crystal waters and are always anxiously boating around the next corner to see what the distant rumble has to offer.











LAND OF THE RED NECK



The USA seems to have been a popular destination for UCCC members lately and with good reason. There is no shortage of amazing countryside to enjoy various outdoor pursuits and the Appalachian Mountains are no exception. If it's good enough for Deliverance it's good enough for me and the big drops and warm water make these mountains a top kayak destination when there is water around and fortunately for us many years ago most of the major rivers on the eastern seaboard were dammed for hydro power and irrigation. The advantage of this from a kayaker's point of view is that most of these rivers now have regular scheduled releases of water all year around which makes rivers that used to only be navigable after rain able to be kayaked on a regular basis.

A classic example of this is the Green River in North Carolina. The Green is widely regarded as being one of the best and most consistent creek runs on the east coast of the USA and has 3-4 km of grade 4-5 rapids with names like "Gorilla", "Go Left and Die" and "Frankenstein". It is also home to one of the best downriver extreme races in the world which attracts top kayakers from all over the world so it is no surprise that I was very happy to have this amazing river that I had heard so much about just 30 minutes drive from my work!

The first trip down for the season started as all good kayak trips do with a couple of quiet jugs at the local Mexican restaurant El Chapala's. This quickly turned into a few not so quiet jugs and a significant headache the next day. After a good sleep in we were off

to the river and we were all feeling quite sorry for ourselves on the 1.5 km walk to the put in. The biggest difference to NZ boating is that we were paddling 'skins' wearing only PFD, spray skirt and elbow pads in the 34 degree heat. Once we finally got to the river we were all rearing to go and floated down the first 1 km of grade 2 warming up as we went and suddenly it was on! The run starts with a grade 4+ rapid called Frankenstein which, as the name implies is seriously ugly to look at but is actually ok (as long as you're on line - hmmm sounds familiar...). Frankenstein signifies the start of the "Monster Mile" which is one mile of steep whitewater with big drop after big drop and only small gaps in between. It's an amazing section of river but not a place you would want to take a swim. I was pretty nervous as we floated in to the first rapid but luckily for me I was with a couple of well known locals who can recite the lines in their sleep.

Everything went well and after about 10 rapids we were all feeling reasonably confident when we got to the first of the harder drops. A quick scout showed the line to be all good so one after another we bombed down, boofing off the tree in the middle before heading through a very narrow slot on the left. Confidence was starting to grow and as we continued down all of the team were making great lines. We got off the river an hour later with the closest call being a large copperhead snake sunbathing on one of the rocks we wanted to scout from but a great run to start the summer with and many more followed over the next three months so if you're ever in NC remember to check out the Green. It's hard to beat!

Article By: Jono Hay Paddler: Jono Hay



SAFETY COURSE



Scheduling the safety course for midlate September was potentially a risk in itself. The last thing we wanted was to be rushing participants back to camp with hypothermia. However, strangely the weather gods found humour in giving us the opposite of bone chilling cold, and gave us beautiful sunny days and uncanny heat for September! I'll take credit for that!

The course this year was run up in Murchison at the New Zealand Kayak School (NZKS). We all trekked over on Friday night and set up camp ready for the following 2 days of action on the river.

The course was great overall and catered for most levels of paddlers. We split into 3 groups will skill levels from beginners to the avid expert extreme hardcore's

(enough adjectives?).

The NZKS is great and has many top class instructors oozing with a wealth of knowledge and experience. The course covered a range of aspects about kayaking including learning about the gear we carry on the river, its design, the importance of carrying it and how to use it correctly and safely. This was followed by a session on knots and practise throw bagging...something that many of us could do with some more practice! Heaven forbid, then the time comes that one of us actually needs a line and there's only time for the one throw...hopefully that 50% chance of hitting target actually does!

After morning sessions at the school we then hit the river and practised



collecting paddles, boats, people and of course, the whole lot at once...the yard sale! So punters don't worry, our instructors should be able to save you and your gear...however expect to pay the price in the pub that evening! Assisted ferry gliding and ferry gliding while towing boats was also on the menu for day 1.

As with all kayaking events there were some beers consumed and the usual trip into the Murchison pub for some. For the rest of us it was a pleasant evening around the camp fire spinning yarns and playing ridiculously frustrating games, thanks to Brian! The second day was once again a beauty and it was straight into creating mechanical advantage systems before jumping into the river and

performing some boat extractions, tethered swimming and dealing with unconscious people and swimmer extractions using slings and mechanical advantage systems.

Hopefully the club will be running this course again this year so if you're interested, keep an eye out for the heads up. 2009 saw 18 members take part, the largest group for some years now which was great to see. So no matter what your skill level, this course is highly recommended for all as it's a great way to increase your knowledge of river safety, making the sport safer and more enjoyable for yourself and those around you.

Article By: Rob Hunter

SAFETY COURSE

The kayak safety course in Murchison with the NZKS was fantastic. We had amazing weather and amazing instructors. Big ups to the New Zealand Kayak School.

We covered so much in two days. From how to tie all sorts of handy knots, to swimming out and saving people in the middle of rapids. Brilliant weekend.

One part I really liked was getting a throw bag clipping in my life jacket to one end, handing the other end to 3 people on the bank saying hang on! Then jumping off a rock into a rapid, swimming out to the victim, grabbing them, forcing there head out of the water, and swimming down the rapid. By this stage the rope has gone tight,

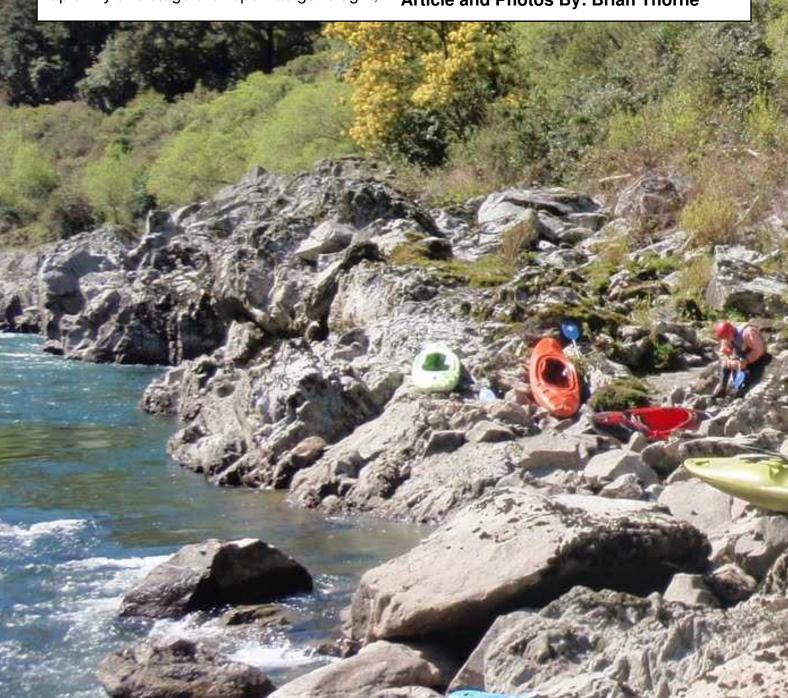
the three people on the bank are knocked off their feet due to the crazy amount of power the river has, and we get swung in to the shore pendulum styles.... I sure felt cool!

Other helpful things were the mechanical advantage systems, useful for both horizontal stuff - eg getting a pinned boat off a rock; and for vertical stuff like getting someone up out of a gorge.

I really think it should be an annual thing for the instructors, maybe even a small amount of Combos money should be ear marked for subsidies just to ensure the standard stays high...

Obviously any weekend up in Murchison is fantastic, there were some good times at the camp ground too!

Article and Photos By: Brian Thorne







IN THE EDDY

Kia ora koutou!

The protest went really well. After chucking on the boats and demolishing some pizzas at The Reception, we headed to the river. We put on with many other boaters such as the Whitewater Club, CPIT, slalom and multi sport paddlers and also found rafts floating down and fishermen casting in waste high water!

Along side the river was the masses of walkers with signs high and chants loud. "Hands off the Hurunui!!" was all that could be heard. We missioned downstream toward Vic Square where we raced to a

finish line then took off the water. We all gathered together to listen to some speaches from a few people. One dude spoke straight to the point "Once they have dammed all of the rivers, only then will they look for sustainable ways. How about we keep our rivers free and natural and look for sustainable ways now!" and the crowd went wild!

A great turn out from people of all walks of life, and a few 'randoms' yelling abuse to a man in an office who had posted a sign in his window saying "Farmers need water."

Cheers heaps to all those who came to support this cause and to those who gave there support in spirit (ie. those who were busy getting loose on our behalf at the Stein lol! Thanks lots and lots everyone!!



Thanks! This is my last piece as Conservation Officer for UCCC, as this is my last year of study (Thank god!!). Thanks heaps for the support as I've been creating submissions and attending hearings and meetings on your behalf. It's a fantastic feeling being able to stand up and say my piece knowing that I have 192 powerful people standing right behind me.

Love you lots! I love the people of UCCC, kayaking attracts a special kind of person who is chilled, over enthusiastic and awesome. We've done some amazing trips while I've been here and no doubt you'll keep up the great work next year. I'll miss it heaps. I'll most likely stay in touch with UCCC as it's a great club.

Next prodigy: Stoked to see Mr. Thomas

Deverson as new Environmental Officer! It's great seeing the passion exploding from that guy. Give him a shit load of support for the year ahead as he'll be facing even more damming proposals and will be working hard on submissions, hearings and protests to keep those fuckers at bay.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming year, I hope it will be an awesome one with heaps of missions.

Much luv and Keep in touch!! Catch ya's out there on the wild and free rivers!!

Your Ex Environmental Officer KT

Article By: KT

Photo By: Monique Eade

Hollyford Hoilday Hoedown



After almost a term of no boating outside the pool (I know that's unhealthy length of time), we decided it was time for a trip and where nicer to go than Fiordland. So we filled several cars with beginners, instructors and those who pretend to know how to paddle and headed south to terrorise the unexpecting people of Te Anau and Queenstown. The first day was a long day of driving but not without the absolutely required traditional stops on the way: Cookie Time (food = happy people), Nevis Bluff (to completely terrorify the beginners) and of course Ferg Burger. However, after this journey we got down to the serious business of boating.

First up we headed to Mavora lakes, this gem of a camping spot is nestled inbetween Te Anau and Queenstown. We started off with a flat water session and then moved onto an easy grade two run. While the stronger paddlers headed off for a harder run, the beginners stayed behind to practice their T-rescues and paddling on the lake with Dale and Mon. After trying to demonstrate once how to T-rescue, I quickly understood

their unwillingness to practice, however we perserved for a while before heading down the river (by car) to met the rest of the team at Kiwi Burn swingbridge.

The other group went for a paddle down the Gorge section of the Mararoa river. This section was mostely grade 2 but had a few nice grade 3 drops that made everyone grin. Oh and a wee swim that turned into cutting a throw bag that had got wedged under a sieve during boat retrieval. After the gorge, there was a bony scrape down to the Kiwi Burn swingbridge where we met up with the others. Cue the lying in the sun!

Entering Fiordland consisted of the usual tourist things along the way to Milford Sound. We stopped at the Englinton river, and falls creek for a quick scout. Also we stopped at the mirror lakes, the chasm and Homer hut. Once we got to Milford we jumped the no entry gate to the water fall track, ignored several warning signs and went and stood right infront of a waterfall in the middle of a torrential downpour. No prized for guessing that we got pretty soaked at this point, even with lots of waterproof gear on!

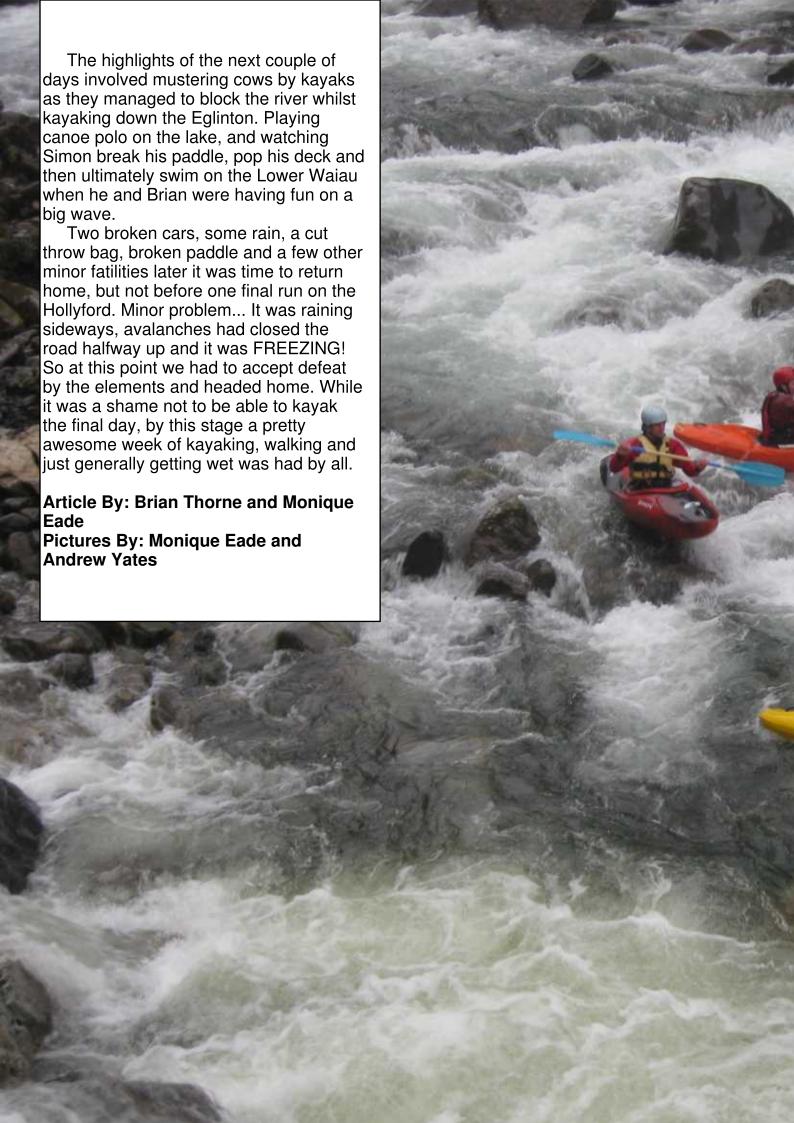
Throughout the week we did a variety of different runs catering for the different level paddlers on the trip, including Falls Creek, Brian's favourite run. As the instructors headed down the river in torrental rain the rest of us enjoyed running up and down the side of the river in a cross between keeping warm and admiring their efforts. The river was high and the main drop just looked silly. A huge side current was pushing the river into an undercut rock, which from experience does flush out, but did not look pretty. B-Rain decided to run it anyway and survived to tell the tale and then had fun? In the holes just after this while everyone else enjoyed the show from the safety of the rocks. The rest of the river was at an ideal flow, and if it wasn't for the cold and rain and rapidly approaching darkness we who were paddling could have stayed there for a lot longer.





The Gunns Camp run was the key beginners run. Unfortunately, it was freezing. We had a couple of swimmers and therefore a couple of people got out a little early. The river was also higher and moving swifter than usual. This meant that all the beginners were forced to get out a bend early as if they missed the usual get-out they were going straight into a nasty/awesome looking sustained grade 4+ run. Now that we were all pretty much soaked to the bone anyway we tramped into Hidden Falls Hut on the Hollyford track. It was interesting watching some of the kayakers tramping in clothing such as jeans and jandals in the Fiordland bush in the rain, however when we arrived at the hut it didn't take (me :-P) long to have the fire roaring and the hut to become as toasty and warm as home.







SUMMER IN THE NORTH ISLAND

There were two really important things that I needed to do this summer. The first was to kayak, and the second was to complete the practical work experience required for my civil engineering degree. Without work experience, I can't get my degree. You need 100 days experience, so do the math, and you'll find that it takes at least two summers to complete this. This being my second to last summer before study finishes, I knew I had better make it worth it and do the thing that would benefit me better in the long-term. This is why I temporarily turned my back on university and chose to kayak for the summer.

There exists a place where you can boat as much as you like all day every day, where the days are warm and sunny, the water is unbelievably warm and where going kayaking is as easy as it gets – it's called Paradise, better known as Okere Falls, Kaituna River, NZ.

Kayaking in Okere Falls requires only the bare essentials – boat, paddle, PFD (personal floatation device), helmet, spraydeck and some shorts. If you want to

go boating here, all you have to do is get in the car with your minimalist kit and drive 3 minutes to the put in – that's it, there's nothing else to it. Take a throwbag if you want to run trout pool falls and I always wore shoes and sometimes a long sleeve shirt to keep me cool and the sun off my back! Sometimes even the spraydeck or paddle proved cumbersome, so we'd attempt to get down the run without swimming or sinking – it's the shit and it has been done!

The Okere Falls run itself is 1.1km long and takes anywhere between 7 and 60 minutes. It is pool-drop style and winds its way through a beautiful bush-fringed gorge. Drops of note are: 2.5m Okere Falls, closely followed by the weir, and the 7m Tutea Falls. It is class III-IV, but don't be put off! You can make it harder for yourself by catching tricky eddies and making harder moves, or cut loose and throw some freewheels, kickflips, spins and other stupid shit. My days were filled with such antics occasionally spiced up with a mission somewhere if there was some rain and/or a crew – the highlight of these being Aratiatia.





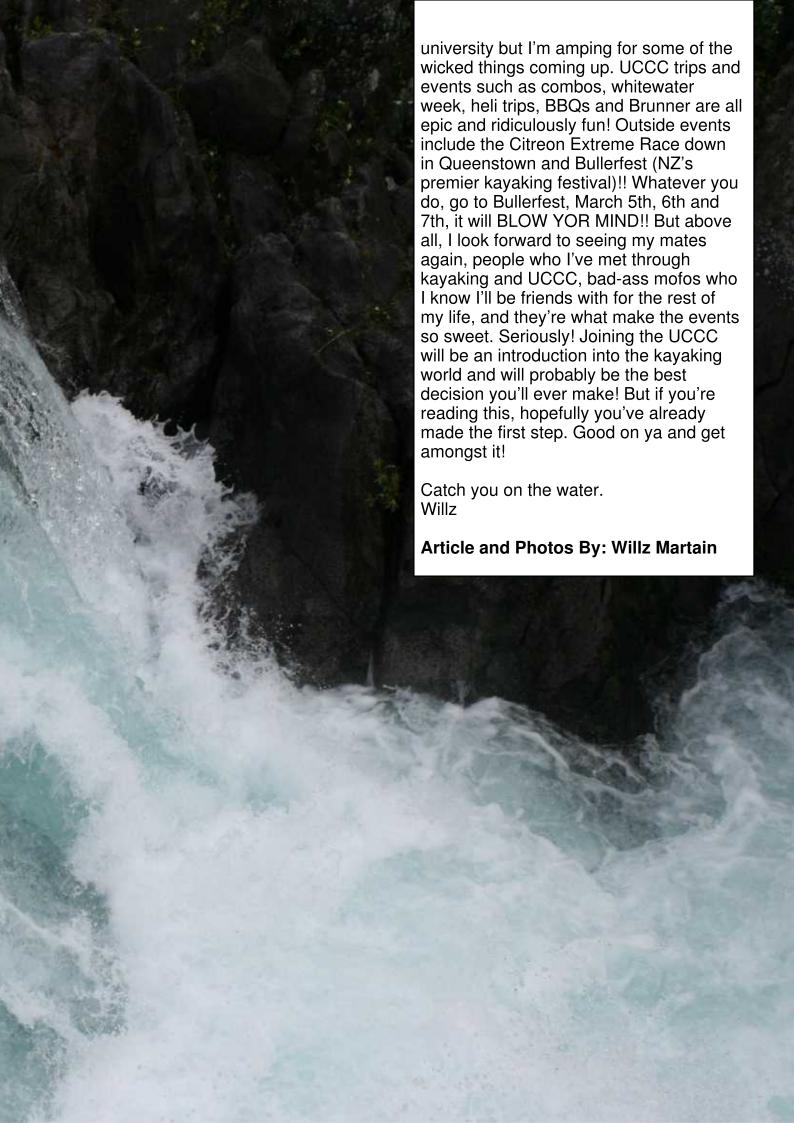
Aratiatia

Big and hard are two very fitting words to describe these rapids. Situated on the Waikato River, they aren't as well known as Huka Falls upstream, but are far more serious weighing in at class V-VI and are very rarely paddled. I was keen, but very scared. Max (Ze German!), Simon and Matt were also keen so the four of us booked a date. Max and I made the mission down to Taupo to meet them and we rallied from their place. We were all pretty guiet on the drive out there and it's the only time it's taken me 20 minutes to eat a banana. No matter how many times I ran it in my mind, I couldn't relax or shake off this sick feeling from my stomach. Water is released from the dam four times a day for half an hour so all the punters can come watch the rapids form. A siren signals the gates opening. When that siren went off, sitting in my boat at the top, it felt like my stomach dropped out of my arse easily one of the top 5 most terrifying moments of my life. Matt had arranged photos and safety at the weir, the crux of the rapids – a monstrous hole that is hard to line up and to boof, and one you'll be lucky to get out of in your boat if you get caught. We waited 15 minutes for the channel to fill up.

Matt went first, and then Simon followed by myself and Max. I had good lines up the top and charged straight down the guts of the weir boofing as hard as I could! I blasted out on my end and battled down the rest of the rapid to hugs all around at the bottom knowing that the hardest part was over. We paddled the second drop – a mandatory meltdown into a huge flushing hole, above a last boof to glory. I made up for my dodgy weir line here by somehow staying upright through this rapid, stoked!! By this time the gates had closed so that was it - all over in 15 minutes. This meant we couldn't paddle the third drop but we didn't care – it being significantly easier than the top two, so we paddled to the take out, skulled a corona and Simon caught a ride back up to his truck with a local cop someone from the power station had called. We were all super stoked, for me it was a chapter closed. We went back to Taupo and did nothing for the rest of the day. I came home the following morning unable to stop thinking about it, but I couldn't wait to get back on the Kaituna!

As the summer holiday draws to an end, it's gutting watching everyone drift away, back to school and work, myself dreading the return to the city and the monotony of





SPOONFEST

Late September 2009 saw the first ever 'Spoon fest' held in Tekapo at the artificial whitewater kayak course.

Spooning: a cuddling position, a kind of hugging when both the hugger and the hugged persons face the same direction (Wikipedia, 2009). Note that this is related to hugging, therefore:

Hug: a form of physical intimacy, not necessarily sexual (but often leads to...), that usually involves closing or holding the arms around another person or group of persons (or kayakers). The hug is one of the most common human signs of love and affection (modified from Wikipedia, 2009).

Spoon fest: When the UCCC and OUCC (Otago University Canoe Club) meet to exercise their love and affection for the spoon, the hug, the goon and of course kayaking in crisp glacier fed water (Rob, 2009)!

If you're into camping, slapping goons, surfing holes or anything in between, then sign up for Spoon fest 2010! The first ever Spoon fest was undoubtedly a great success thanks to a great turn out from both clubs, some glorious sunshine and 18 cumecs of water through the course. There were two nights camping from Friday to Sunday, with the majority of people opting to come along on Saturday morning. It's fair to say that the quality of party was equally as good, if not better than the paddling itself. Campfires have the habit of escalating the consumption of beer and goon to naked levels...but this one topped the lot! The weekend had many firsts... one being the naked boat race of UCCC vs. OUCC around the camp fire, UCCC only just coming out on top! It was also great to see some girls getting into the spirit of things too! Brilliant work team! Now of course, we just have to turn up year after year to defend the title!



Happy Spooning, Rob

WHY THE PLANET IS SWEET?

Is it really? and for how long? We love and enjoy this world as kayakers as well as humans. We live, breathe and enjoy all the gifts our planet offers, particularly our rivers. But the way we are treating our planet places questions on the sustainability of the natural environment as a direct result of our actions.

These issues relate directly from our actions as humans on this earth, they are not a result of us specifically as kayakers but the effects on our sport are something that could have potential implications. Our sport directly utilizes the natural function of rives which all relate back to the use of a natural space and the responses of local and global weather. To us conserving the amazing natural environment to ensure the paddling and partying continues is key.

This can come down to basic steps of being a good citizen to our planet by just putting a little though into the actions we are making and the effects they are having. Think about the way we get to university, bus, bike and what about the Avon it flows right through uni, lets get some kayaks paddling in, could there be a better way! Lets make sure we get the cars packed out on our river trips, that way the emissions per person is the lowest possible, and means more people to party with in the evening following! Now lets take a bit of responsibility for our goons ay, get that box safe in the recycling prior to drinking and reuse the sack for an airbag for our boats once consumption is achieved.

Lets keep the paddling up, lets keep the rivers flowing and get ready for a big year at UCCC.

Peace out Thomas Deverson

Meet the Committee Aren't We a Pretty Bunch?

This is the committee as it currently stands. If you there is anything we can help you with or you simply just want to get involved feel free to email anyone of us at the following addresses.



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