



# UCCC

Semester Two  
2010





Martin trying out the Surf



Superheroes Party



Combos



Willz on Aratiatia



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Another semester down and another magazine published. 2010 has been a spectacular year for the UCCC with some awesome paddling and epic events. A big thanks to everyone who contributed to the magazine, whether you sent in articles, took cool photos or generally stopped me pulling my hair out! Mon

Contributors:

Chris Atkinson, David Bevan-Smith, Monique Eade, Kev England, Marlease Fairgray, Thomas Larson, Willz Martin, Craig Moore, Dale Palmer, Brian Thorne, Luc Toussaint, Brian Urmson, Alex Westphal, Kim Williamson, Andrew Yates

Photos on Cover from top left:

- Kim rescuing Simon at Leaders and Seconds
- Jono on Nevis Bluff
- Willz on Tree Trunk Gorge
- Brian at the end of Mavora Lakes Run
- B-Rain dressed for Avon Pub Crawl
- HQ
- Girls Canoe Polo game
- UCCC at bottom of Earthquake run on the Buller

Back Cover:

- UCCC at the start of Middle Matakas

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# CAPTAIN'S COLUMN

Alright, where to start... Although it's winter and not so much appears to be happening, there are a lot of big and badass ideas being thrown out into the mix, so stay tuned! Semester One yielded the biggest numbers the club has seen as long as I've been at uni – we currently stand just shy of 200! Is this leading up to a return of older times when the UCCC had 300+ members?? I sure as hellers think so! If we don't make it this year, next year!!

This year Ari (the Hebrew) Walker kicked things off with a stellar Combos course which saw another batch of beginners gettin' amongst it and learning the ways of the greatest sport on the planet! Choice. Brian (the Thrasher) Thorne countered with an outstanding White-Water Week which won't be forgotten any time soon. Brian's slick skills saved us from a 3-year ban from the Murchison campground as we nearly partied away the future of WWW!! SHOT BRIAN! Many goons were drained and songs were sang and thanks to WWW the club has a new range of airbags featuring Bethany Blenheimer, Wendy Wohnsiedler, Vicki Velluto, Chantel Chasseur, Chlamydia Country and others whose names elude me (forgive me ladies!). It was awesome! I was there, so was L&P.

On that note the club did actually import 15 brand new WRSI helmets from the States. Dan (Gearman) Lewis showed those mofos who's boss hooking up the club with the goods - win. Such high quality gear is unusual for a club which makes us look primo, but unfortunately also shows how shite the rest of our gear is. Rest assured however that we are working on it; the UCSA has been good to us dishing out hundreds of dollars in grants and we now have 15 brand new nevis bluff paddles on the way for next semester! Sick.

B-Rain (Social Officer) Urmson kept things fired up in between kayaking with epic parties, the notorious BYO and the Avon Pub Crawl. The parties were saweeet and for some reason and couldn't make the BYO and Pub Crawl but judging from what I heard and the state of HQ when I got home on those nights, they were off the hook, as usual, nice work socialite.

All that all of this really was of course, was preparation for the biggest weekend of the year. Once again, Craig (Beavis) Moore stepped up to the plate and delivered BRUNNER. Rowdy, messy, loud, kayaking, keg, shower party and many other aspects of FUN were detected in high concentrations, once again, living up to every expectation. Thanks bro. X.

The ongoing efforts of Yates (Yates) Yates finally brought us some extra storage space next to the gear shed! The shed is also being redesigned over these holidays so expect streamline, efficient operations from now on...

Looking ahead, things are hazy like the shitty Christchurch winter, but there are just as many events to look forward to in Semester 2. These may or may not include another Avon Pub



Crawl, BYO and Combos, Hollyford Hoedown, KayakaPalooza and Tekapo Spoonfest amongst other BBQs and parties. Rolling sessions should also hopefully start to occur regularly and get people fired up for the warm season! The most exciting but the least certain is the possibility of another West Coast Heli Trip. If you behave and do your homework (eddies etc.), we might let it fly and this would be the one to look out for! Whispers of a club raft are out there too meaning we could do overnight river trips. This would add a whole new dimension of epicocity to what is already the greatest club on campus...

Take it easy and see you out there!

Willz

P.S. Vegemite is shit, Marmite is waaaaaaaay better.

Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win gloriou triumphs, even though checkered by failure... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.

- T. Roosevelt

# President's Column: Cry Me a River



Hello! This is an honour, my first column as President of the esteemed University of Canterbury Canoe Club. I'd like to extend a big welcome to all our new members and offer some sagely advice - take every opportunity and "make stuff happen" to ensure you get the most out of joining the UCCC. I have been told by so many exchange students it is honestly the most enjoyable/awesome thing they do in NZ. It seems a large portion of our members are financial contributors only: please don't just pay for membership - turn up to events!

The UCCC has two very different facets: the social and the paddling. It is important for everyone to remember and respect that some people are far more into one or the other!

For some winter means a temporary break from paddling, some stay sharp by practicing in the pool, while others pretend not to notice the cold. I've been lucky enough to get out a few times since the snow started settling at the get ins - donning the polypro covered with dishwashing gloves. Hot pink is a fashion statement to be sure!

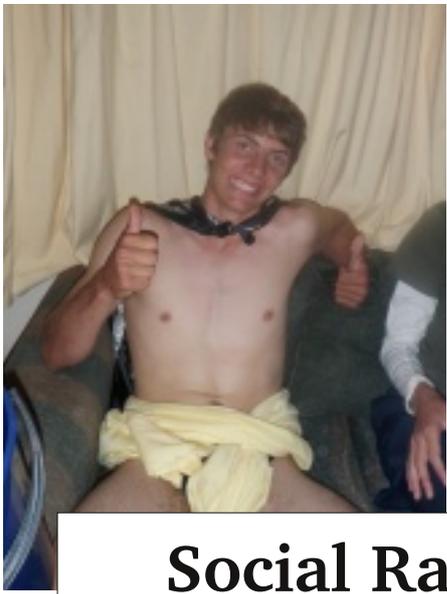
For the leaders and more experienced members of the club, there will be an opportunity to up-skill yourselves by attending a course run by the New Zealand Kayak School in Murchison. Everyone who attended the last course came away with new knowledge so if you can make it I would highly encourage attending.

Putting on my green hat now. The government has been less than green of late: with the rushed passing of the 'Environment Canterbury Bill', the threat of the Hurunui Water Project, the central plains project gaining support from our own Rodd Carr, the Mohikinui dam getting the go ahead, and the proposal to mine in the national parks.. The news isn't all bad, the people are listening and the people are starting to stir. The government received more than 33,000 public submissions against the proposal to mine national parks. DOC, Whitewater NZ, and Forest & Bird have teamed up to appeal the Mohikinui dam decision - that will be heard sometime next year.

Plenty of people turned up for the not so silent protest regarding our Canterbury rivers in the square. Twas great to see some old and new UCCC members amongst the throngs. We must stay vigilant though as the temptation for the west coast to export power is immense - we have to make sure its not at the expense of our rivers!

Brian Thorne





# Social Ramblings

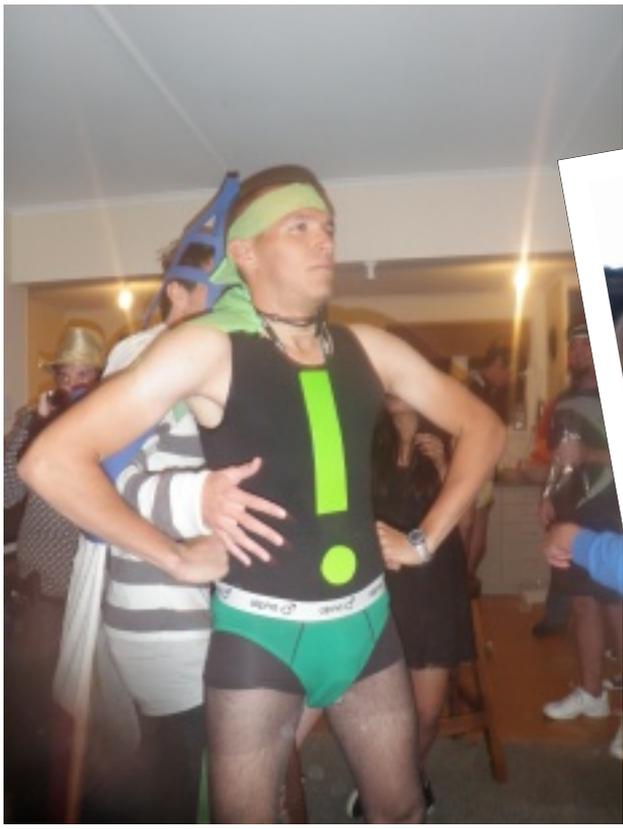
This has been written completely sober due to exam study...so don't complain about any spelling mistakes and grammar. What can I say, UCCC is pretty much the best club at uni: it's as simple as that. Our parties have been awesome, our trips are epic, and all our club members are loving it. I'm B-rain, UCCC Social Officer and I thought I better chuck in a wee article into this magazine.

We are only halfway through this University year and we already have had countless amounts of parties, some sweet river trips, and not to mention White Water Week and Brunner! UCCC HQ has been the

perfect party house: and I'm sure everyone who has attended anything there, knows what I'm talking about. This year's first Avon pub crawl and BYO have come and gone but will not be the last for the year so be prepared for those around the corner.

The second semester is going to bring more parties and I have a lot of good ideas that will hopefully fall into place so that you all can experience another great uni year with UCCC. Remember to join the UCCC Party Group page on facebook, and keep an eye on your e-mails to be kept up to date with the social happenings of the UCCC.

Hope to see you all next semester B-Rain



# Canoe Polo

Canoe Polo. Two words that ooze extreme possibility and excitement. Pretty much the best sport know to man. Think kayaking..yes. Warm pool water...yes. An awesome bunch of UCCC members...yes. Plus throw in some tactics, skill, speed and of course a bit of good natured violence! Sounds to me like good times!!!

This is my first year at UC and being one to seek out new friends I found myself signed up to UCCC, and soon after that I had been put into the UCCC women's canoe polo team. I had played a few games at school before, but this team is a great environment for learning basic kayaking skills, or improving skills you already have. You get to see your improvement in the game and hang out heaps with your sweet team because the season is a whopping seventeen weeks of pure fun and laughter!

Currently we have played just over half of the season and UCCC has seemed to make quite a name for itself. With five teams this year in a variety of divisions we have seen the status of the sport increase ten-fold! (or something). The 'A' team has been playing rather well, dominating a few old time rivals



and showing the other teams exactly what they are made of. The Women's team is doing very well for itself also, coming second on the table with only one team managing to beat them. The 'B' team, I hear, is dominating their grade: progressing through the competition pretty much un-beaten. And then we have the White-water team, who had taken to canoe polo like a sheep to grass. They were bounced up out of their grade as they were just winning far too convincingly against anyone they came against! Finally the 'C' team, who going by usually UCCC standards and has won far more games than they have lost, so that is pretty choice ay.

So all in all UCCC are set to dominate the winter competition this year, hopefully bringing home a few trophies for the cabinet. But let's not get ahead of ourselves...





So if you are considering playing canoe polo next year, I tell you... "Yes Do!"

Whether it be to make sweet awesome friends or to improve and develop your kayaking skills or the pure thrill of pushing your opponents over...and seeing them swim (insert evil laugh here). Then canoe polo is the game for you!!!

**By: Annelise Posthuma**

**Photos By: Alex Westphal**

**Picture Left: Mo's Flatmates depiction of Canoe Polo**

## LEADERS AND SECONDS

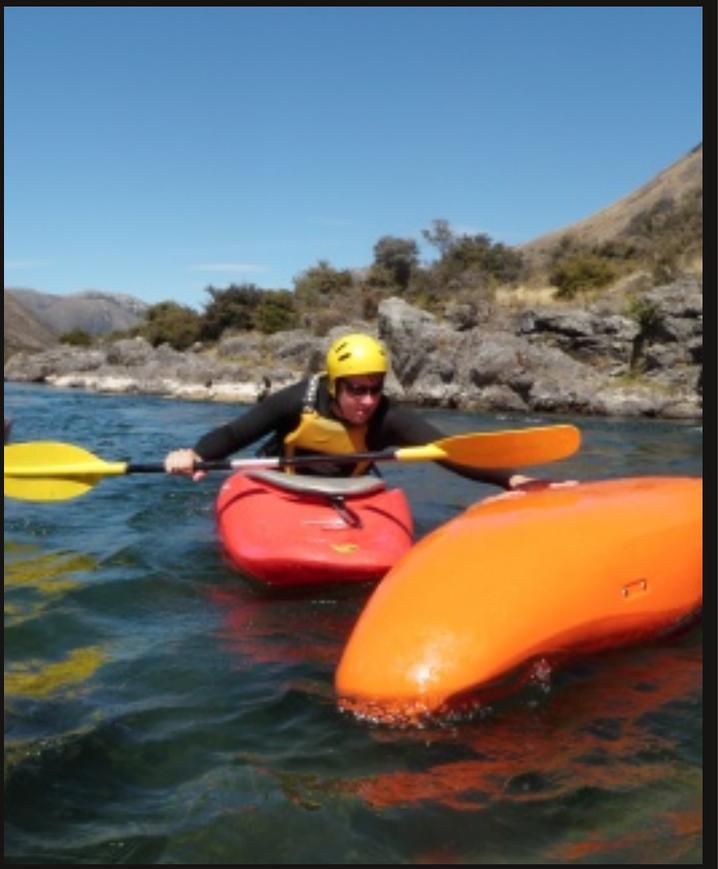
After 4 months in the States and the extra four months of winter I was most definitely ready for some summer and some paddling on my return. First up for the year was Leaders and Seconds.

Leaders and Seconds is a course run by the club for the instructors and buddying instructors to get together and learn / revise / teach the skills necessary for taking beginners on the water or more generally things that help on the river at any level.

We covered lots of various things and with amazing weather it was not hard to find volunteers to swim down rapids.

Thanks heaps to Brian and James for organising the event and teaching us. It was an awesome weekend with some good laughs, good paddling and generally good times.

**By: Monique Eade**



# Our Rivers are up Against It!

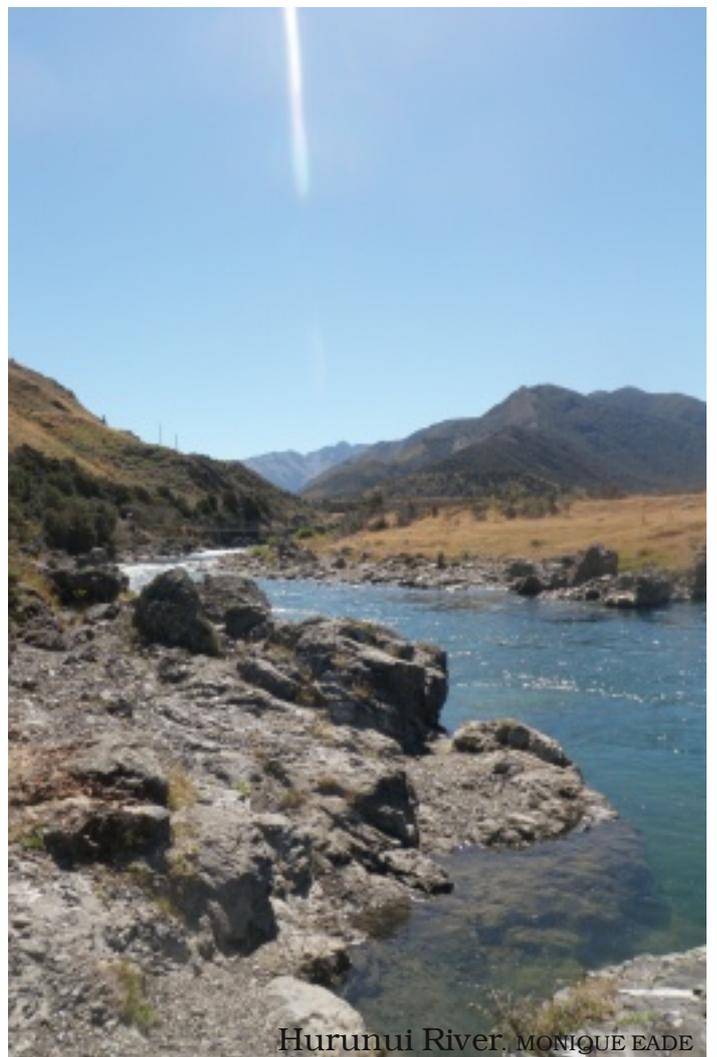
Canterbury's rivers are under threat with their free flowing nature is being challenged. Water allocation within the Canterbury region is a major issue with two significant free flowing wild rivers destined for a submerged future. Government intervention has seen the sacking of a democratically elected water management board for government selected officials. The management of our water resources is a contentious issue with recreationalists and naturalists battling against economic productivity and the degradation of a common pool resource.

The issue we are faced with is the protection our wild rivers. If we fail these rivers are destined to be a submerged underworld of what was once a boulder garden or a cascading drop. These wild remote locations will be lost to all future generation. Can we really justify losing what makes our country what it is by saying it is all for 'economic productivity' for the greater good of water storage for agriculture and hydro power generation. We as a nation built on green image have to weigh up the options of how much we are prepared to sacrifice. Are willing to lose an irreplaceable national resource, and what we really are gaining? Water and rivers are a common resource for all New Zealanders. This means they should have a common benefit, but as it stands we stand to lose a lot for the gains of a few.

The recent passing of resource consent for the Mokihinui hydro-electric dam on the West Coast will be a significant loss of free flowing whitewater. Appeals have been lodged against the proposed dam, but continuing approvals are seeing this project getting closer and closer to commencement. But as far as the river is concerned the river is not lost until the dam is built. So this is the attitude we all need to adopt: fight for the river, let its voice be heard via our actions and opinions that our rivers should run free.

The Hurunui faces a similar battle. The consequences of losing Canterbury's kayak training ground would immensely affect the Canterbury region and UCCC. With the river's close location and excellent capacity to cater for beginners progressing through to Grade 3 intermediate paddling the loss of this river would significantly affect kayaking in the area. With the sacking of the elected water management board we have lost our voice. Canterbury's water resources faces serious threats from short term and short-sighted management. Again, we need to let our voices heard and make sure our rivers and waterways continue to flow clean and free.

Conservation Officer  
Thomas Deverson



Hurunui River, MONIQUE EADE

# Sea Kayaking IS Cool

Kayaking with the UCCC usually revolves around missioning down rivers and playing a good hearty game of canoe polo on a weekday evening. All of these events are typically ended by a good goon session where merriness occurs. The perception of sea-kayaking by many paddlers is that of boringness, where people imagine long distances: flat, lame, and unexciting paddling.



Chris demonstrating his Uniform

Two summers ago in the 08/09 season Chris (Butthead) and I (Beavis) decided we would break out of that common scene and we got jobs sea kayak guiding in the Abel Tasman. I have no idea how they accepted us as we had never set foot in a sea kayak before we went up to start the season. We felt we should have had to gone at least once, so to start off small we paddled around the Banks Peninsula.

This turned out to be an epic trip, we thought it was a 2 day mission so set off early one morning having a terrible start with Chris getting dragged up onto the beach by a large wave and losing his hat and sunglasses before we had even begun. In that day we paddled and we paddled and we paddled, we could find nowhere to land until 10.5 hours later by which stage neither of us could walk. Some random lady proceeded to provide us with curry and cookies and cream ice cream while we dripped over her floor and we slept on very comfy pine needles.

The second day we set off again and paddled and paddled until we made it to Sumner after paddling within touching distance of numerous dolphins and seals and albatross and penguins. We were shagged, and when we took our hire boats back they were shocked we had done it in 2 days as most do it in 4!!! All in all an EPIC kayaking trip.

The summer that followed that mission, turned out to be just as epic, with incredible amounts of drinking, girls, kayaking, sunshine, drinking, kayaking, drinking. We left that summer having had the best summer ever and consequently returned the following (last) summer: this time with the aim of saving more money. We didn't. Once again an epic summer with even more ridiculous beer consumption. Did I mention we didn't pay a cent for accommodation as we lived in our vans on the side of the road overlooking Kaiteriteri Beach?

This article hopefully describes that sea kayaking IS cool. So much is involved, huge seas, meeting new people, epic adventures, lots of drinking, what more could you want? I am about to go back for a 3rd season as well so get involved!!!

UCCC 4 Life.

Beavis and Butthead.



Craig on a typical working day

# COMBOS

As an introduction to kayaking, combos is a pretty sweet way to get into it! Going from no experience at kayaking to feeling pretty confident in a kayak over the length of the course is an awesome feeling and way to learn.

We started with a session at the pool learning some safety techniques: learning how to T rescue ourselves and others, how to barrel roll and how to do a wet exit. After learning all this stuff we had a bit of fun racing each other across the raft of kayaks, from one end to the other before chilling in the spa pool and sauna while the other group had their turn.

Then it was on to the flat water session, where we learnt some paddle strokes and some techniques for controlling the kayaks, before playing a game of bullrush and tag and a race or two followed by a BBQ.

The surf session came next at New Brighton beach: having fun paddling out through the surf and catching a wave back in (and occasionally wiping out) before doing all over again is definitely a sweet way to pass an afternoon.

On the weekend we all went out to the Hurunui river and got in some excellent river kayaking before camping out for the evening and having another go on the Sunday after being joined by the people who came out for the day.

Having enthusiastic and passionate instructors teaching you how to kayak makes for an excellent and fun experience, and all in the space of a week.....gotta say, I can't wait for White Water Week.

**By: David Bevan-Smith**



Photo By: Brian Thorne



I really enjoyed the Combos weekend. Besides learning many techniques: how to exit and enter an eddy and how to cross a river. I had a lot of fun in the evening. The instructors seemed to be very qualified and patient. Especially on the last trip on Sunday I took much pleasure in kayaking and I am very excited about White Water Week.



Sina Koch

As I saw the Hurunui River for the first time I was pretty scared, felt uncomfortable and asked myself why I applied for this trip. But after a lot of trial and error with ferrygliding and eddying in and out I stopped capsizing and had a really good time on our way down the Hurunui. Now I'm looking forward to learning to roll and I'm curious about the White Water Week in April.



Martin Müller

Hurunui River: Jollie Brook Putin  
Photo By: Martin Müller

# RGC. A West Coast Classic.



Red Granite Creek has quickly become one of the “must do” creeks on the coast. It’s only had two descents (assuming Bruce Barnes didn’t do it in the 1980’s), but most of the paddlers on the coast have heard of it and would jump at the chance to get on it!

I’m glad to be able to report that UCCC was there in force for both descents and with 50% of all the paddlers who’ve been down it being UCCC members I think it’s fair to say that UCCC is more than just a drunkfest and throwing beginners off Maruia Falls!

1st D: Jordie Searle, Kev England, Justin Venable, Keith Riley.

2nd D: Ari Walker, Willz Martin, Kev England, Tyler Fox, Brendan Bayly, Tim Pickering.

Unlike the heli-kayaking runs that the coast is famous for, RGC requires a stout 3 hour tramp to get to the put in. This is because the terrain at the put in is too steep for a chopper and when it’s flowing well for kayaking it will still be raining, so the choppers wouldn’t fly anyway! It’s

reasonably gruelling, with people favouring a carry system finding it much easier to force themselves through the dense supplejack and fallen tree strewn, sub-vertical obstacle course. On both descents the walk in has beaten some of the countries better kayakers, but never a UCCC member!

The first drop of the run is about 100m downstream of the put-in, which puts a smile on everybody’s face as they realise that this run’s going to be GOOD! The pool of this drop flows into a technical double drop with a large undercut boulder in the middle, just to add some interest, followed by a straightforward slide type rapid. Both of which feel like good quality bedrock granite whitewater, more similar to California or Scotland than the West Coast of NZ.

It’s not until the next drop that you realise what this run’s all about. A 17- 18m high cascading waterfall, which begs to be run, directly on top of another 12- 13m high curtain type waterfall. Looking down from

the top over the 2 horizon lines to the deep pool far below is a treat for the eyes of any waterfall enthusiast. Due to the remoteness the top waterfall has not been run, but the second, named "Juice Falls", is a pure delight. There's an exciting seal launch off a moss-clad cliff, into a precarious pool at the lip of the falls. Once in the water, it's simply a matter of choosing your launch pad, freefall, and soak up as much of the adrenaline as you can!

It's a photogenic spot for sure, but surprisingly, there's no shot of Jordy running it, even though he named it. Ari can claim the title for the first person to kick flip off it, Willz claims the loudest landing boof, and Kev claims the stylistic descent!

This section is what RGC is all about—clean waterfalls off granite ledges, like the ones people go to Norway for! It's so stacked with waterfalls that when you look back upstream you can usually see the top of the last one you launched off.



Kev on the End of the World. SVEN PERSCHMANN

It's a stunning place to be.

Amongst the notable drops is a waterfall called "The Spout", which as the name implies is a spout of water, jetting out between a cliff and a massive boulder. The water is forced through at such pressure that it leaves a huge cave behind the falls, and provides paddlers with an evenly curved take-off lip, that's as solid as you like, so air-time is a breeze.

From here the creek changes character a little and eases off in gradient (slightly!), until the next big horizon line approaches. The next falls are another double drop, also with the top one awaiting a descent. After deliberating over whether or not to run the top drop, and fantasising over the possibility of doing a rail slide down the log on the bottom drop, it's an easy scramble down to the water to slide effortlessly off the 5m scooped ledge into the pool at the bottom.

It's only here that you realise where you are...from here you can see the take out...it's only about 80m away, but it's



Ari Kick flipping on Juice. TYLER FOX

also about 20m downhill from here! Once everyone's down it takes a while to scout the next, and final, drop. "The End Of The World" is a truly amazing piece of whitewater-RGC, the creek that just keeps on giving, has saved it's best 'til last! It's a staunch rocky lead in to a raggedy lipped waterfall, but once over the lip you're in a place that only a few lucky boaters have been blessed enough to experience.

The take-out is directly above a massive set of cascades, which deliver the turbulent, aerated water of RGC to the Mikonui River far below, so the exposure factor of the last runnable drop is immense. It really does feel like you're peering over the edge of one world and into another. Once you've made your way through the raggedy boulders at the lip, you're accelerated to the left on an angled



ordy on the second last drop. KEV ENGLAND



Willz launching off End of the World. KEV ENGLAND

chute of aerated water-travelling at the speed of sound, you feel like you're a jet plane about to take off...then before you know it you are flying! The chute straightens out and ends with a huge splaying fan which provides yet another perfect launch pad, but this time you're moving so fast that your paddle is more like a wing than a waterstick! On the 1st D Kev embarrassed the UCCC by swimming out of his (actually Luc the Duke's) boat in a desperately dangerous spot right at the lip of the take-out cascades, where it almost was literally, the end of the world, for him. Fortunately he faced his demons and redeemed himself on the 2nd D and Willz followed, proving that UCCC boaters are shredding with the best of 'em!

**By: Kev England**



Willz boofing off the spout. KEV ENGLAND

# White Water Week

Early one Saturday morning in the mid-semester break a group of kayakers with kayaks and gear in hand met in the UCSA carpark. We all jumped in cars and headed off on our way to Murchison for an intense week of kayaking, camping and of course drinking goon. On the way to Murchison we stopped at Maruia Falls, a crazy 10m high waterfall on the Buller River. A few of the more experienced kayakers geared up and descended the falls, showing the beginners in the group what we could do with a bit more practice.



B-Rain on Maruia Falls. PAUL FALK

Once we got to Murchison, we set up camp, met up with Alister, an English tourist who had a kayak but no car, had a paddle on Big Eddy, a large eddy near the campsite, then boarded the goon train. Barney and Jordy kept the goon circle going, some people went for a midnight swim and B-rain lost his t-shirt to the campfire.



The next morning, the leaders went for an early run then came back and rounded up the beginners for an afternoon run down Mangles all the way back to the campsite. T was very fun. Then back into the goon for a night of fun and games. Several boys took on a challenge to streak though Murchison township. On the way back to the campsite were interrupted by a photographer "from the local newspaper" who jumped out from behind a bush.



Antoine at the bottom of O'Sullys

Monday found us on a lovely run down the "gorgeous" Matakitaiki gorge, an easy going paddle down a beautiful deep green river, so clear you could see the river bed a way below the surface, cliffs on either side, up into lush green undergrowth. Simply breath taking.

Later in the day, a few beginners got up the courage to take on O'Sullys. A short grade three rapid at the beginning of another run. Everyone made it down upright which was great. The goon was running out so the partying wasn't as crazy as the previous nights but somehow a kayak ended up in a tree several meters off the ground.



At the Middle Matak's Put-In. ANDREW YATES

Tuesday we paddled Granity. A fast paced run with one big set of rapids which most of the beginners bypassed with great regret. It looked awesome though. Then down through The Graveyard, a choppy part of the river which managed to tip several beginners. The last group took quite a while to get to the take out so some guys went on a fast mission down the run again to make sure all was good. Turns out they were just taking their time. With the goon almost gone, the crew resorted to singing along to the guitar while gathered around the campfire.

Wednesday we paddled down Earthquake, home of the mighty Gunslinger, down to the old iron bridge. It was a good run, a nice mix of flat calm water and fun rapids. After this we went home, packed up the tents and headed back to Christchurch, with a short stop at Maruia Falls again so that the better of the group could take on the falls. Brian with no paddle and Ari and B-rain in the duo.

It was a great week. Can't wait for WWW next year!

By: Marlese Fairgray



Christal tackling O'Sully's

# AVON PUB / RIVER CRAWL

With the sun on our backs, beers and goons in hand and outrageous costumes adorned, 30-odd hardy kayakers ambled at the UCCC gear shed in preparation for the return of the Avon Pub Crawl. With the chief social officer deciding on a theme of the letter 'C', in honour of our club's name, there were some spectacular sights to be seen. Cats, crazies, colours, crayons, cowgirls and comets floated down the Avon, much to the delight of local residents and school children.

Despite being called a pub-crawl, the Avon River Crawl was nothing of the sort. So, with no pubs in sight, impromptu stops were called when it was decided we were at the next 'pub'. On the count of 5, the river went quiet while 30 bright and colourful boaters went "bottoms up" and had a good refreshing chug.

The highlights of the day were clear: Brad the Cadillac floating his 3 metre sea kayak-come-cadillac down the Avon, B-rain attempting a seal launch in a couch chair and the weirs which added a level of intensity to what was very much a chilled afternoon in the late-autumn sun. On the whole, a successful float during what will no doubt become a bi-annual event!

Big credit must go to Mon, Paul and Chris' parents for driving shuttles for 30 cold, wet (and boozed) party-goers and their boats.

With the night not quite finished yet, the floaters returned to UCCC HQ via the fush'n'chup shop to finish the night off in true style. Thankfully the following night was a quiet one with only movies and photo-swapping planned...

**Social enforcement officer out!**

Article and Photos By: Andrew Yates



## Noobies Wanted...

...well maybe noobs are just hospitably received. I joined UCCC without ever having been in a proper kayak before. Throughout the semester the UCCC instructors got me paddling, rolling and managing rivers confidently (of course experienced instructors were never far away). The semester kicked off with a few social events where we cooked sausages at the HQ and drank our way through considerable amounts of goon. Days later we were in the water. I enjoyed playing a little canoe polo, catching a little surf at New Brighton and eventually getting in the river. Weeks of insignificant study flew by before we left for a week of white water kayaking in and around Murchison. All in all the UCCC is well organized, well equipped, knows how to party and is managed by a great group of students. Thanks for keeping me alive.

Thomas Larson, Colorado USA.



From This...



# BRUNNER

If you don't do everything possible to ensure your attendance at the one and only 'Brunner' of the year, can you really consider yourself truly UCCC?...CAN YOU REALLY?? All the fuss is because Brunner's not just a trip, it's a tradition! Its been going on for ages and lots of old school UCCers look back on their Brunner days with fond memories. Basically its just a pub crawl on a party bus over to the West Coast, indulging in all the things that come naturally to kayakers, like drinking till you can't stand up, being naked, skulling goons, pestering locals, keg stands, etc...

This year we were instructed to turn up at the party bus with the craziest costume we could find and a goon. That meant 30-something goons to finish over the weekend...no probs!?! On the way out of Christchurch we managed to scare some small children in the cars next to us just by looking at them, sweet! We must look crazy! First pub stop on the city outskirts, someone decided that all the awesome colour costumes had the potential to form a human rainbow! But big ideas don't have much

potential in the hands of drunken fools, it was a epic fail, what kind of rainbow blends from orange, to pink to green?? UCCC rainbows! That's what! Anyway, its obvious the overflowing goon taps were taking their toll already and we weren't even out of Christchurch!

And that's about all I can remember. Not cause I'm a drunk person who can't remember stuff, just cause it went by in a big blur of drunken yelling, spilling alcohol, pee stops, drum and bass, crazy dancing in the aisles, and lots of rustic, small-town pubs filled with silly old codgers. I do remember a few of us impressing the Reefton locals with our sweet karaoke skills and the Culverdon toilets. That's about it...8 or so hours of partying later we arrived at Lake Kaniere Lodge! We were greeted by a trail of romantically lit tea candles, just like a date! But the trail only led to more alcohol, and the party picked up where it left off. The next thing I knew, it was morning and I was in my sleeping bag, how did that happen? Ambitious plans for getting up at 7 and paddling the Styx, turned out more like

waking up at 9. baked beans brekkie. sitting round hungover and then eventually dragging ourselves out the door for a flatwater session. A couple of keen people did paddle Styx later on, and we trudged up the valley alongside to watch them crash down from the sidelines.

On the way back we could hear the rowdiness from ages away, uh oh! someone had left the kegs unguarded and all the people staying behind got into them! We turned up and sure enough the kegs were flowing free, cups were old news apparently, why drink from a cup when you can drink from bowls?!? Once everybody had settled into their drunken, happy place, it was time for Brunner Olympics!! Everyone got mongrel sock wrestling and then just cause we weren't quite drunk enough, someone invented a game where you just keep going around in a circle and filling up your vessel till you can't drink anymore, or the keg runs out. Its about this point in the night when you look around and notice that everyone is getting nakeder and nakeder. Almost naked

wrestling, naked shower parties, even the girls did a naked run round the house! And then you start noticing people roaming off, some to chunder in the toilets (or anywhere for that matter), some to coma out, some in pairs...and then you just start noticing not a lot at all...and then, hey!! it's the morning and your all good in your sleeping bag again, how does that happen??

So with two nights solid partying behind us and enough crazy antics to do Brunner proud, we waved goodbye to Lake Kaniere. Just to keep up our rep as a kayak club, we fitted in a short paddle of the lower Arahura before heading back to much less exciting prospect of Christchurch. BUT, Brunner is not over yet! With Buzz our trusty bus driver putt-putting through Arthur's Pass, the crew persevered and partied till the ominous lights of Christchurch brought an end to our epic weekend, another year, another Brunner. Goodbye Brunner, see you next year!

**By: Dale Palmer**

**Photos By: Monique Eade**

... To This



# A Second Blurry Take of Brunner

One word describes the annual Brunner trip. "EPIC".

Walking towards the UCSA and seeing countless amounts of crazy costumes could only mean one thing: another UCCC event is about to begin. Now this was not just any UCCC event, this was Brunner! Brunner is known by past members, current members, and possibly some upcoming members. It is an extremely notorious event and the stories don't even come close to doing Brunner justice.



This is a collection of assorted drunken memory patches due to the excessive consumption of alcohol resulting in memory blanks, the best way to party. Brunner is an annual event run by the UCCC which involves a crazy bus ride to the West Coast stopping at every pub on the way and continuing the shenanigans at the sweet Kanieri lodge. Now this trip is not for the faint hearted and includes more alcoholic drinks than you could shake a stick at.



There were too many highlights to name them all but the memorable/not as drunk ones include:

- Drinking on the way up on the party bus and at all the rural outback pubs along the way
- Having a sweet party when we got there
- Girls naked run around the lodge
- Guys constantly naked....everywhere...Pluuug
- Brunner Olympics, including sock wrestling and apple bobbing
- Flat water session on the lake
- Paddle down the Styx and Arahura rivers
- Party all the way home



This was an unforgettable trip and I would never miss this trip..EVER!!!

Signed: the Social Officer, B-Rain out!

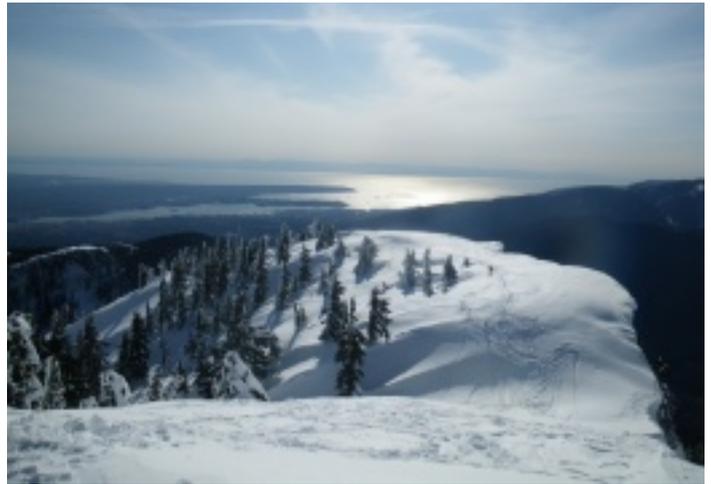
# Luc Back From the Land of the Deads

Here is some news from old UCCC members who have, as good apostles, decided to spread the good habits to other places. As you would imagine, we have since way back become pillars of wisdom and towers of knowledge, and it is only because of some malfunctioning in our established humility system that we interfere with your day to day life today, to help answer this existential question that some of you may have in mind: "But what happens next? Is the end of Uni the end of my fun time?"

Well, you will hear from many young workers that things come to a right balance. You get the money, and a lot of jobs give you the flexibility to play with time. You just become a weekend warrior and save you money and holidays for trips. And by choosing where you live, you can go kayaking, climbing, back-country skiing, mountain biking before and after work.

Moving from your student status will change a few things: you will eat better, be more organized with your time and you will more than before start looking at the world like this.

If the UCCC hasn't traumatized you, then it made you a better person, highly trained in



many ways: you know what to wear and when to wear it, you know what to do with your time and you know how to use your network of kayaking friends so you don't miss on the opportunities of life, ever. You can thank UCCC.

As many current and past members of the club have and are now demonstrating by having more fun every day and transmitting that fun wherever they go, you can chose to become the average worker in his condo with your little dog (called Miss Pissy), borrowing money to buy a crystal and golden My Little Pony, or... you can continue to live on sane outdoorsy principles for ever and after.

By: Luc the Duke



# Off The Water...



An insight to the madness of damming.

2010 has seen drastic changes in the way New Zealand handles its water, most of these resulting in appalling results for white-water users nationwide. Since the election of the National party and their right-wing counterparts, water rights have become a hot topic for all river users, kayakers especially.

I will be the first to confess that in past my concerns for things that did not affect me were slim. So what if they dam the Hurunui? There's plenty more rivers to kayak on, to fish from, to swim in. Such selfish views that they were, this is now what I realise to be the mindset of the general population!

With so many rivers close to Christchurch potentially being affected, now is the time to stand up and fight! Having attended both a protest (which saw former Ecan Counciller's son Luc de Spa arrested) and an active movement (where a cairn of river rocks was constructed in Cathedral Square) in the past

week it is intriguing to see other rivers users come out en masse to provide support for the fight against what I like to call 'waterway destruction'.

In the wake of the (marginally criminal) sacking of the Ecan (Environment Canterbury) councillors, now is the vital time to be aware of what is happening to our rivers. I have no doubt what-so-ever that had the Hurunui not been available, I would not be the active kayaker I am today. That river was where I learnt everything from ferry glides to S-turns, that was where I passed on the knowledge bestowed upon me, that IS the place I want to go back to when I'm an old codger and have a sneaky run down. Now I know I'm not the only one who's silently agreeing with this right now.

Don't believe me that our waterways are in dire trouble? Here's a brief summary of how screwed we could potentially be if we don't act swiftly:

- Hurunui Water Project (HWP): involves the



proposal of a weir at Lake Sumner, a 75m high dam at South Branch (confluence) and the withdrawal of 32 cumecs above Jollybrook. This effectively renders the Hurunui useless for the majority of the year. Goodbye Combo's.

- Central Plains Water (CPW): involves the proposal of river outlet structures which will take water (40 cumecs) from the Rakaia and Waimakariri rivers. Goodbye multisport training/racing
- Mokihinui dam: now approved. Whitewater NZ has appealed to the Environment Court over the granted consent on the grounds of "the complete loss of kayaking amenity with no mitigation". An 85m (high) dam which will create a 14km long lake with an area around the size of Hagley Park (north and south). This is the single greatest flooding of NZ conservation land in history. The UCCC has a plan in the pipeline for one last trip down this doomed-to-be-dammed river. Goodbye future heli trips.
- Matakītaki/Glenroy dam proposal. Still in the early stages this is one we need to be all over. The Matakītaki provides an excellent beginners run (Middles) and a tight,

technical intermediate run (Lowers) for countless rivers users annually. Between October '08 and April '09, 1423 runs were recorded down the Middle Matak section, only a fraction of users who took the time to fill the log book, the true number is undoubtedly higher, who knows to what degree. You dam the Matak, you can kiss a significant part of White Water Week goodbye.

**What can you do?**

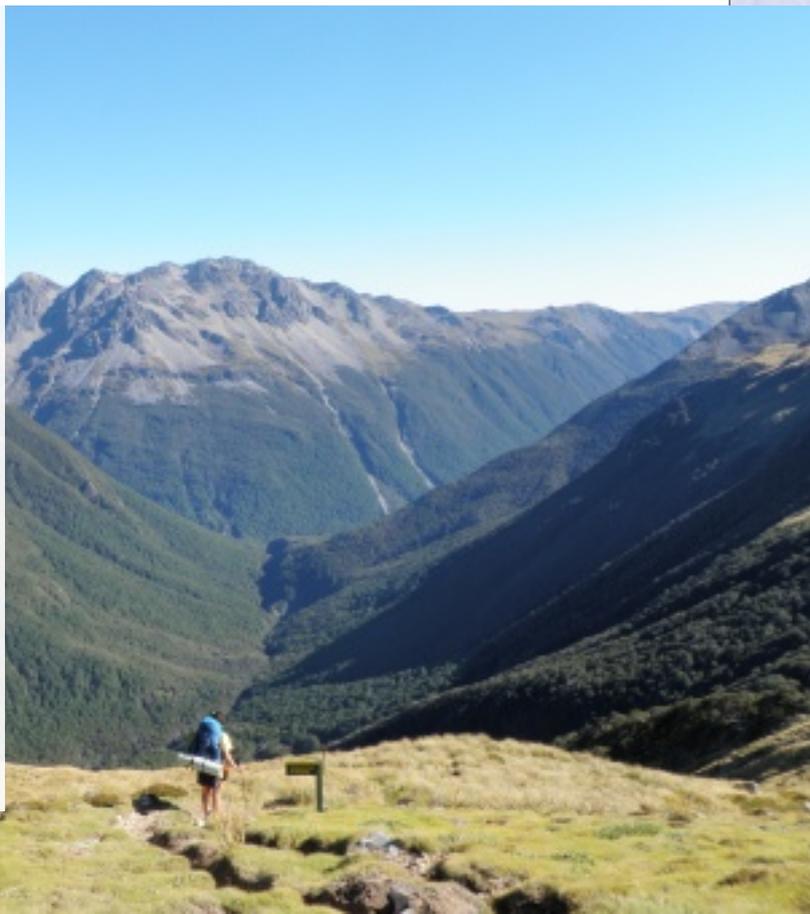
- Sign petitions, they pop up frequently on Facebook, in email form.
- File submissions, they're readily accessible on Whitewater NZ's website.
- Attend protests, they're vocal, they're active, and they're a truck-load of fun!
- Don't sit on the sidelines and watch our rivers be dammed with these ugly concrete structures.
- Say something, let yourself be heard.

Rivers are not renewable, mother nature doesn't just sprout up another one when we plug it with a few hundred tonnes of concrete.

"When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come."

Leonardo Da Vinci

By: Andrew Yates



# A Bit of Southern Paddling

So no shit, there I was (this is how all good kayak stories start by the way) talking to Willz. I could end the story there, that's a pretty big achievement in itself! Anyway, cooking dinner at the HQ some night after the Citroen Extreme Race, the idea of another trip down to Queenstown to paddle on the beautiful, chilly waters of the Kawarau River arose. I was complaining to our Club Captain that I didn't have a boat and I was too poor to afford one. Well, he said, what do you think John Key gives us students our course related costs for? New kayaks, that's what! I had no comeback to that so within a week and \$700 later my new creek boat was leaning against the house.

Another week later saw the mighty 'Kawarau Krew' assembling at HQ. Consisting of Willz, Ari, Cam and myself, a fine looking bunch, the adventure began!

For those of you that don't know, the Kawarau gorge is half an hour north of Queenstown, just south of Cromwell. Rapids on the river are usually referred to as 'big water' kayaking because it's usually over 150 cumecs when being paddled. Flows were perfect for us at around 180 cumecs.

There are 3 main rapids in the gorge:  
- Nevis Bluff: A fun class 4+ / 5. A long history surrounds this rapid as it constantly changes and was long standing as one of the hardest paddleable rapids in New Zealand and the world. Formed during the making of the road above, dynamite was used to blow huge chunks of the hillside away creating the Nevis Bluff rapid in the river below. The

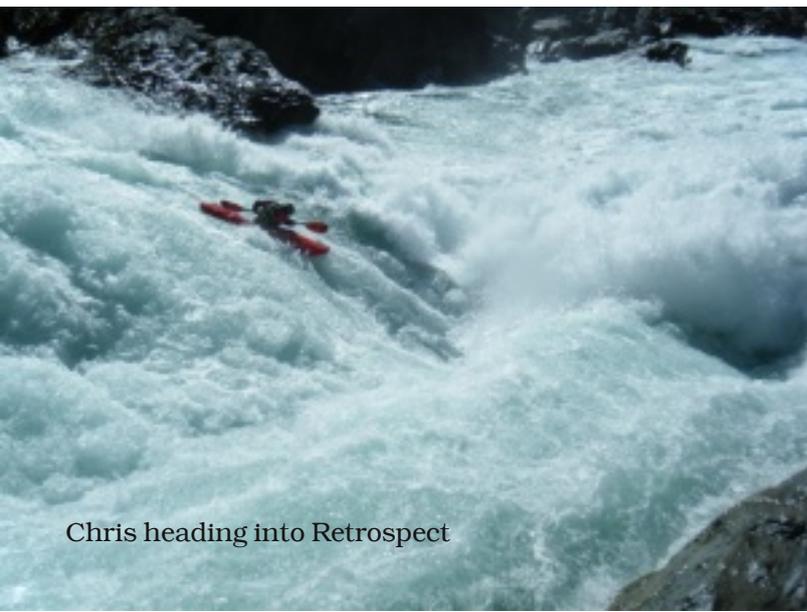


top third of the rapid is a big diagonal wave train which prompts a right hand entry followed by a small charge to the left to avoid the hole. The 2nd third is like a big ramp with a hole to punch at the bottom and a couple of pressure waves to follow shortly after. It is common to eddy out on the left and regroup. The last section requires picking your way down the left. To bomb down the last section is fun to watch but not as fun to do as there is a nasty frowning hole waiting at the bottom with a reputation of 'holding people in till they swim'.

- Citroen: A fun class 3 to 4. The river collides with a huge rock in the middle and the choice of lines is either right or left. Right line has a couple of holes and is generally the chicken line. Left line has a buffer which you must get on top of to ensure you don't end up upside down against the cliff. The Citroen Extreme Race is held on this rapid and made for some good spectator sport this year, check out the woman's final! (YouTube-Citroen extreme race, woman's final)

- Retrospect: The biggest, knarliest, munchiest, most intimidating rapid on the river. The entry rapid has a couple of waves and holes then the river makes a move slightly to the right and drops about 3 metres into a huge hole. Put bluntly, it eats people up and spits them out. There is a line that can be made at some flows, charging from river centre above the main drop towards river right, catching the tongue, hitting the wall and reaching through. Of course if you swim out of this hole there is still some fun waves and holes to swim through. Fun meaning not very fun at all. Having your 'big set' is generally required.

We spent the first night next to Lake Dunstan and all had a fairly good sleep in



Chris heading into Retrospect

the car/tent and got up at a good time for paddling. We put in right at the top above a grade 3 rapid called Dog Leg. We decided Ari should get used to bigger water before jumping straight into Nevis Bluff as the usual put in allows no warm up time at all. We all had ourselves good clean lines down Nevis with a couple rolls between us and smiles on our dials. Citroen showed Ari where the cliff was and a nice whirl pool sucked Willz under the H2O so he disappeared for a second. Cam was doing pretty good, only needing help a couple of times.

Retrospect looked good to go the first day so Willz and I decided to fire it up!! In Retrospect this was a very good idea and we both had reasonable lines plugging through the centre. I got freight trained back into the hole for another beat down but wasn't held in for very long and Willz popped out without too much drama at all. We then all floated our way down through a section called Roaring Meg. Like rubber duckies in a river, there is always one that goes over and 'Cam the salmon' had a couple of excellent bathes in the water. I hear it was tropical and warm.

Rocking down the river Cam was starting to really get the hang of paddling and getting a feel for the water. A natural born leader, he progressed with perfect technique. The fierce look in his eyes sparked fear into any rapids that dared to cross his path. And when he thought a rapid was big enough to challenge his dominant figure there was no time lost. He would quickly capsize his kayak and flail his arms in the water to fend off the attacking bubbles. Sometimes this wasn't enough. He didn't want to wait for our back up. Instead he would free himself from the plastic restrictions of his boat and kick his legs too. Then Sir Cam, tired from the battle, accepted our help. So basically, Cam had a couple of swims but he was getting way better. :-D

So, six hours later, tired and exhausted, we packed it in and went back to the motel to have a good dinner and some much needed rest. Hah yeah right. PARTY TIME!! We headed into Queenstown for a night on the town and found a sweet little campsite hiding up a track just out of city centre. It was ideal and we proceeded to show the goon who its masters were. The legs got a workout



Fighting for the Lead



Start Ramp at Citroen

with some up-the-front dancing from all of us. A great night in town was had and, even though Willz doesn't really remember it, Ferg Burger did happen and yes it was amazing!

The next morning was a little slower than the last (not sure why...) but this was okay as we didn't intend on paddling the whole river top to bottom again and put on just above Bluff. This time things were a little bit pushy and both Willz and I almost hit some rocks up top by going too far right, narrowly missing the hole. I got power flipped over backwards in the ramp and Ari had an epic amount of rolls coming into the 3rd section. It was beautiful. Ari looked like a drowned rat but he didn't bail! Top effort to him as it looked very exhausting.

Safely through we carried on tearing the river apart with our UCCCness.

Citroen was very fun, we all felt comfortable that it could not dish out much more trouble than we had already endured and so, full of confidence, we dominated the moves and dialled in some sweet paddling. The feeling of being exactly where you want to be on a river, in the middle of a burly rapid, is always welcome. I reckon it must be similar to seeing the landing ramp while doing a huge jump on ski's or snowboard, or maybe hooking into a bolt while rock/ice climbing half way up a face. Whatever it is, it's a great feeling!

Retrospect was a bit more daunting on day two. Ari was not feeling the groove after being beat down a bit on the Bluff earlier in the day. Willz however took to being in a trance like state and pumped out the best quote I have ever had at a big rapid. "I think we have to paddle it bro". I thought this was an outrageous call as I believe there is never any outside pressure forcing you to paddle a rapid. But, there I was, obviously not going to pussy out after a call like that has been thrown out so I went up first and started prepping.

I was shitting my pants: literally. I went for a crap and still felt nervous. There is never a time I feel ok before running a scary rapid unless I don't think it could hurt me. My motto is 'paddle to the edge of the flat, it's easy, once you're at the moving stuff, you

can't turn back now so your committed!

Half way into the lead in I was still thinking to myself that I could pull out and the words 'why am I doing this?' popped into my head. Thanks brain, for the confidence boost! The lead in was going well and I was right on target, eyeing up the meat of the crux drop. I tucked up, waiting for the hit. Not too much happened but apparently it looked to the boys that the hole didn't know whether to eat me up or spit me out, while I was cruising vertically along the eddy line underwater! Good times.

Willz the shaman entered the rapid well. From where I was sitting, on a rock at the bottom, he went around out of sight. Turns out he went out of sight for everyone at that point! Our club captain got swallowed up by the buffer on river left and ran the drop submerged: pretty much inventing a new impromptu way of paddling Retrospect. And in retrospect I don't think he'll plan to do it again!

As far as his side of the story goes: the water swallowed him up, he felt his boat hit the bottom of the river as he passed through the drop submerged. He can't be too tasty though as he was spat other side of the hole. After rolling up he didn't know if he should be happy or just thankful. We both stared at each other for a short period of time with faces which shouted

"WHAT THE FUCK JUST HAPPENED??!"  
It's an odd sight having someone pop out of a huge hole if you never saw them enter it... All feeling tired we piled into the wagon and boosted back to Christchurch for school again on Monday. Unscathed and loaded with a few good stories I think it was a favourable weekend had by the K-Krew and definitely one that should be repeated in the future. UCCC FOR LIFE!

The Kawarau River is a gem to the South Island and New Zealand. There used to be a few more of these 'big water' rapids nearer Cromwell where the dam now exists. 'The Gap' and 'Sargoods Weir' are two well known rapids which have now been lost to the world due to the damming of rivers for hydro-electricity.

By: Chris Atkinson

# Thinking About 'Takeaways'

By: Kim Williamson

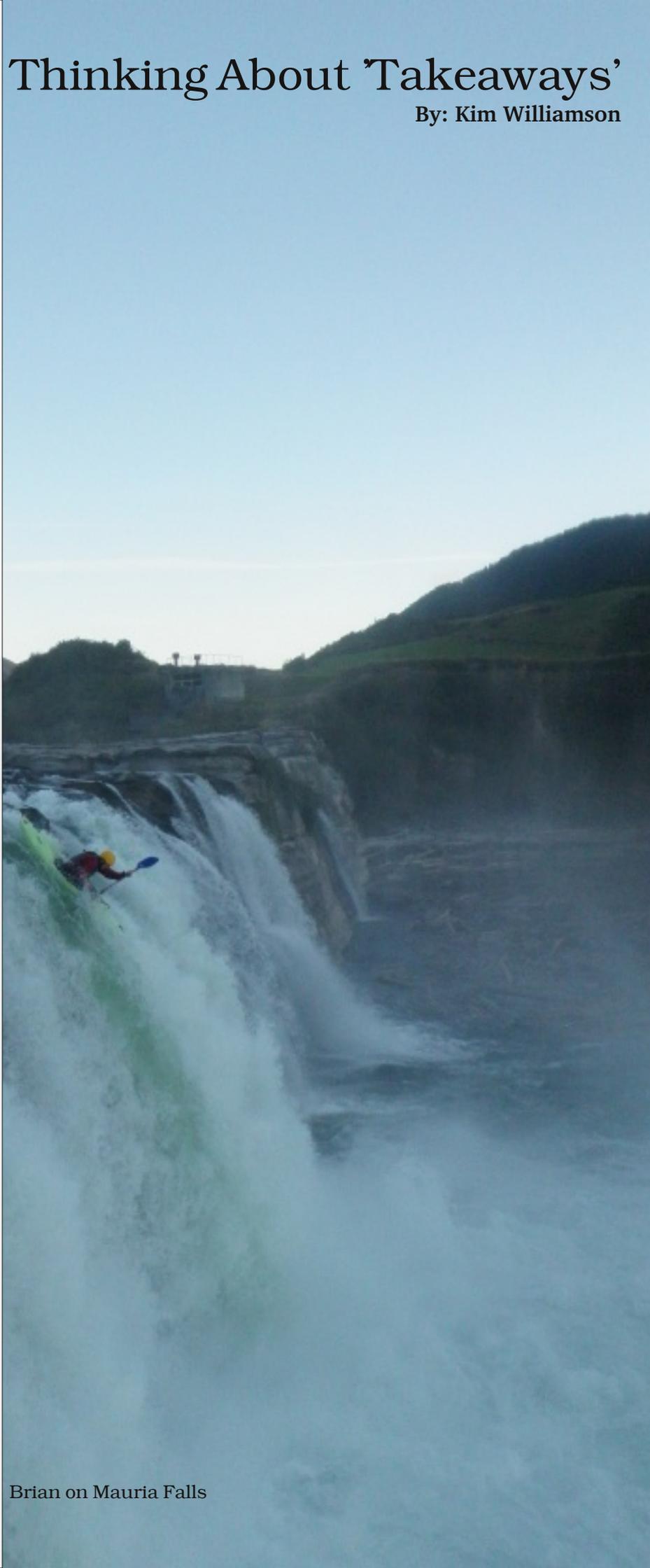
As a budding UCCC leader this year I have had many amazing times. I get such a buzz out of seeing someone I've instructed amping from charging down Gunslinger and emerging still upright in their boat, a look of disbelief on their face. I'm equally stoked when a beginner rips out a styley-as eddy turn after many failed attempts.

I have recently been thinking about my role as a leader. From my experience (both learning how to paddle and teaching it) there seems to be two different approaches to beginner river trips and progression. I wanted to explore these with you, and as leaders I hope it triggers some thoughts about your role. If you're just starting out kayaking it may make you think about your preference, input or feedback from beginners helps us leaders heaps!

Here are some issues that we, as leaders address and two different approaches to these issues. Now I'm not suggesting one is better than the other, maybe just more relevant in different situations.

Firstly boat type. Does the beginner paddle a creek boat, with minimal edges so they are less likely to tip? But then not get any real feedback from the river, and if they continue paddling are forced to learn about riling on grade 4. Or do we advise a boat with edges where they will get feedback from the river on grade 2, learn more, but it may be a frustrating, cold process.

The structure of the river trip. Do we practise eddy turns and ferry glides in every eddy we can find on the river, scout rapids, get beginners to pick their lines and break up rapids using eddies? Or do we only catch eddies when we want to regroup, seize teachable moments along the way and when we come to a rapid run the straight forward line with beginners following leaders?



Brian on Mauria Falls

The speed of progression on to harder water. Do we get people on grade 3 early on so they can experience the adrenalin pumping fun of grade 3 water, despite possibly needing barrel rolling on the eddy turn before the rapid? Or do we progress slowly making sure the fundamentals are down on grade 2 before progressing to grade 3?



It seems to me it all comes down to what our objectives are. What do our beginners want to walk away from the trip with? What are their 'takeaways'? Is our sole aim the experience? Do we want them to 'takeaway' great memories of an amazing river trip, some adrenalin pumping grade 3 water and amping about kayaking with the motivation to do more? On the other hand is our main aim to give them skills to 'takeaway,' which will help them be a little more independent on the river next time. Of course also having great memories but maybe not the same adrenalin pumping action as the previous example.



Obviously these two approaches aren't as clear cut as I have made out. I see them sitting on a continuum from a guide at one end to an instructor at the other and we can work anywhere along this continuum. Again I'm not saying one is better than the other and different situations and ability levels call for different approaches. Maybe the 'guide' approach is better at the beginning to introduce kayaking and create motivation. However to see progression further down the track the 'instructor' approach seems more effective. I've come to realise its important as leaders and seconds to think about the 'takeaways' we are trying to achieve on the river and tailor our approach to suit these aims.



Happy paddling everyone see you out there!!  
By: Kim Williamson  
Photos By: Monique Eade

# The 2010 UCCC Committee

AKA who to annoy when you have a problem



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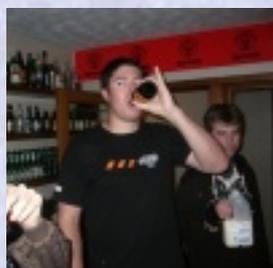
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Brunner: Bar One. MONIQUE EADE



Paddler: Kev England. TYLER CURTIS



Preparing for Lake Kaniere. MONIQUE EADE



Drunken Spoon. MACY DOMINGO



Ari and B-Rain on O'Sully's. KATE DAVIDSON

