

The Styx
The Kokatahi
The Origin of the UCCC
Beginners Heli Trip
Brunner
Working at Bliss-Stick
Combo's '08 & '09
White Water Week '08 & '09
Craig
Kayak Palozza

U C C C



editor

Hmm where to start? Hi, I'm Brian! I'm the club's "person who does stuff" now the self appointed editor. I got bored of not having a club newsletter or magazine, hence this. Just a disclaimer first - I'm an engineering student, not a designer or arts major... this is my first attempt at graphics design. Hopefully this magazine or at least a newsletter will be put together and published a bit more regularly in the future. If you're interested - talk to someone on the committee, we would love to have you on board! Head over to our website to keep in touch - <http://uccc.org.nz> Also I will have a full colour version of this magazine up there. Oh and since you are reading this, become a "Fan" of UCCC on facebook! I for one will be updating that page more often than the website. In recent news in the nz paddling world - NZRCA have changed their name to Whitewater NZ, you can still keep up to date on all the issues facing our rivers on their website - <http://rivers.org.nz>

Cumec have come out with issue #8 - if you are into kayaking you will already have this. Check it out online at www.cumecmagazine.com

Jordy has gone exploring and found a new hard run for the coast **Red Granity Creek**. Check out his blog for details - <http://gradientandwater.blogspot.com>

I started work on a new UCCC website too, if you happen to speak python, django, appengine and facebook I'd love some help! For now you can take a sneak look at <http://imatterto.appspot.com>

Righto on to the main content with you! - Brian Thorne (occasionally called ed as a disguise - ed)



Front Page
Shima Dominating
Murua Falls
photo: Brian

Back Page
Riding home
from Brunner
photo: Brian



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President's Piece



Hey all y'all from North Carolina - USA

I hear the winter in NZ has been cold and miserable so far but hopefully you're all making the most of the snow and the flooded rivers while I struggle to stay cool in 37 degree days and 25 degree water. It's tough, I'm telling you but seriously I feel for you.

More importantly I hope you are all making the most of the many opportunities to socialise over a few warming beverages and plan for many glorious spring and summer kayak missions. The start of the university year had many great trips enjoyed by all so theres no reason that we can't make the end of the year even better!!! Look forward to seeing you all soon so go hard, stay warm and see you in the spring!

Jono

Peau peau



Captain's Column

... still waiting for an article from our captain.



James rips it up on some river on the coast with Jono, Brian and Luc

Social Ramblings

Some people think all we do is paddle. This is myth. What is a canoe anyway? Our kayak club enforces good times, whether you like it or not. First semester saw many innocent and unknowing faces get introduced to the no-fun laws of UCCC outside of the paddling. This was done through several club trips with afterparties at Brian's, big nights in town, a raving party at Craig's, a spa party and a mammoth bus trip called Brunner! All socialising seems to involve goons, kegs or as in many cases, both. Phrases such as 'if we're not paddling we'll be gooning and spooning' and 'slap that goon before it slaps you!' are commonplace and very serious matters indeed. Second semester brings new enthusiasm for social events such as movie nights, club dinners, more big nights in town and the prospect of a second Brunner..?!? Definatley gonna be good

Chris



Ok, so the 2009 kayaking session was kicked off with Combos. This was a chance for all of the beginners to get together to learn how to kayak and also all the associated skills involved with being safe on the water.

This commenced with a pool session whereby instructors enjoyed tipping us upside down and watching us swim. By the end of the session they even had us tipping ourselves upside down and saving each other. This was supposed to, and probably almost certainly, made us more confident out on the surf and on the river.



However, it was at the beach that the real fun started. There were lots of thrills and spills and at times we even managed to catch the waves (briefly).

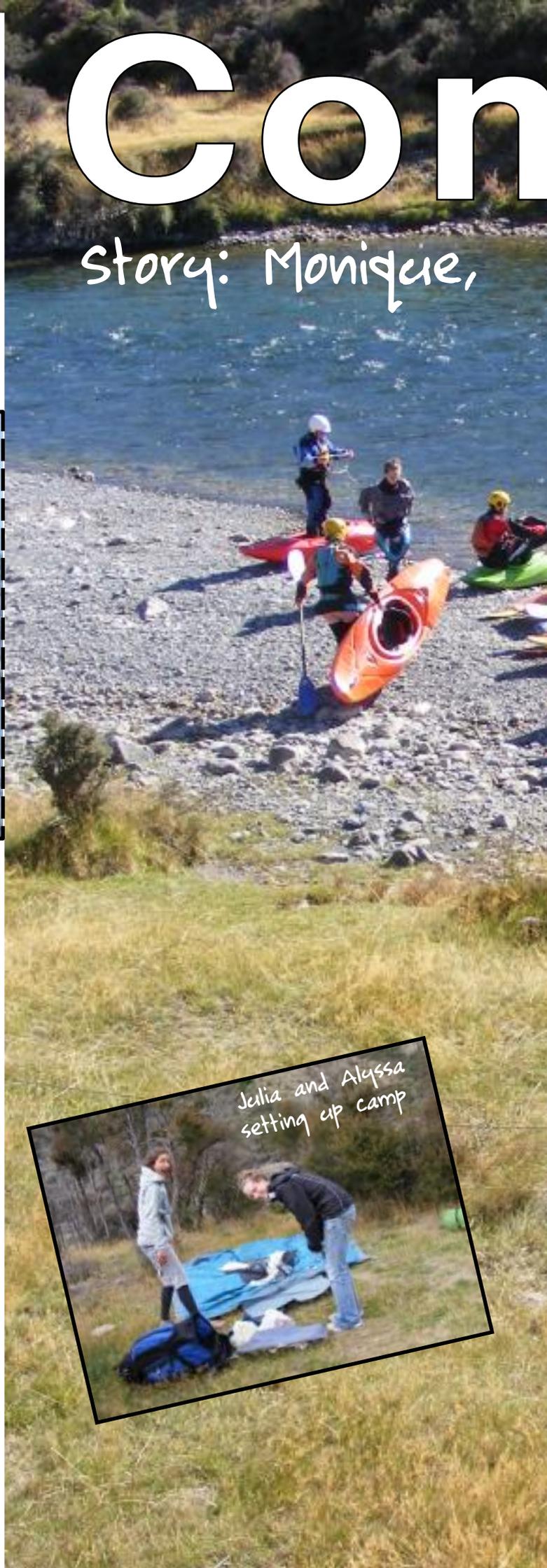
To top off this amazing week we finally got to hit the river. A group headed out to the Hurunui on Saturday to enjoy an extra days kayaking and some camping. It was a great chance to get to know each other a little better and enjoy some sweet kayaking.

Those who went up overnight managed to run Upper Hurunui and those instructors even had a chance to run Maori Gulley. Those who arrived on Sunday managed to get down Jollybrook which proved to be an awesome foundation for White Water Week.

Generally, it was a bony trip with plenty of rocks to navigate and some fun eddies to try and negotiate. The trip was a wicked success and concluded with drinks at Brian's whereby we could share our week of kayaking with our new friends.

Con

Story: Monique,



Jelia and Alyssa setting up camp

mbos '09

Photos: Brian



Big Dan Tackling the Rapids



Chris playing with fire for people to dance around later

The overnigheters heading off on the Upper Harunui

White Water Week '09

By Dani



SPOONING AND GOONING. Wow, looking back over the past 6 months of my life in New Zealand I can say I have done quite-a-bit and it has truly been an incredible experience. If I could name some of my favorite times and memories in NZ I would have to say White Water Week would be one of them. I went into the trip completely blind--I only knew Jordy, and these are the details I received: meet outside the UCSA building Saturday morning with Jordan's car, bring some warm gear, food, togs, a smile, and of course a goon bag (for evening festivities and safety). Soon after I found out the trip would be based out of Murchison and it was going to be a super fun week.

I had never river kayaked before, all in all my kayaking experience was slim, I had only dabbled in sea kayaking before the trip. Immediately upon arrival we unloaded the boats and hit the water for some eddie turns and a little paddle practice. Everyday was solid, filled with good kayaking runs. I remember the first day I went swimming on the afternoon run and I was super frustrated with kayaking (I typically pick-up things rather fast), I told Jordy, "I hate kayaking, I'm terrible." However, that changed quickly, the next day I was singing and loving the river--I sang the Spice Girls and the Backstreet Boys (two of my favorite bands to sing obnoxiously loud off of ski lifts, and snowboarding is my favorite, so one can see kayaking was moving up in my books). With that, I would say I'm still quite terrible at kayaking but I'm working on it. White Water Week was a great introduction to kayaking, and I'm excited to



Chris



continue working on it at home in beautiful Colorado. I already have some dates lined up to go with a few buddies when I get back stateside. However, kayaking is not all that can be discussed~so much more came from White Water Week. Everyone was super fun to hang-out with and it was a solid group of kids. The instructors are super helpful on and off the water, fun, hilarious, and I have to thank them all for saving my life on numerous occasions. Without them I might not be here to write this...

practical because it often would get chilly at night. Really one could say, if we're not kayaking, we're spooning and gooning...motto of the week, and I



Everyone was just great, and it was an awesome week to get to know one another and participate in some wonderful activities...when not kayaking we found ourselves playing ultimate frisbee (the kiwi way), soccer (or attempting to juggle), mucking around town, and sunnapping. But most of all spooning and gooning!!! When the night fell, we found ourselves sitting around a camp fire getting to know one another, dancing, slapping the goon and passing it round, playing yee-haw (or barn yard) and the number seven game (it is more difficult than expected, even sober). All followed by massive spoon parties, which was

think the UCCC in general. So what was White Water Week---I learned kayaking is heaps of fun, I made good pals, and spooning and gooning is a grand time. And I hear the Germans still have not seen Jordan naked, "Jordy we want to see you naked." "We don't want to hurt you, we just want to spoon you." I think that sums up a good trip right there



Brunner

By Brian U

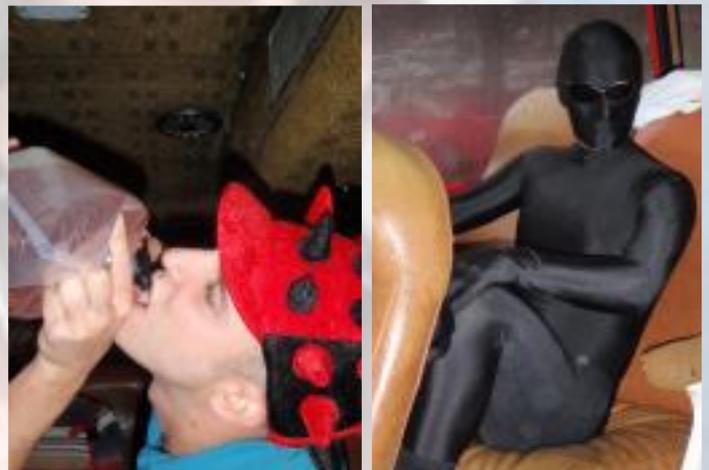
Kayaking gear, kayak, an amazing costume, and most importantly a goon. These are the four most important items needed to embark on the epic adventure about to unfold known as 'The Brunner Trip.' This journey involves boarding a large bus with a ridiculous amount of alcohol and attempting to survive the distance from the UCSA all the way to the West Coast.

It was a gloomy Friday afternoon and the rain was coming and going throughout the day; however, there was no way this weather would dampen the excitement of 'The Brunner Trip.' Approaching the crowd of eager kayakers, it was easy to see that many people had dressed up in some interesting costumes, to say the least. The gear and kayaks were soon on the trailer so the only thing needed now was the party bus to arrive. A delay in the bus arriving soon came to our attention, however someone had an excellent idea to go to the Foundry, obviously no one disagreed with the idea.

The bus finally arrived so everyone knocked back the remains of their beverage, grabbed the gear and boarded the bus with a loud cheer. Soon after the bus departed we were informed that Arthurs Pass was closed and that we would be taking the much longer trip through Lewis Pass. People soon realised that there are more pubs through Lewis Pass; not

like there was not enough drinks on the bus already. The bus finally departed the UCSA; everyone whipped out their alcohol and the drinking began, goons were definitely the ideal choice among the passengers.

The bus trip turned into a complete blur after a couple of hours with only a few memorable moments coming to mind. Now it was not only



the passengers on the bus that were enjoying the trip, there were several outsiders too; such as, a couple of old locals at the Reefton pub who were kicked out due to a certain one-piece black suit. The journey which was to take about five or six hours soon turned into a nine or ten hour trip...I think. Finally the bus had reached its destination which was the lodge located at Lake Kanerie.

The first morning of 'The Brunner Trip' saw six kayakers, five really hung-over and one who was just tired, hike into the Styx River for an early morning paddle. While the six were hiking away, the rest of the crew were able to sleep in and relax before getting up and preparing an excellent breakfast. The rest of the day saw plenty of lounging around and an afternoon lake session; this mellow day of activities was certainly needed because the following night was going to be EXTREME!

(Hmm he seems to have forgotten some crucial points here. Firstly we didn't have the paddles, and had to borrow some from the school in





Murchison. Second we actually went paddling on some flat water and had races around an island. - Ed)

The first night was the sock wrestling tournament, where the idea is to try and rip the sock off your opposition while trying to keep your own sock on, it's a lot more hardcore than it sounds. Later that evening there was plenty more drinking with some well planned games and two kegs to finish; not to mention, tons of goon that needed to be finished. Late into the evening, some people started heading off to sleep, others had a shower party and some participated in other erm.. "activities".

The final morning there was a drastic cleanup of the insane mess which was left from the previous night. After a couple of hours of sweeping, mopping and vacuuming, the lodge was all clean and tidy, allowing us to finally be able to leave. Since this was technically a kayaking trip, we thought that we better include some kayaking; the idea was to have two separate trips down two different sections of the Arahura. This allowed some of the beginners to have an easier run while the intermediate kayakers were able to have a more exciting trip down another section.

The kayaking, drinking and partying was all done so we packed all our gear into the bus and headed home; luckily we were able to go through Aurthur's Pass. The return trip was not as smooth as we hoped; there was a blown



tyre and a bit of handy work on the bus but we were all able to get through it with a helping hand from our friend, alcohol. After going on 'The Brunner Trip' it is easy to see why it is soo freaking amazing.

Get amongst it!



Club Heli Trip *By Dale*

Kayaking... hot pools... a beautiful river... snowy-mountain backdrop... good company... and a HELICOPTER ride!! There is no way this trip could disappoint, and it did not! The Heli Trip was better than a giant spooning party and here's why. It all began with a convoy of 15 or so UCCC'ers heading over to the beautiful West Coast. The Wanganui was a perfect run for us as it worked down from harder to easier stuff, catering to everyone's ability. Jordy (the guy responsible for putting the trip together) seemed to have all the right connections. We were hooked up with cheap heli rides and a seaside batch, sweet! We turned up at the heli-pad the next morning relatively on time, but with only two people per ride and three separate put-downs it took a while to sort ourselves out.

In the usual UCCC style, things got a little confused along the way and Max and Kress were dropped off in the middle of nowhere, but hey, we did notice and eventually we all ended up where we needed to be! It would not be compared to a giant spooning party without a helicopter ride and the prospect of flying stirred up a rush of childish excitement in all of us. Me and my heli-buddy Monique, were no exception. The heli whizzed us away into the mountains and we were treated with some stunning views of the forested valley and snow capped alps - right about now, I was pretty happy with life! You could also check out the rapids ... from up here

they just looked like fluffy white specks – pretty tame actually and enough to reassure us (for now), that we were not going to get completely mashed (??) ...

Once dropped off at the get in, we had to wait for those blimmin' instructors – how dare they have their own fun and paddle without having to constantly look after us! Anyway, we entertained ourselves by throwing glass-like shards of ice at Daniel. Eventually they showed up on the riverside, soggy, shivering and smiling. Did I mention how cold it was? But with '**no pain, no gain**' as our motto of the day, we braved the icy waters to go kayaking!! Approaching the first rapid I realized the heli-preview was misleading. Those fluffy white specks were now raging torrents dotted with those annoying rocks that flip you over. This was enough to get some adrenaline pumping excitement going in the group. For me it brought back the familiar 'oh-crap' anxiety I get every time I go kayaking. But I hardened up and channelled 'positive' thoughts like "it's okay, you're not gonna get mashed...(yeah right)"

The river started off smoothly but soon enough we came upon a particularly bitchy rapid which did its best to fudge the beginners up and send us swimming. Like dominos one after the other, we were suddenly sucked into it, worked around like a washing-machine and spat out the other end upside down. With boats and paddles floating off downstream and swimmers bobbing





like apples, it may have appeared like the shit had hit the fan. But it was organized chaos and it was not long before everyone was reunited with their boats and keen to paddle again! Next up was Landslide, a grade 4 rock slide down into frothy water below. Due to the 'organized chaos' earlier, this section was reserved for the more experienced amongst us. Paddy, Brian, Jordy, Chris, B-Rain and Ari all demonstrated their skills, paddling some sweet lines onto the rock and sliding down with no worries. Watching on gave us beginners hope that one day we could do the same! Just not that day.

When it was too cold to feel my hands or feet we came upon some natural hot pools. Ah... being submerged in sandy, sulphur-smelling, bone warming goodness, was a perfect antidote to that arctic river! Yep, this IS the good life! After this brief interlude we were all ready to get back in the water. I felt pretty good bobbing and swishing through the rushing waves (sometimes without flipping), trying out my rails in the eddies, and looking around to see everyone having just as much fun as me. THIS is why I like kayaking. We may have indulged too long in



the hot pools, as it got a bit dangerous when we could not see what we were paddling into in the dark, but it's all part of the fun! After a last minute rush, we arrived at the get out, everyone still in one piece and satisfied with the day's adventure. Of course, we were all a bit munched; Alyssa was black and blue after a long swim, Rach chipped her teeth, Theresia had raw blisters from her paddles and Karl got the award for most swims.

After giving our bodies a chance to defrost we made a beeline for Hoki and the nearest food source. Again, in usual UCCC style we ambushed the first takeaway in sight, pretty much took it over and scooped our faces with some deep-fried goodness – oh yeah... now that's a perfect finish to an epic day!



Craig By Craig

Grahame: Hey Craig, how are you?

Craig: I'm good thanks, loving the weather the last few days, really makes you motivated to kayak.

G: Do you not find it too cold to kayak at this time of year? I mean the water must be freezing?

C: Haha yes it is a very cold time of the year, the water in the rivers could freeze the balls off a brass monkey. I'm a bit too much of a girl to continue kayaking in this glaciation period, I'm sticking to the snowboarding at this time.

G: Are other people kayaking at this time?

C: Ahh yes they are there, many members of the UCCC are making regular trips to the West Coast to run some sick rivers.

G: So are you looking forward to the new intake of kayakers at this clubs day?

C: Very much so, I am estimating around 1000 new members, this will be great for the club, there have been many good trips this year already, and with more members there will be more raving naked trips on the agenda.

G: So err what

C: Sorry Grahame I just interrupt you there, and just wanted to say that there has been a lack of female participants in the club in later years, and it would be good to see some more boobs floating down those rivers.

G: Yes great point Craig, nice to see you're not a sexist club. So wat has been the best trip of the year for you?

C: Well Brunner was absolutely fantastic, there was nakedness, nipples, blow jobs, lots of beer, Jordy got drunk, spooning, gooning, a small amount of kayaking. Just like any good trip, the organisers of that trip are just really cool people. I was not part of White Water Week but I have heard it was like eggs on toast. Another White Water Week is on the agenda.

G: Where is White Water week held?

C: Now that is a fantastic question, nice nipples by the way. It is held in Murchison, great place, kayak central, the rivers may as well be made out of gold, fantastic place to kayak, beginners just let go in their pants as soon as they arrive. Once when I was in Murchison I even saw a snuffulufigus. Best day of my life.

G: Understandable, so I hear your nipples make good shadows?

C: I'm glad you brought that up, my nipples do make loooooonng shadows, in fact they get up to a length of 10cm, that's when they are warm. NUTS. I recommend anyone that joins the club to ask for a private viewing.

G: So who is the weirdest person in the club in your eyes?

C: Monique, without a doubt, strange little green thing.

G: I have been told to ask you if you (Beavis) and Chris (Butthead) are related in a gay fashion?

C: Some people may say that we could be, it is however true that only Chris swings that way, he has a cool laugh though.

G: I'm straight outta questions. So thanks for the insightful talk, any last shout outs?

C: Just one shout out to Wesley, any females approaching this guy, watch out, his smile will get you. Beautiful.

G: Ok thanks Craig, I'll just hop out the shower, XXX



Canoe Polo

By Nicole



Meeting at the pool on the Tuesday night I was a bit doubtful of how I was going to go at playing Canoe Polo. The girls gave me a quick run down on the rules and the general idea of the game to refresh my memory from my last time playing as a beginner with them two years ago. I can not believe I ever stopped playing! A bit shaky and unsure to begin with and a bit hesitant on the boundaries and argy bargy of the game I quickly got used to the idea and was keen to get amongst it. It's fast paced and the varied abilities in the pool from beginners to competent and seasoned players make it easy to get involved in the sport and improve quickly as

a team and build on your kayaking skills and confidence in the water. What better way to escape from the cold winter nights by heading to the pool for a good game of Canoe Polo!



Network Tasman are planning a hydro-scheme on the Matakītaki and Glenroy rivers in Murchison. There are 5 sites where they are planning to build dams, intakes or power stations. They have not been very forthcoming with details yet but their plans would probably drown the Glenroy, de-water the Middle Matakītaki, and hamstring the Lower Matakītaki section by

constraining it to a very limited flow range. The Middle Matakītaki is one of the very best class II sections in New Zealand, and the Glenroy is a class III-IV creek run for more adventurous paddlers. They are the best of their class in Murchison. These rivers are our treasures - not only are they classic trips with some of the highest usage by whitewater kayakers in New Zealand they are both astonishingly beautiful.

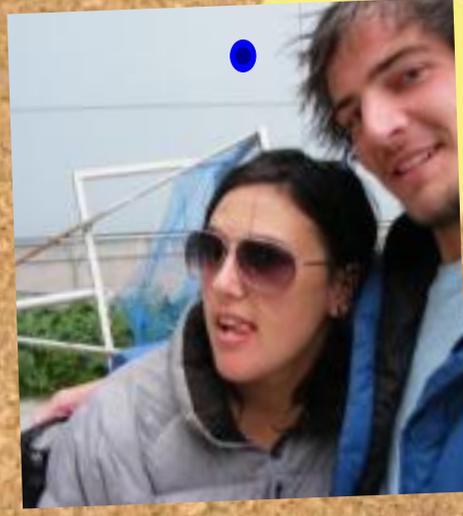
The Matakītaki / Glenroy hydro-scheme is a very serious proposal. In fact Network Tasman has already bought land on some proposed sites, and has options to purchase more. This significant expenditure was undertaken without public permission from their owners, the Network

Tasman Trust. The Network Tasman Trust is owned by all power consumers in Tasman, including all Murchison residents. Murchison residents were not notified, let alone consulted with, before their own money was spent on land to build a dam in a notorious earthquake zone upstream of their town.

Network Tasman had suggested a site visit to a very limited selection of stakeholders, however this visit was cancelled at NZRCA's insistence due to the small number of invitees. Obvious omissions included the NZ Kayak School, and Stu McGowan who represents not only Murchison Area school but more than a dozen other secondary schools who use the Matakītaki. An information weekend was held in Murchison on June 20 & 21.

Please help save the Matakītaki and Glenroy. Unlike many other rivers such as the Mokihinui, Nevis, Hurunui and Kaituna, kayakers are the most affected group and cannot count on as much help as usual from organisations such as Fish & Game, DOC, or Forest & Bird. A website with more information will be forthcoming, check at rivers.org.nz for more news and ideas for how you can help.

Pool for the basics



beached as bro



Flat Water session to hone those skills



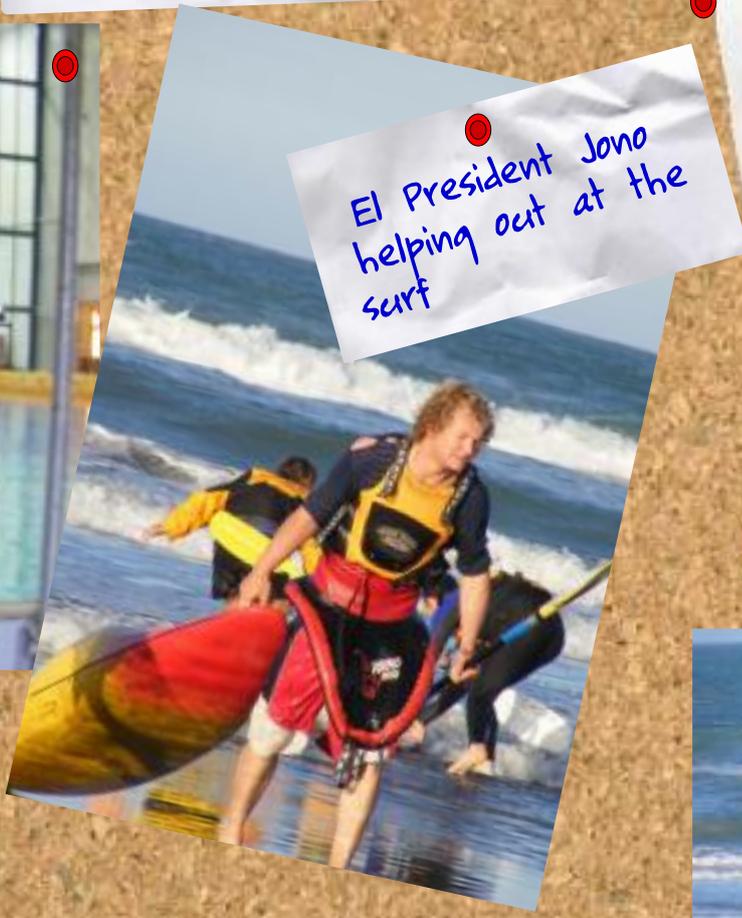
Combos '08

Cap'n Nev... being Nev

El President Jono helping out at the surf

So much carnage at the beach!

Safety Briefing before the River Trip!





WWW '08 Fiona
I remember getting a late lift up with Jono, Nev and 2 others in a very cramped car load, then pitching a tent in the dark while others slept (it was around 2am, I think). I missed playing in the flat water on day 1, but it was mainly safety work anyway so far as I remember.
Day 2 - we hit up Buller gorge, grade 2, in great weather and had a blast. I got sucked into a hole, flipped up-side-down for a good 5 seconds or longer, and finally spat out the other side. I rafted up with Jono for a few hairy bits thereafter. That night we had a great atmosphere around the fire and twirled a bit of fire poi.
Day 3 - we drove up to the turn off to Lake Rotoroa, jumping in the Buller river for some easy grade 2 stuff. It was a bit shallow, but enjoyable nonetheless. I got out at the early option and watched everyone else negotiate some big boulders.
All I remember is being hit in the head by a canadian - ed.

White Water Week '08



Bliss Stick Visit

By Brian

I flew up to Bliss stick right after Easter in April and made myself a boat and got the club some new kayaks. The normal deal is you work for 40-50 hours and then you have the option of buying a brand new Bliss-Stick



kayak (usually sold for \$2000) for \$500. On top of that, the legends at Bliss-Stick have given the club some sweet discounts to purchase new boats directly as they come. It's a pretty cruisy week up there too. Very relaxed atmosphere, if you are after a new Bliss-Stick boat be sure to think about working in the factory!

I was flying so I only brought my brand swanking new mystic back with me. Chris has managed to bring 3 down, but there is a small wee problem - the UCCC or rather WE (yes you and I) still own 3 kayaks that are in a woolshed in the north island somewhere near Taihape...

So we need to get them! Yes? So if you



happen to be going to the north island with a car and roof racks and want to help out - go pick up a boat or 3 for us!

If you are traveling by plane or alone you could do what I did and bring one back with you. It's a great way to start conversation and only cost me \$15 for the oversized luggage on the plane... (Bus from Taihape to Welli was free) Bus from Chch airport refused to take it... Bastards!



Rather obviously no one in the club can use these boats until we get them... If you have any ideas or know of people up north who might be coming down - email me.

www.bliss-stick.com



Club Safety

By Jordy

The UCCC promotes safe kayaking, participation in safety courses and the development of budding new kayakers. This year the UCCC has addressed some serious issues surrounding safety and the progression of beginners. Over the last few years beginners were able to paddle over Maruia Falls, if they wished to do so, towards the end of a week long kayaking course. However, in response to a serious criticism from some leading kayak instructors and our own criticisms, we had decided to abandon this part of white-water week and only offer the opportunity to paddle the falls to only those with solid rolls and who are paddling grade III with relative ease. A positive step forward in terms of safety for the club. Another issue arising from white-water week was whether we had been challenging the ability of beginners, in response to Marc Rodgers walking out of the Buller Earthquake run. I personally felt the group of beginners were up to the run, but this issue will be further discussed at the next UCCC meeting.

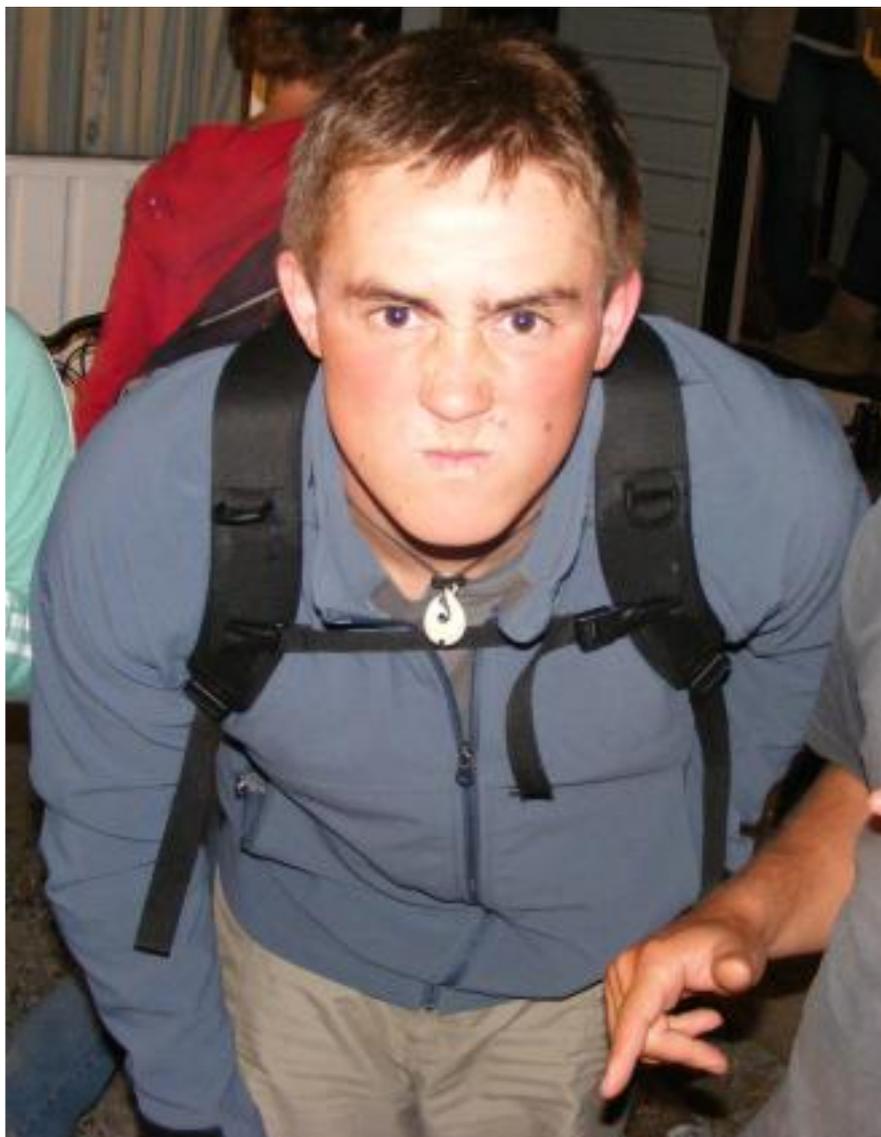
With many beginner/intermediate paddlers continuing to kayak this semester and the herding of more complete beginners, all leading to a huge work load for our limited but talented instructors, the UCCC is encouraging the use of external institutions, in conjunction with what the UCCC offers during this spring and summer paddling season. The NZRCA* are offering subsidies for safety courses, we strongly urge the participation of any and all members in such courses as if you are on the river you not only responsible for yourself, but also those around you. Another good institution to look into is the New Zealand Kayak School, based in Murchison. The NZKS employs some of the top instructors in New Zealand and is a great place to build upon what you have learnt with the UCCC. Mick Hopkinson, runs

the school and has offered 10% off courses for UCCC members, just another reason to jump onto one of these courses.

Safety is the most important part of kayaking and this is a quote or ideology that I believe is a good thing to have in mind in safety situations.

“YOU, YOUR CREW, OUR GEAR”

- gear is replaceable and what help are you to your crew if you worsen your position when trying to help them.



Be safe, or else Jordy will be mad!

In the Eddy

KT - UCCC's Awesome Conservation Officer

Sitting here, being circulated around in the calm shifting water, my view changes from the flow of water to land, river, trees, current, rocks. I start to think in this peaceful place away from the loud crashing rapids. I can think of many wondrous, crazy things. I gaze upstream to watch my mates playing, I search downstream to see where my next funnister line will be.

A thought, no, more of a feeling overwhelms me. I can not believe how I can be in such an amazing wild place. I'm floating on the water, racing down this river, hanging with great people and having the time of my life. Not many people get to be where I am right now, and this somehow makes this experience that much more special.

I love kayaking, for an array of reasons. One of the reasons is because I love being here in the wild fetching environment. This is part of how I have become the UCCC's Conservation Officer. I am so deeply involved in the preservation of our great rivers for the sustainability of our country. This includes making sure that we look after the places we visit, respecting everyone we come across and letting the world know how important healthy rivers are.

At the moment there are some pretty crazy situations. Our power consumption appears to be increasing at an estimated rate of 1-2% a year. Seems pretty low, aye; however, after a few years, our current systems may not be able to continue supplying enough electricity for that demand! Also New Zealand is involved with keeping our carbon emissions low making ways to develop our electricity more difficult. This has the Government and Business people lining up with some ideas of tackling these issues. The main idea for a solution at the moment is to continue creating what we have always used. Dams.

According to Whitewater NZ (formally NZRCA - NZ Recreational Canoe Association), there are around 26 rivers being investigated for hydro-electricity opportunities, with 13 of those being in the South Island. I have been to Westport (end of last year) for the hearing over the Mokihinui River and

recently Murchison for a meeting with Network Tasman over their proposal of damming the Matakītaki River. Whitewater NZ's statement of these rivers being dammed and lost forever is a reality, it is something that we are facing right now.

They (whoever 'they' are) tell us that hydro-electricity is renewable and that it keeps our carbon footprint at a minimum. This sounds great at a surface look. Looking deeper into the reality of a dam however shows a different problem. They cleverly forget to mention that habitats for our



special fauna and flora are destroyed, our native fish cannot naturally migrate to sea to breed, our plants are drowned by lakes, trees cleared for transmission lines and access roads, the natural state of a river is lost along with its mana. Along with those sad certainties, for us, is a loss of our recreational habitat where we journey to for some peace.

Lucky for us is that we realise that this treads on our very existence as New Zealanders. Our culture and mana was built on the natural environment, this is how we became seen as Clean and Green.

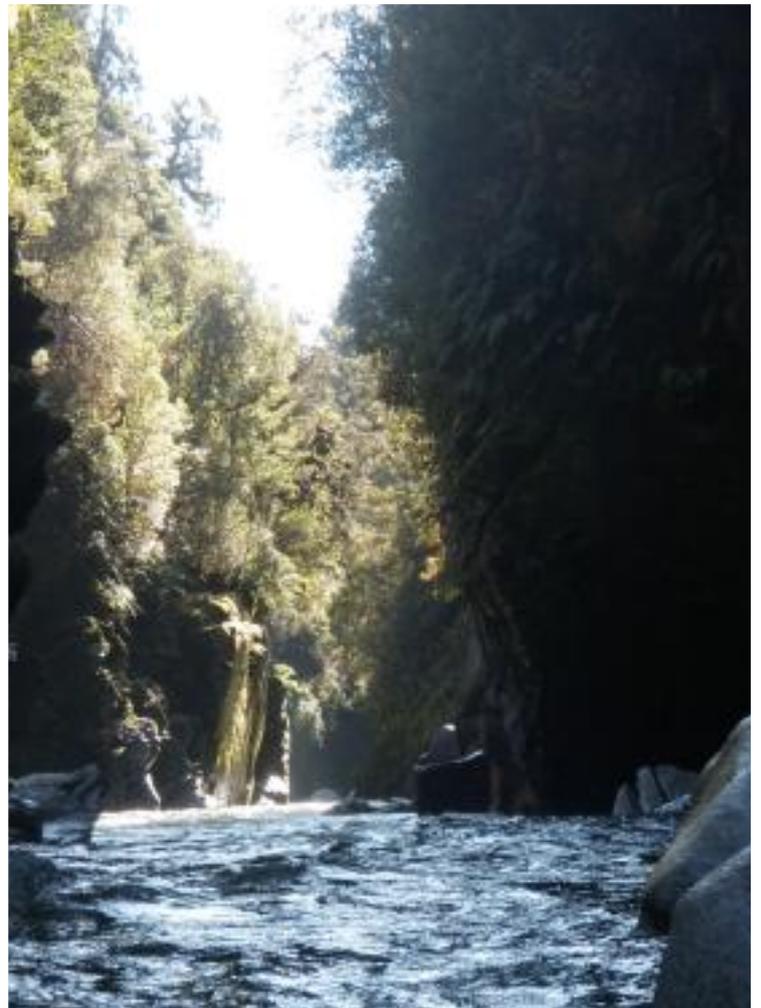
I call for a radical change in how we think, focusing on how we can progress with our ways of life alongside the natural world, not against it. This means seriously pursuing clean alternative electricity generation and leaving our old unsustainable ways behind. In my opinion, downscaling the systems for our areas/ communities and using the grid for certain factories or businesses. If we can send



people into space, we can figure out ingenious ways of getting clean environmentally responsible electricity to our houses! After all we do have the blood of our ancestors of ingenuity.

Round in circle's it's now my turn to surf, breaking out of the eddy and it's no place for thinking, I leave these thoughts behind. Focused on my carves, contorting my hips and shoulders into spins. I go for a new move, plough my nose into the trough, edge my boat, twist my body, control my paddle, woops! Upside down, roll and paddle to the side.

Sitting here, being circulated around in the calm shifting water, my view changes from the flow of water to land, river, trees, current, rocks. I start to think in this peaceful place away from the loud crashing rapids. I can think of many wondrous, crazy things. I gaze across to watch my mates playing, I search downstream to see where my next funnist line will be.



The Lower Kakapotahi gorge (Investigated for hydro-electricity)

Early Club History

compiled by Robyn Burgess in 1989, updated in 1997 by Fiona Mackay and Brian Thorne in 2009

The University of Canterbury Canoe Club was formed in 1967. The founding members were Don Hutton, Rod Claridge, Dick Williman, Malcolm Struthers and Dick Martin. Long before the Canoe Club was established, the Canterbury University Tramping Club had used kayaks (as well as rafts) on rivers as a means of transport to get to remote areas to tramp or climb. After a time, however, keen trampers such as Don Hutton and others felt that kayaking for its own sake might be fun. This was quickly confirmed with the membership of UCCC in its first year totaling some 68 people.

From the start the Club attracted, as it indeed was formed by, an older set (mature students, postgraduates, staff members) compared to most other clubs on campus. The "maturity" and strong organisational base of the Club has contributed greatly to its success. The notion of a three-year presidency term, for example, was to establish stability within the Club. By always appointing a commerce or accounting student as Treasurer, not only were UCCC's books kept in order, but the practice was looked upon favourably by the establishment, as a result the Canoe Club was very successful at obtaining grants. In fact, it had such a good reputation for its management of finances that on more than one occasion the Vice Chancellor of the University directed other clubs to obtain UCCC assistance in setting up their books. The original planning and well-thought out objectives of the Club has gained it respect in the

eyes of the University Sports Council, other university clubs and canoe clubs.

The Club had a policy of early active involvement with kayaking for beginners, the belief being that it was better to learn in a river than to spend too much time practicing in swimming pools. It was also quickly established that Club members were not judged so much on their kayaking ability as their capacity to be social and cheerful and their willingness to help others (either directly or behind the scenes) and respect property. As the Orientation sheet for 1969 outlined, "we want people who can swim, who can laugh and whose enthusiasm extends to spending an odd Saturday afternoon on the end of a hammer or paint brush. If you want to enjoy life, see rivers from an inside angle, meet people, have a good time and so on, then join the Canoe Club" (and hand over the \$1 subs, of course).

Many of the early Club trips were experimental. In some instances little was known about a river, regular "scouting party" trips were organised, whereby, a group would go off on a weekend tramp to investigate what various stretches of water looked like and to judge whether or not they could be paddled. ("Could the Rangitata Gorge be paddled? Definitely not!"). Such trips involved climbing, looking and photographing. One prominent Club member, Trevor Bissell, even put his pilots license to use by flying over those rapids that could not be viewed on foot. Occasionally "scouting party" trips involved suitably attired and mannered Club Committee members calling on land owners to arrange vehicle access or permission to camp on their property. Tommy Corbett was particularly influential in the early

1970's in convincing many farmers in South Canterbury to help in such matters. In appreciation, something along the lines of a kayaking photograph with the "Compliments of the University of Canterbury Canoe Club" would be forwarded by the Club Committee to all farmers whose property was crossed. It is this sort of effort that established the goodwill regarding land access that river users often now take for granted. The scouting parties were Canoe Club trips in themselves even though they rarely involved any kayaking.

It was the trips on the rivers that were often the most exciting. Committee members took much delight in naming river trips - one could, for example, "Wade the Waiiau" or "Hurtle the Hurunui" and much prestige was attached to the first members of the Club who went to "Battle the Buller". There are numerous early trips that can still be recalled, even if in some cases it is only for their disastrous nature. Early in 1971, for example, about 25 paddlers set off on a flooded Waimakariri Gorge trip. Five of the kayaks never made it to the get out, their occupants spending a cold night out. The following weekend a jetboat had to return to the river to collect bits of fibreglass kayaks and salvage pieces of canvas ones that had been washed up.

In these early days a piece of string tied the paddle to the canoe and there were trailing ropes - these features were supposedly to prevent loss of one kind or another. Often the boats lacked proper buoyancy. Bash-hats were not considered a necessity. But through trial and error - for example, a trip report dating back to late 1967 notes that "after an experimental trip down the Waimakariri it was found that rudders were useless on kayaks" - and through greater

safety awareness, various changes were made in canoe features.

By the end of 1967 the Club owned five single kayaks, two doubles, one Canadian, with one new canoe under construction. Members could hire kayaks (40 cents per day), but they were also encouraged to build their own kayaks. Boat-making and boat-repairing sessions could take place in someone's lounge or garage or when a lot was to be done, very sociable outdoors working bees were arranged. The nature of the canvas kayaks (fun to make and easily smashed in rivers, therefore requiring repair sessions) had particular social value. With boat making sessions, different people would be assigned particular jobs to do on all of the boats under construction, and sometimes up to 20 kayaks would be made in one weekend. Parties were held for the launching of new kayaks: cakes were baked and champagne flowed. The old canvas doubles, too, were a lot of fun and very useful in giving unconfident paddlers the opportunity of going down rivers in a boat without having to put in one stroke. Photographs and sketches on rivers could also be made in this way. After a time however, canvas had to compete against the new fibreglass canoe. A competitive slalom group within the Club had been arguing for fibreglass and in 1972 two token Pelorus and KW7 kayaks were purchased second-hand. After the canoe slalom event was held in the 1974 Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, however, enthusiasm for fibreglass increased and a programme for replacing canvas Club kayaks was set up.

The social side of the Canoe Club was perhaps its strongest point and activities extended far beyond kayaking. There were the "Canoe Club flats" (ie those flats whereby one had to be a UCCC member

before they could live there), the "Plucking Pheasants" Canoe Club band, the peculiar "mad hats" which members wore ashore - a tradition maintained from the inception of the Club up until the late 1970's. A number of Canoe Club members even ended up marrying one another!

Since it was founded, UCCC has steadily grown in size, with membership numbers peaking in 1984 at around 350. That year the Club had advertised, a tactic since avoided, and membership has been steady at around 250 until the early 90's. The strong organisational foundations, enthusiasm and very social nature have been maintained. Actual kayaking techniques, safety standards, instruction, and equipment have been greatly improved and no doubt will continue to do so in the future.

Due to the impact of student loans and fees on the work habits and finances of students the UCCC has dropped in numbers to approximately 120 whitewater members and 80 polo members. Despite this the Club has maintained a strong base with continued improvement in skill levels in both canoe polo and white water and a high standard of instruction.

The social nature of the Club also remains with events such as the Avon pub crawl where people have been known to paddle round the Town Hall fountain much to the disturbance of Town Hall Management and the amusement of the Christchurch Police. The annual trip to the West Coast "Brunner" shows beginners the delights of both the West Coast rivers and pubs. In the early 90's it was almost guaranteed that the bus would breakdown on the Brunner Trip. The first time this occurred a busload of drunk students had to push the bus

up the last few metres of Porters Pass. The last time it happened the bus could not quite deal with Otira Gorge so about 40 people got put up at the Otira Hotel overnight waiting for another bus to arrive.

Providing staff for the annual Coberger's Ski Swap kept the Club finances healthy. By bribing kayakers with the prospect of a keg and an unlimited food supply the Club was able to raise \$3500. Unfortunately this source of income disappeared in 1996 with the closure of Coberger's and the Club has had to consider its expenditure more carefully.

As kayaking has increased in popularity, more people have joined the UCCC with skills developed from paddling at high school. These skilled people, combined with the use of professional instructors for Leaders and Seconds training, have ensured that the Club instruction system has continued to develop and remain at the forefront of club instruction in New Zealand. Hopefully the tradition of quality instruction, along with the social nature of the Club, which has been enjoyed by students in the past, will be continued for students in the future.

Power consumption is increasing New Zealand, and while the Government is trying to keep up New Zealand's "Clean Green Image" - the pressure keeps rising to build hydro dams on many of the rivers that are regularly paddled. The UCCC began having a "Conservation Officer" to help get our opposition to newly proposed dams heard.

The Kokatahi

The West Coast has some of the best creeking in New Zealand and arguably the World. With the combination of remoteness, helicopter access and continuous grade IV+ and V whitewater, the Kokatahi River is one of many rivers that gives the 'Coast' its reputation for amazing kayaking.



Classic Kokatahi

Paddler Jordan Searle, Photo: Chris Goodnough

Situated inland from Hokitika, the Kokatahi flows off the western side of the Southern Alps, between the Styx (IV+) and Toaroha (III+) Rivers. Apart from a lower class II+ walk-in beginners run, the Kokatahi is all business. In exchange for about \$100 per person; local legend Bruce Dando will chauffeur (via helicopter) your crew and boats from the take-out to the get in, a flight that is never forgotten. Flying in, the lower consists of deep, sheer-walled gorges and the upper a maze of boulder gardens and stacked rapids...some go quiet and expose the whites of their eyes...others slowly begin to grin and nod with eager anticipation.

The river is said to have lost some of its previous ferocity since its first decent by Bruce Barnes and Graham Charles in 1996 (always ask Dando about Carnage Gorge before flying in) but between low and medium flows there is some classic and testing whitewater to be had. At higher flows this river is full on and previous knowledge of the river and a super solid team is

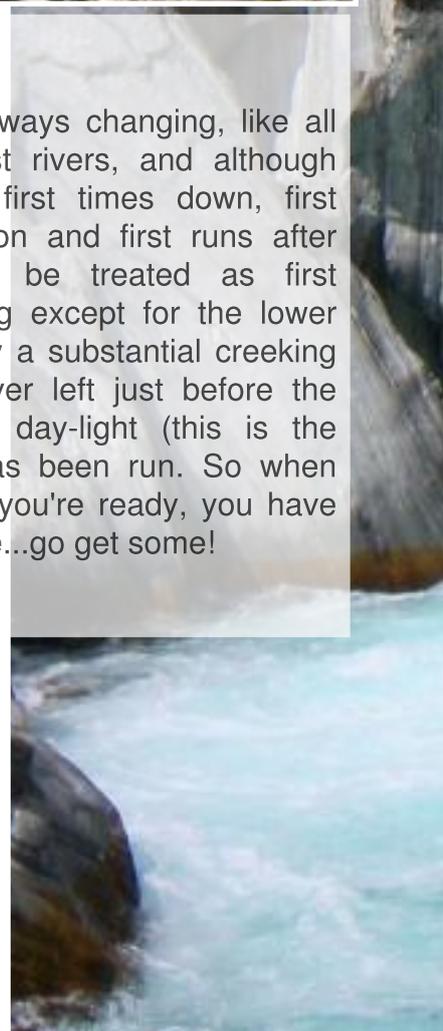
Robin Scott Portaging Twin-Towers

Photo: Jordan Searle

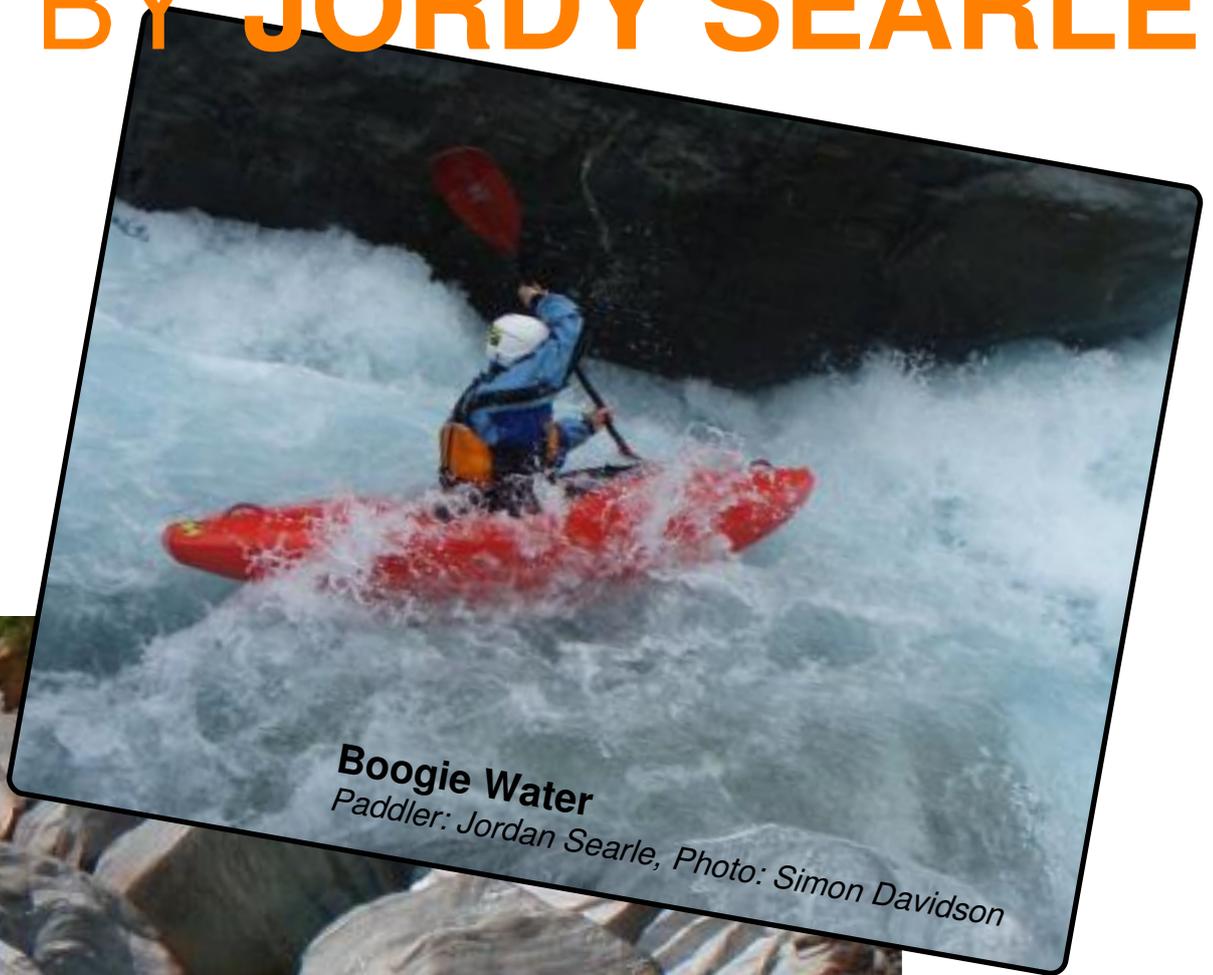


mandatory.

The Kokatahi is always changing, like all of the West Coast rivers, and although local beta helps, first times down, first runs for the season and first runs after floods should all be treated as first decents. Everything except for the lower gorge, indicated by a substantial creeking coming in from river left just before the gorge and fading day-light (this is the case for most), has been run. So when you're ready, or if you're ready, you have now read the article...go get some!

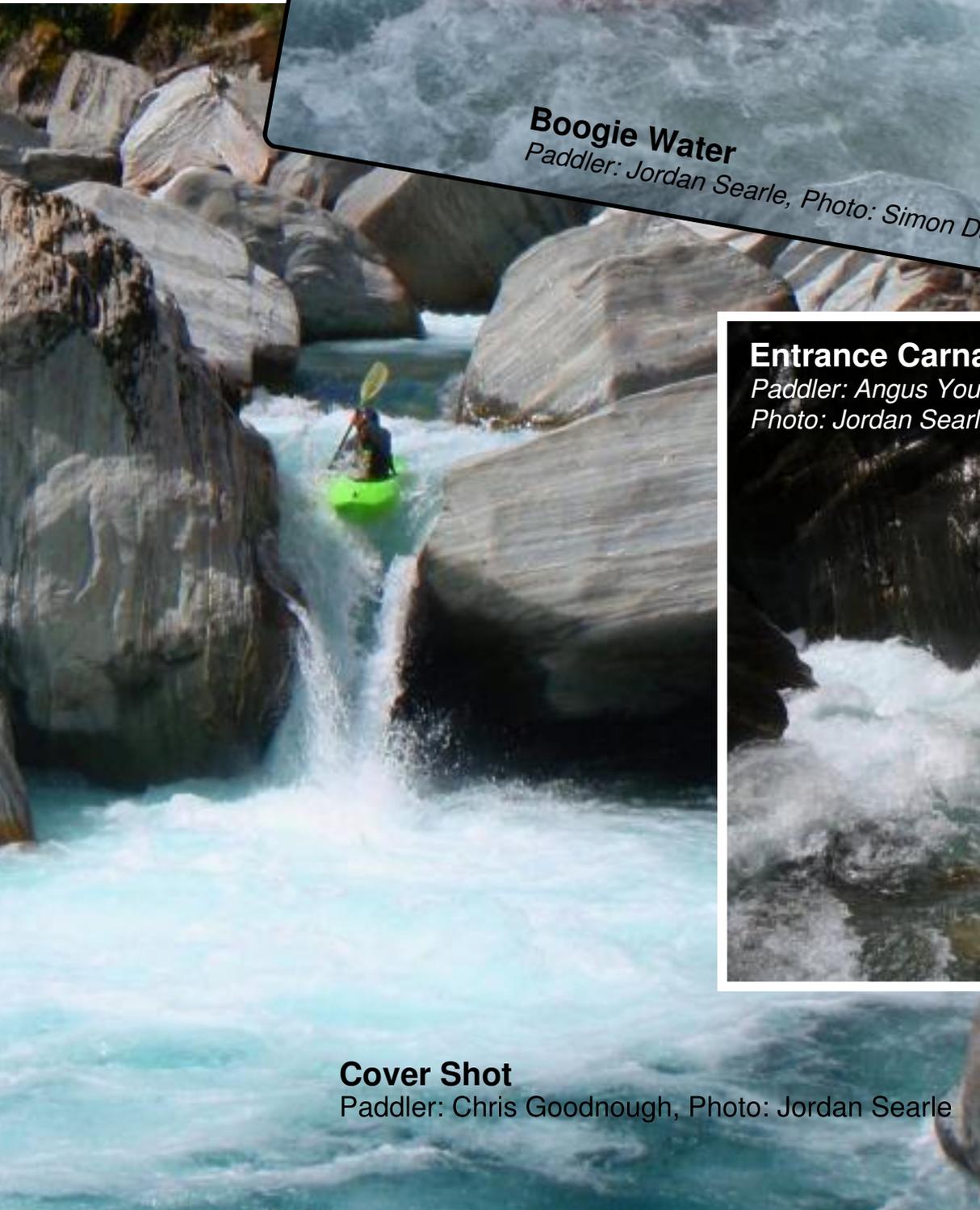


BY JORDY SEARLE



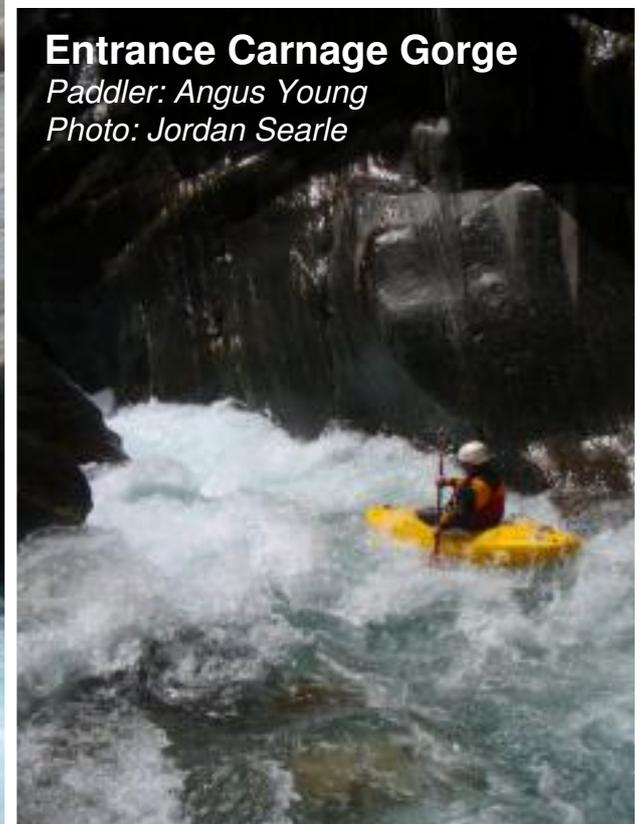
Boogie Water

Paddler: Jordan Searle, Photo: Simon Davidson



Entrance Carnage Gorge

*Paddler: Angus Young
Photo: Jordan Searle*



Cover Shot

Paddler: Chris Goodnough, Photo: Jordan Searle



Barney enjoying the play

The Styx

The Styx River is one of the most popular runs on the West Coast. Its proximity to Hokitika and quality whitewater gained by a good honest walk make it the 'after work' run of choice for the locals.

The Styx is located in the next valley up from the Kokatahi and is different to most other Coast runs such that it does not flow through any gorges (gorges on the coast are sheer-walled schist or granite and usually nearly impossible to climb out of meaning if you cannot go through – do not go in). This gives the Styx an almost perfect concave curve profile – steep IV+/V whitewater at the top, easing to IV, then II/III down to the take-out. The track follows the river the whole way down, so for those of you who do not want the intensity of the top section, you can simply walk in until the river

looks good/bad enough for your own bad-ass self. It can be run at a wide range of flows. In really low flows, the run becomes painfully shallow and is hardly worth the effort, but at high flows, the top section produces some VERY busy long rapids and becomes quite full-on while any rocks in the bottom section are covered up forming some very cool fast wave-trains.

So get to it! Spring is almost upon us and the Styx will always be on. It's cheap and great hiking, so all your friends can see what a stud/studdette you are!

BY WILLZ MARTIN



Photos stolen off Jordy's Laptop

Kayak Palooza

By Brian Thorne

I have just had a very fun few days up in Murchison - went up on Thursday with Craig and every river was swollen and running dirty, the Buller was Massive! So it was with plenty of nerves that Craig and I went for our first flood run on the O'Sullivan's rapid of the Buller.



Brian & Craig on a flooded O'Sullivan's

It was incredibly powerful - we both went down at the same time and both got flipped by a rather car sized wave! We both rolled back up and then attempted to get to the true left of the river - Craig was on the left and he made it, I on the other hand have never had so little to do with where I was going on a river... I was "told" by the Buller that I would be doing the next rapid, managed to eddie out on the side afterwards and life was all G. It just amazed me how in a 50 meter stretch of water I could not get the 5 meters to the side!

We then went to have a look at the Lower

Matakitaki which was truly pumping! Mick had just done his after-work run so we had a chat about possible places to take beginners with all the scary flooding around - he gave very sound advice of exploiting them as shuttle bunnies and waiting it out. Everything was faster and more dangerous.

The next day we had a wee lesson in Big Eddie at the camp-ground - fun times had watching Ian Warrington practise his roll in the frigid waters! Later that afternoon Craig and I went to the Lower Matakitaki with a random kiwi from the camp-ground - had an awesome run - felt really good charging through some rather large holes! As we were getting out Mick arrived for his 2000+ run on the river - we convinced him to shuttle for us; and Craig and I ran the river with him and another professional kayak instructor from the NZ kayak school. It was very good to see the control they had - stopping at the smallest micro eddies and S-turning their way down the rapids! Hopefully we did not embarrass ourselves too much - we were then told about the many plans to dam some of the very rivers we had been paddling - including this amazing specimen!

Got back to the campground and the crowds from Christchurch had turned up! So in true UCCC style we got a little rowdy. Picnic tables were broken a Mouse (KT) made some lewd poses and fun was had by all. Come Saturday we had a bright and early start in big Eddie with everyone going back to basics of forwards strokes etc. After lunch we all headed to the Mangles.



Fun times, honest!



Bring on the hordes of paddlers to march

Then a lowers run with Jono, KT, Pat, an English guy and myself was wicked. The pom had a wee swim at the very top of Earthquake rapid... I did not envy him! I went paddle chasing down earthquake while Jono helped the poor swimmer.

visited for a good few hours for the debriefing! Brilliant trip all round!

Sweet times that night as well, a mission by Ian and myself involved hitching a dead tree to big brown and trying to pull it down. Fire was all good! Hayley busted out the fire poi - always fun! Sunday came far too quickly and we went for a nice middle Matakas run in the morning - I managed to get my head knocked in a little accident involving a beginner missing the



water with their paddle. I then managed to raft another beginner into a hole which we side surfed for a bit before flipping and for some odd reason I held onto their boat under water - we both ended up swimming right above a decent wood strainer! Funtastical! After that we went to the Glenroy - Pat and I ripped it up under Jono's watchful eye, so much fun! A fish and chips smorgasboard and we headed out of Murchison. Sylvia flats hot pools were



Joining the whitewater kayaking club was the best decision I made coming to New Zealand. Awesome crew and excellent way to see the country. If you don't know what goon and scrumpy is yet, you'll know soon enough. U Triple C is the sh*t! Kress Weitzel



UCCC is the BEST club I had the pleasure of being apart of during my time at Canterbury. I was new to whitewater kayaking, but the club has friendly and experienced members that made me feel safe; ergo I was able to have heaps of fun at times. The sport is exhilarating, the people are great, and the experiences are unforgettable. Karl



So what's to say about the kayak club...it is for sure the best club I have ever joined. To put it in a nutshell, the club is all about awesome people who love kayaking, partying and crazy costumes. I got to know NZ from one of its most gorgeous views and was instructed by some really nice guys who were always there when I flipped. In addition, I spent some great times on adventures such as the White Water Week, Brunner and the Heli Trip. You guys know how to organize some unforgettably awesome trips. I had so much fun! Thanks for that, guys! Lots of love, Theresa :)



Having joined the UCCC at Club's Day in February, the instructors showed us beginners during one week at Combos how to get a little bit of a feeling for a wobbly kayak and introduced us to the basic techniques of paddling, rescuing each other and safety issues. It is just a big time with fast improvements and a good crew of experienced instructors and beginners. A good challenge for every grade and the best goon-slapping club at this uni!! Daniel



The UCCC is awesome!!! We got to go on tons of fun trips and see parts of the country unknown to us before! Come paddling! It rocks!!! Monique



Testimonials

Spending a semester in New Zealand was a great adventure, but it wouldn't have been the same without the friends I made. Getting involved with UCCC turned out to be the best thing! Everyone was friendly and I had the chance to learn something completely new. The group was a great mixture of serious learning (like during Combos week) and GREAT fun (like the costume-required pub crawl) and so much more!! And even now (July 2009), two years later, I'm still in contact with the friends I made through that club.

Sara Hagie



One of the best non-academic decisions I made at uni was to join UCCC - for all the three years I was at uni! The people are awesome and the trips are always legendary (be it adventure-wise or just good ol' drunken fun!). Although I'm back in Malaysia now, I still keep in touch with some of my UCCC friends from all over the world because they're just great people.

Shima Abd Ghafar

"They saved my life! They also were fully responsible for endangering my life."
"They're all drunks, but fun drunks"
"I saw a horse make out with an old man in the springfeild pub on a UCCC trip. Can you say sketchy?" Ian Warrington



The Coast

By Jordy

The West Coast is renowned for its steep creeks and rivers, heli-kayaking and remoteness and, therefore, class IV-V white-water. For this reason, there is a perception that the coast is not an ideal destination for beginner paddlers or those intermediate paddlers pushing into the realm of class III+ - IV kayaking. Having grown up on the coast and learning to paddle there, I know this to be a misconception and that lower sections of most class IV-V runs have sections to accommodate all paddling abilities. To breakdown all the lower sections of West Coast Rivers would require a small novel and for this reason I will, only, breakdown the most classic of west coast rivers... The Arahura.

Most commonly known for the currently un-runnable Dent Falls, the picturesque Curtain-Call, Billiards and the infamous Cess-Pit. However, the Arahura also has four (or more) lower runs between class II and III+. Just a few kms upstream from the Arahura bridge, at the corner just back from where you turn to go over to Blue Spur, is what I would call the 'Introduction section' or Corner to Groynes. Class II, safe enough to swim the length of the run, simple lines, big eddies, completely road side and is a perfect platform to practise the art of eddy turns, ferry gliding, rolling, whoopies, safe swimming, river reading...everything! The get out is the rock Groynes not too far down stream and after running the 1.5-2km shuttle you'll be warm enough to go again. Upstream from here is the 'Progression Section' or Huts to

the Corner. Follow the road up the Arahura Valley, left at the junction where you can turn to go over to Blue Spur and drive until you reach a big iron gate, park before it and walk up the road until you cut down a small track to the river. The length of this run is substantially longer than the introduction section, you can get out at the corner or the groynes, but either way set shuttle because its about 10km. The rapids on this run are beginning to enter the II+ realm where there is more confused currents that easily tip novice paddlers. Before tackling this run, it would be best if you were running the introduction section without swimming, or rarely swimming and paddling into all its rapids with confidence. Remember the length of the run... take some snacks, maybe a dry polypro, sunscreen and work on surfing in all the sweet little play spots.

Milltown Gorge is the next run in the progression up the Arahura River. Having not personally run this section, this description is from up and coming kayak star Brian Urmson. The get in is where Milltown Road crosses the Arahura River, inland from lake Kaniere; the take out is anywhere downstream mentioned above. A little bit harder than the lower sections due to the length of the trip and the inclusion of gorged kayaking. People wishing to take on this run should only do so when they are completely comfortable on the lower runs. On our trip down the run with Westland High School, we made the trip an overnighiter, which is a great way to increase the experience. There are some sections starting to reach into the

class III section, but nothing mandatory to run or things that you cannot scout. In Milltown Gorge itself, there is the opportunity to get out on river left and look at and/or walk rapids. Enjoy

The highest run on the Arahura, other than the sweet goodness of the super classic class IV-V section, is from cess-pit gorge down. Park by the large Iron Gate, just after you cross the Arahura River on Milltown Road. Get into your kit, throw your boat on your shoulder and follow the road/track on the other side of the Iron Gate. The river gradually increases in gradient and difficulty the further you walk; put on where you feel comfortable. If things look within your ability up to the swing bridge, be sure you carefully scout the river above the swing bridge as things are a lot busier (III+). **DO NOT CARRY YOUR BOAT AWAY FROM THE RIVER WHERE THE TRACK STEEPENS AND GOES OVER A SMALL HILL** – there is a serious rapid hidden away followed by a class IV gorge, by all means go have a look but if you are hearing about the Arahura through this article, you are almost definitely not ready for Cess-Pit and Cess-Pit Gorge. This article only covers one of the West Coast's many rivers and illustrates that there are plenty of runs for beginner/intermediate paddlers on the coast. The lower of rivers such as the Hokitika, Styx, and Kokatahi also have section that should be checked out so go have a scout, a paddle and adventure and let us know what you find.

Spooning

By Dani

Just a blurb for everyone to fully understand spooning; however, once joining the kayaking club you will become pro. Just for those who are a little weary of the definition of spooning or what the activity entails, Urban Dictionary defines it as, "the act of two or more persons lying on a bed or floor area in which the persons lay curled and fitting together, as spoons do in your kitchen drawer."

According to UCCC, the more the merrier and we will do it in any location! However, some may not be as advanced as others in the spooning department, and one could have a few questions....what do I do with this awkward arm (the one that does not wrap around the person you are facing)? Is it a bad thing to move? How long will we spoon or should we spoon? Equal gender mandatory? Should I be the big or little spoon?

There are no universal answers to these questions, but here is some advice. The awkward arm, yes, I even had to ask about this one, I was given sound hints and many prefer to have it under the pillow, if available, or under the person's head that they are facing (be warned though, a dead arm might result in the later of the two). Moving, yes, this can be a bit annoying for the entire group, seeing as people are fitted together as a puzzle in the spooning

position, and if one does not fit, it ruins the "picture." However, if you are uncomfortable, you need to move, spooning is meant to be a fun activity and no one should be in pain. The length of spooning parties, this can only be decided by those participating, feel free to join-in as long as you feel comfortable. The UCCC tends to appreciate long spooning sessions, and as a member you will feel comfortable participating in the activity for hours (many times all night long). As far as equal gender participation in spooning, many prefer to be spooned by the opposite sex (example: boy, girl, boy); however, we are all friends, and you will become comfortable with massive spoon parties, and it just does not matter. In regard to big and little spoons, I have found through my experiences most people prefer to be the little spoon. Often times, the bigger individual will be the big spoon (makes sense); however, do not deprive them of the opportunity to be the little spoon....everyone loves it!

Those are just a few questions I thought I could answer for you. I assume most of you have extensive practice in the area, but the UCCC does not want to leave anyone hanging. You are about to become the best spooner possible with the UCCC. Shortly, you will be spooning everyone anywhere.



