

RAFTING NEWS - Volume 4; Issue 5

October 2003

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SOUTHY

Hello all

Southy here as we ease into another season. Looking forward to it as well.

This will be my last note as Chairperson for the NZRA.... So what to say..?? Firstly I look back on my time and shore it has been taxing on time and energy at times but the increase in unity and unified approach to safety and training has been pleasing to see. There are many great people in the rafting industry that are a joy to spend time with. By the way good effort from the NZ teams at the world Rafting competitions, I know personally how much work you all put in.

I believe one thing I need to cover is to impress on the industry is that we need to stand up and actively steer our industry. MSA, SFRITO and the like are here to stay, so it is important to work with them and not against. For the most part they look for our directive and then it is important that it comes from a united front in the form of the NZRA.

A ton of work has been carried out to date over the years. Great to see some knew faces with their hands up for the Exec, good on ya's. Also thanks to those of the present and past exec.

Support for the workshops is looking good, which is great.

I'll say it again, it has been great to have Suzanne on board, and she is getting more familiar with the industry as time goes on. Whether this is good or bad!..so to all you out there it is important to give her the support she needs. Please do it!!! As it is such a mission to start over. While on that...I encourage people join up, get positive,

stop complaining and piggy backing everyone else's workload. \$85, No big deal, come on, then we can really get stuck into some good projects.

Not sure if people are aware but the government are involved in addressing access and ownership issues of our waterways and backcountry. The evidence is there that already and as we move to the future it will be a bigger issue as waterfront property is purchased by overseas and urban investor's that perhaps do not understand or share traditional ideals on ease of access and attitude to our outdoor culture. So stay familiar with the progress..one thing we can do as river users is to make sure we look after these places and think hard about pro active positive actions that only promote and strengthen a positive relationship between land owners and us commercial and recreation users. It is the little things that often make a difference out there. Like stopping and saying giddyay, slowing for a mob of sheep or dogs, picking up litter. It would be a sad day if we as kiwis loose all access to our precious rivers.

I wish the new Exec the best and look forward to catching up with many of you over this coming season.

Southy

For more information on Land Access you can read reports on the following site:
www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/people-and-their-issues/access/.

The New Zealand Rafting Women's Team are World Champions.... again!

Nikki Kelly, Anne Cairns, Kelly Wood, Buba Martin, Dallas Parker & Corrina Gage

World Whitewater Rafting Championships Czech Republic 2003

<p>The New Zealand Rafting Association recently sent 2 teams (Men's & Women's) to Europe to compete in the Euro Cup and the World Rafting Champs held in August in the Czech Republic, Both teams that are based in Rotorua had 3 months of structured training 3 days a week, through the North Islands mild but changeable weather, and with the help of some very important sponsors both teams made it from New Zealand's winter to Europe's summer.</p>
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The Euro Cup was held in Cesky Budejovice on a small man made river that runs off the Vltava river, which was specially made by the Georgia raft club for raft slalom and sprint, it was a 1000m stretch of grade 2-3 small drops and corners. Both teams competed in the R4 and R6 sprint and slalom, with 12 gates (4 up stream & 8 down stream) over approximately 500m. The sprint was held on the same stretch of river the next day. The first race was the men's R4, NZ men put in two Men's teams. With

the help of our Japanese friend Shigeto, an A and B team was put together. The B team finished 10th in the Sprint and 15th in the Slalom. The A team did well to get 2nd in the Sprint and 10th in the Slalom. There were 74 teams that entered. The NZ women going into the event with the reputation of 3 time world champions came out with 2nd and 3rd. The R6 event, which was held on the same course, saw NZ men finish 5th in the slalom and 3rd in the sprint. The NZ women finished 2nd in the slalom and 1st in the sprint. This was a great event and result for both teams leading to the World Champs as top contenders for taking the gold medals back to New Zealand.

Both teams then travelled further south to Lipno where the WRC were to be held on the Devils Stream section of the Vltava River. The river was grade 3-4 broken into 3 sections, the first section that started at the bottom of the Lipno dam, grade 3, was where the time trial, sprint and slalom was to be held. The river then flowed into a 2km flat section, through a dam and very cool spillway on the right side then into some continuous grade 3-4 to the end of the 15km run.

The first event was the time trial, which confirmed the seeding positions for the head to head Sprint. With the NZ Women going into the sprints in 2nd and the men in 5th it was a head to head knockout, until there were two teams left for the final race, The Women showed true power and experience to make it through to the last 2, and paddle to a convincing win over the Slovakian women. The men had an easy first race against Costa Rica, then teamed up against the Czechs and the local favourites for a very tough race, the Czechs had the pole position for being the fastest qualifiers which gave them an early advantage going into the first rapid, coming out of the rapid the NZ men passed the Czechs in a 20m sprint to the final rapid which had guard rock at the entry, the Czechs from behind then pushed the Kiwis into the rock and slid passed for a narrow win. Leaving the NZ men in 8th place. A disappointing result after putting up such a challenge against the top qualifiers!

The next event was the Slalom Course. After a bit of controversy about the course, the race organisers had made the decision to stick to the course, which many teams had said was impossible. In this race you were given two chances to come up with your best result. The Men's race was first and after their 1st run, only two teams managed to get through the course without gaining a 50 second Penalty. The course proved to be difficult with three top teams managing to flip. NZ men having the 3rd fastest time to complete the course, but only to be let down by getting time penalties on the very hard Gates. To overall place 6th in the Slalom event with the Czechs taking 1st. The Women's teams found the course very hard, with every team collecting a 50 second penalty for missing a gate on the challenging course. The NZ Women's then showed that they wanted to be 4 times World Champs with a very strong 2nd place in the Slalom behind the Czech women.

With the NZ Men's team now ranked 7th overall and the Women in 1st, there was only one more race to improve that. The Down River Race, the longest and hardest event of the competition was the only way to get some recognition after being very disappointed with the first two. The Race started in-groups of five Rafts leaving every 5 minutes. The NZ Men's team then started in the second group behind Italy. After a very good start, the NZ team managed to get a good lead through the first

section. Once managing to keep in front of the four other rafts, it came down to getting a faster time than the leading rafts in the first group. The race finished with the Czech team pulling off an unbelievable time, finishing 1 minute clear of 2nd place Germany, with NZ 9 seconds behind taking 3rd. This let the NZ team overtake Italy and Slovakia to take 5th overall. In the Women's event, NZ were placed 1st overall after the first two days, closely followed by Czech and Slovakia. Which meant NZ would have to win the Down River to keep their lead and retain their title as World Champs for the 4th time. The girls lead the race from start to finish closely followed by the Czechs, which at times were trying to push them out of the way. Taking their 2nd victory of the event meant they were still top of the table and now 4 time World Champs.

Both teams would like to thank everyone that helped with preparation for the WRC.

Pegasus Rental Cars
Goodyear Tyres
Teva
Mountain Designs
Smith
Dirty Dog
Kaitiaki Adventures
Topline Agencies
Wet'n'Wild Rafting
New Zealand Rafting Association

Troy Dolman, Wade Garmson, Paul Roozendaal, Lance Roozendaal, Bernd Sommer & James Moore

Congratulations to both teams for an awesome effort at the Champs.

PEGASUS RENTAL CARS MAIN SPONSOR OF THE NZ RAFT TEAMS

Pegasus Rental Cars is very proud to be the main sponsor of the NZ Rafting Teams for the next 12 months. It was so exciting to see the Women's Team win gold at the World Champs for the fourth year running! And the Men did very well too in 5th place. We aim to increase rafting exposure in NZ and together have had great publicity with TV appearances, radio interviews and press releases. We expect this sponsorship to be a successful venture for both the NZRA and Pegasus.

We have a full range of vehicles, thrifty cars **from \$35 per day** to station wagons....

We would like to offer free membership to our Blue Wing loyalty club to those involved with rafting. Blue Wing gives you priority 0800 reservations along with competitive set daily rates and many other benefits. Contact Nicki on 0800 258394 (0800 BLUEWING) or info@rentalcars.co.nz to have an information pack sent out. If you know of anyone else who may benefit from Blue Wing please pass our details

along. With Blue Wing we understand the value of saving you time and money and reward your loyalty to us.

Pegasus was setup in 1989 to provide rental cars at affordable rates for you. We have a large network around NZ offering one way hires with friendly and professional owner operators. There are several agencies in Australia that we are working on expanding in the near future. We have a full range of vehicles from thrifty cars to station wagons, 4WDs, executive, sportscars, minibuses and campervans.

We are pleased to be the preferred rental Car Company for all involved with the NZRA and we look forward to helping you in the near future with your rental needs.

Good luck to the men's team in Japan for the Raft Festival racing and to you all for a wonderful season!

Pegasus Rental Cars
PO Box 786, Nelson
Phone: (03) 5482852
Fax: (03) 5467381
info@rentalcars.co.nz
www.rentalcars.co.nz

Qualmark

As part of government's tourism strategy it was decided that a quality standard should be available across all sectors of the tourism industry.

Government undertook to fund Qualmark (jointly owned by the AA & Tourism New Zealand) to develop a standard that would enable tourists to recognise quality operators.

Up till this time Qualmark had been involved for many years in a grading system for accommodation properties.

The biggest difference in the standards that have been developed for other sectors of the industry is that it is a pass / fail system and no star grading is given. It is designed to develop a set of minimum standards of operation for the tourism industry

What does it cost: Qualmark charge a one off joining fee of \$175.00 (plus GST) and then an annual licence fee based on the number of full time equivalent staff, this ranges from \$595.00 to \$995.00 (plus GST)

How is it assessed: The assessment system is quite complicated but here is a brief description

There are two sections of the assessment.

Sector specific criteria - these are standards that each sector has the option of setting. For rafting there are only a few sector specific requirements. In order to pass this section a minimum of score of 75% is required.

Generic criteria – these are standards that are the same across all sectors of the tourism industry. There are 6 different categories within the generic criteria from customer service through to environmental and cultural. Each section has a set of minimum criteria that all businesses must meet. For example under **customer service** “there is no discrimination against customers” is set down as a minimum standard. They also have a set of quality rated criteria scored from 1 through to a maximum of 5. For example under **customer service** “friendly service” would score between 1 and 2, whereas “an excellent first impression” would score 4 to 5. These scores are then “importance weighted”, as an example “customer satisfaction” has much higher importance weighting than “environmental responsibility”.
The final score for the generic criteria is out of 500 and a minimum of 60% (300) is required to pass the generic criteria.

I have heard many comments about this being just another hoop to jump through. While this may be true it is not going to go away. Due to the push (and financial backing) at government level the Qualmark system will become more recognised as time goes on.

I believe there are positives and negatives to the system and at the end of the day it is up to individual company owners whether they feel it will provide a value for money benefit to their company.

My biggest concern with the system is whether the 60% pass rate for the generic criteria is really any guarantee of quality. A miss of 40% on quality issues seems like a big miss to me. As there is no grading system there is no way to distinguish a company that had a 90% pass from one that only just scraped through with 60%. Should we as an industry be setting the bar higher for ourselves? We could if we chose, have a requirement in the **rafting specific criteria**, that a higher pass rate is required for the **generic criteria**. Or should we just leave things as they are?
I would be interested to hear people’s thoughts on this. If you wish to make any comment or have any questions on this or any other part of the Qualmark system e-mail or phone me and I will pass the comments on to the appropriate people.

Cheers and happy rafting

Justin Hutton
River Rats Rafting
justin@riverrats.co.nz
07 345 6543

BLUE DUCK CONSERVATION TRUST

The Guiding Company Blue Duck Conservation Trust has been recently set up. This trust is working with DoC and other agencies to put trap lines in the Kahurangi National park at this stage.

The New Zealand \$10 has a picture of the Blue duck and we are asking people to make a blue duck blue note donation.

The address of the Trust is P O Box 77 Franz Josef Glacier.

Trustees are Diane Krs (The Guiding Company of Franz Josef Glacier) Zane Smith (Echo Rafting Greymouth) John Lyle (DoC and Blue Duck Recovery Group member Hokitika) Dave Jordan (The Guiding Company Franz Josef Glacier)

Our goal is to bring awareness to the industry of the treat to Blue Duck Whio's by stoats mainly but not limited to.

Solid Energy who see value in working with a conservation trust and DoC to assist with protection work have sponsored us to some extent.

David Jordan
The Guiding Company Franz Josef Glacier
www.nzguides.com
dave@nzguides.com
021 417 008

MSA

<p>The MSA Advisory Board, Auditing, Rule 80, Rafting and what it could look like in the future.</p>

Advisory Board for Rafting

The MSA would like to form an advisory board to keep them abreast of developments in the raft industry.

Isn't that nice!

They would like the board to consist of someone from the Executive, a guide and an operator who is not a member of the NZRA.

As a member of this prestigious group you will be flown to Wellington at intervals to present your carefully researched findings on the state of play out there on the river. You get an opportunity to create policy and steer the direction the raft industry especially with relation to regulation. MMMmmmmm sounds like politics...and it is. It sucks really, we all hate it.

But it **IS**. And it needs to happen if the industry wants to feel like it is in control again after a few years of Rule 80 madness.

But above all, make sure you get paid for your time. A free flight to Wellington every now and again is nice and all, but it is not enough recompense for the time you will have to put into the job.

Rule 80 (god will it ever end?)

If you ask the MSA they will tell you that... "It was you (the industry) that made the rule. We asked you what it should say, and now you tell us it is no good. You rafters really are frustrating!"

I doubt that anyone actually feels like that is how it happened. Certainly if it was the industry who wrote it, then we are beginning to understand just how little we knew about SOP'S and regulation. Fair enough too, none of us are very practiced at it, even if we do feel like we understand it cos we do it everyday!

It is obvious to most raft operators I think, that Rule 80 is long winded, prescriptive and overbearing, requiring too much paper time and not really addressing the things that really keep people safe. But it will change. My view is that eventually it will be boiled down too half a dozen policies that can be interpreted (within reason) by all operators in NZ and adapted to their own unique situations. Your paper trail will become more efficient and if your SOP cannot be written on the back of an envelope then you will be doing way too much paperwork.

And think about this...

Auditing

The way raft companies are audited is to change next year. One person is going to audit all the companies in the country every year. They will be employed by the MSA. You will pay the MSA for your audit.

This is a turning point in the relationship between the industry and the MSA. If we want to control our industry and be truly professional then this position **must** go to someone from the industry. In fact the MSA want this/need this to happen. We are a headache for them but they cannot close their eyes and lie down. They know they know nothing about rafting, but they can't avoid their responsibility. They are trapped in systems but they do see the need to adapt them. They need help and they know it. It is ironic that in the fast pace of central Wellington, change happens at glacial pace.

It has happened this way cos we were slack a few years ago and we got trapped by regulation we never saw coming. Now we are getting out from under it all and here is a chance for someone to get under the wire and into a position of real influence.

This job will be advertised November, December, January sometime. Put a note on your calendar to check <msa.govt.nz> to find out what it involves. If you don't, you are a mug.

Food for thought

Dave Ritchie

BRIAN MEGAW – LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Hi Guys

I thought I would drop a line with some thoughts I have on the rafting industry. I started raft guiding on the Rangitikei River in 1986. In those days a trip price was \$95, but it did include a quite substantial meal at the end, plus morning tea on arrival at the base. There was one trip per day, and guides got paid around about \$100 per trip. Guides did have to help with the dishes, and were primarily weekend warriors.

So that was 17 years ago.

What has changed?

A trip price is now \$109. Guides still get about \$100 per trip, but sometimes do two trips for the day. Customers do not get a meal included in the price, and guides do not have to do dishes! Guides are generally full time.

Standards in general are immeasurably higher. I believe this is in all areas, equipment, planning, skills, rafts etc. Companies have also invested megabucks, and huge amounts of time in meeting legislative requirements. And of course, now we have Qualmark wanting the best part of \$1000 per annum as well.

There is something seriously wrong here!

17 years for a \$14 price increase! Guides still are getting the same money! I hesitate to think how much the cost of living index has gone up in 17 years. In a word, this situation is BULLSHIT!

We undervalue our product, our skills, the superb experience that customers generally get. Unfortunately, this seems to be a problem within the tourism industry as a whole.

So what should we do about it?

As an industry we need to start truly valuing what we provide. So, River Valley is going to get the ball rolling and put our prices up \$10 this season. This will mean a retail price of \$119 for a white water trip on the Rangitikei River. I think that price should be \$139 though, and am determined to get it there over the next couple or three years.

What about guides? Our guides can now earn up to \$135 per trip if trip leading. Without price increases, there is no way guides can be adequately rewarded for the job they do.

So there it is. Let's start putting a real value on what we provide.

Brian Megaw

Managing Director - River Valley Ventures Ltd

BIVOUAC – 20% off Outdoor Gear

Bivouac is a proud supporter of the NZ Rafting Association. Present your Guide Card with **valid** NZRA membership sticker at any Bivouac store and receive 20% off normal retail price. Note: Certain specialty goods may be excluded and this excludes goods already discounted.

FOR SALE

- ❖ 7 Hyside (4.2 - 4.6m) hyperlon rafts for sale. All in good to excellent condition and between 1-4 seasons old.
Price range between \$3500 - \$6000
All enquiries to fred@nzraft.com or 0274 356 946

 - ❖ WHITE WATER ACTION RAFTING TOURS
BULLER RIVER
MURCHISON
TOTAL PACKAGE INCLUDES =
RAFTING AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT
RAFTS
TOYOTA HIACE 10 SEATER VAN
OFFICE EQUIPMENT
10 YEARS PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL
EXCELLANT SAFETY RECORD
LOADS OF POTENTIAL FOR 12 MONTHS OPERATION.
LOCATION NEXT TO THE BUSY NEW IMPROVED MURCHISON
INFORMATION CENTRE
ONLY GENUINE ENQUIRIES NEED APPLY
EMAIL: action.tours@actrix.co.nz

 - ❖ 4 Hyside Rafts
14 foot long Hypulon (Blue)
Self-bailer, floors recently replaced
These rafts are 6-7 years old and are in very good condition having been used mainly on easy Grade II.
Priced from \$3,900-\$4,400.
E-mail: PFOPC@xtra.co.nz,
Phone: (03) 696 3832

 - ❖ OHB has an Avon Professional 4.6m for sale, 2 thwart, bucket bottom, excellent condition...\$2250.
Phone is (06) 876-3954
Email: outdoorshb@xtra.co.nz
-

SITUATIONS VACANT

Senior river guides with nzqa standards required for short busy rafting season in Murchison on the Buller River

Committed professional people need apply only
Contact in writing or email
White Water Action Rafting Tours
PO box 85
Murchison
Email: action.tours@actrix.co.nz

JOBS WANTED

- ❖ Hey guys, I'm river guide from Costa Rica, My name is Diego Montero, I work for Rios Tropicales in Costa Rica. I have around six years on the river, as a Head guide, bus guide, and river guide; we work also in sea kayak tours. I have guided in Italy and Norway. Email: diegomontemar@hotmail.com
- ❖ I am an experienced and seasoned whitewater professional and have spent considerable time paddling and exploring NZ for fun. Currently based in Colorado, USA. If you are looking for a very experienced and hard working river professional please contact me and help me get to NZ! Dates available: as soon as needed. email: chrismenges@hotmail.com
- ❖ I have one season experience as a white water rafting guide on the Jordan River in Israel (class 4-5 rapids). Occupation: White water rafting guide. Employer: Jordan River Rafting. Yosef. email: yos_dror@hotmail.com
- ❖ I'm a guide from Croatia. I'm experienced working with all ages, multi-day trips, fluent in English and Spanish. River guide for 6 years, Croatia, Bosnia, Costa Rica, Slovenia, Thailand. River guide class IV+. Name: Vedran Badun. e-mail: noah_raft@yahoo.com
- ❖ I'm a Raft and Safety kayak guide in Switzerland at Kanuschule Versam. Dates available: end of October. Preferences: Job outside on a River :-)) email: phil_hausammann@yahoo.com
- ❖ Hi. I'm a white water raft & kayak guide & also a mountaineering guide based in India. Currently am looking for work in NZ & would be interested in handling any river/mountain work. email: pabisht@rediffmail.com
- ❖ Robert Smith from South Africa. I have been guiding on and off for about 2 years during the school holidays on South African Rivers. I have most experience as a Kayak guide. I have about 25 full raft guiding river days. 3SMIROB@treverton.co.za

Be Warned!!!

Illegal Workers

Under the Immigration Act the maximum fine for **employing** a non legal worker has gone from \$2000 to \$50 000.

More info: Ph 0508 558855

Sfrito Raft News and Update:

Many of you have requested that we communicate directly with you rather than having to find the information buried in other publications. For the remainder of this year I will use our Sfrito website for this www.sfrito.org.nz but next year will look at what we can produce that is effective. I would ask that you also post to this newsletter to your noticeboards so that all guides can assess the information as well.

UNIT AND AWARD REVIEW:

Firstly many thanks for all your feedback. I have had a number of requests for the industry to look at the final outcomes before the unit standards are submitted for registration so here they are.

The main area of concern was varying opinions around the amount of hours that should be undertaken for the awards at all three levels. Decisions have now been made the outcome is as follows:

- **National River Guide Stage 1** - Hours to be reduced to 30 must include time with clients (commercial exposure). Logged time refers to 'on water' time.
- **National Raft Awards 3 & 4/5 - Total 150 hours** with commercial clients present on the raft)
 - Grade 3 - all hours must be at least at Grade 3
 - Grade 4/5 – Of the 150 hours a minimum of 75 hours must be at Grade 4/5.
- **Senior National Raft Awards 3 & 4/5** - with commercial clients present on raft)
 - Grade 3 - **250 total** hours at Grade 3 (includes hour's form National Award)
 - Grade 4/5 - **400 total** hours at Grade 4/5 (includes hours from National Award)

Logged non rafting river time (e.g commercial kayaking, river surfing, etc.) can be counted towards the hours requirement for awards (apart from the Stage 1 award). There will be a set amount of non rafting river time that will be acceptable for each award. Your thoughts on how much non-rafting river time may be acceptable are welcome.

Units to NZQA:

I would like to get these units off to NZQA by middle of October so it is imperative that I get your thoughts as soon as possible please.

Assessor requirements for the National River Stage 1 Award:

Currently Aspirant guides awards are not assessed. The National Raft Award River Guide Stage 1 adds an assessment component to the process.

Senior guides will be able to assess this award (they will not have to be a Sfrito assessor). Senior guides will pass the assessment information /forms etc to designated Raft Assessors who will complete the credit reporting process on behalf of the Senior guide.

All final drafts of these units can be found on www.sfrito.org.nz early week of 29.9.

Development of a non-award experience raft unit:

The second main area of concern in feedback was that by having all awards now focused on working in the rafting industry there are no units for trainers to offer students who are learning about rafting without necessarily getting into the serious industry-level training. Quite a few rafting companies and education providers get good rafting business using this kind of unit.

A unit has been semi- drafted for this purpose and can be found on our website. Looking for a couple of volunteers whom will use this unit to provide feedback please. Assessor criteria will be the same as for the National River Guide Stage 1. Note that this unit is not part of the industry award pathway.

EXISTING AWARD HOLDERS:

The new look awards will not effect all current award holders.

RESOURCES:

Have a number of ideas in this area but what I can realistically achieve is to update the current Assessor manual this year and then look at other resources you may want us to produce next year.

Updating the current manual means rewriting the evident statements in a way in which they not reflect the technical competencies contained in the new units but also in a manner that makes sense to you. How I would like to approach this is to invite three or four Raft Assessors to Wellington for a day to work with myself Ross Clapcott and Grant South to figure it all out. Also on this day I would like to sort out the format of the credit reporting pads and the updating of the cards.

Raft Assessors - if you would like to be a part of this day please contact me directly on 04 9164385 or tricia@sfrito.org.nz. For those of you who would like to simply give an opinion on these topics please feel free to contact me also. Southy is keen to also collect in Assessor notes that many of you made over the years we have been operating so if you would like to share these please pass onto Suzanne at NZRA.

FEES:

The many varied combinations of fee structures for the raft awards is another area of frustration that I would like to address for you so I would like to kick by suggesting that we move to a "one fee per award" structure and get your reaction that please.

CERTIFICATES:

Suzanne has also had some interest from rafters about receiving an actual certificate for the awards. Sfrito does have certificates for other sector awards that we offer so it can easily be used for the raft awards. Let me know if this is

something that you want me to introduce. The certificate is currently being revamped so will be available a little later in the year. Please note that there is a nominal charge for this certificate but this could also be considered in the Fees issue above.

INTERNATIONAL (JAPAN):

NZRA have been doing some really great work with rafting in Japan and now the Japanese government have invited Sfrito representatives to Japan to discuss a pathway to equivalency with their qualifications and ours. Why this may be a good ultimate outcome, there are a lot of steps in the process before this type of discussion can occur. We certainly would like the opportunity of doing onsite evaluation as well as lecturing/workshopping rafting so will keep you posted as the negotiation continues.

MODERATION FOR ASSESSORS:

This year the dates are 7 November in Taihape and 21 November in Hokitika. Juliette from Sfrito is organizing now.

COMPLETING THE 4098 REGISTRATION PROCESS:

A number of trainee assessors have been waiting to complete their 4098 registration process. Unfortunately these rafters have been caught up in bigger picture here at Sfrito whereby our current Registrars feel that they don't have the technical expertise to determine competency at level 4 and above. To solve this problem Sfrito is working with NZRA exec to A) fill the role of technical expert to support the current Registrars to complete the process and B) ultimately have a number of Raft Registrars. This year Colin Sonneveld (South) and Garth Oakden (North) are the designated technical experts/Raft Registrar trainees.

To complete 4098 process the plan is:

NZRA would like to structure a two-day assessment course immediately following both moderation meetings that achieves the following:

- Trainee Guides go through their paces to achieve the awards
- Trainee Assessors go through their paces to complete Assessor Registration by assessing the trainee guides
- Trainee Registrars go through their paces by supporting a Registrar to assess the trainee assessors assessing the trainee guides.

We are in the process of tracking all down these trainee Assessors to ensure where possible you can get to both moderation and the weekend immediately following. If you are in this category and haven't heard from Juliette please call 0800 737 486 or email either juliette@sfrito.org.nz or tricia@sfrito.org.nz

Also have you trainee Assessors all attended the theory part of unit standard 4098 please? If not, I will need to sort out before the respective weekend courses.

Regards

Tricia Pooley, Raft Co-ordinator, Sfrito

Following Tricia releasing the proposed new unit standards, there was an outcry about the hours, which has led to the formation of a discussion group to finalise this. It is not too late to comment.

RIVER RESCUE

To be eligible for the **financial members rate** you need to be financial by no later than **November 01, 2003**.

Fees will have to be confirmed but we are aiming to keep to the same as last year:

\$185 for financial members

\$325 for non-financial members

Dates are:

November 4 – 6, Rangitikei, North Island

November 18 – 20, Hokitika, South Island

Moderation: Nov 7, North Island; Nov 21, South Island

Nov 8 + 9; Nov 22 + 23

Group guide assessments will take place following the two rescue courses in November. If you need to be assessed at that time, please contact Suzanne for further details.

In the last newsletter I asked for feedback in regard to Rescue Courses – should they be a biannual compulsory requirement for Senior guides to remain current. Thanks to the 3 people that replied to this, for every one else – I can only assume you think it is a great idea and we should bring it in as soon as possible. Silence is taken as “Yes”.

The AGM will be held on November 4 – North Island @ River Valley

Please note!

We will be voting on a couple of things, if you are not going to be at the AGM, please vote by email to nzraftingassociation@xtra.co.nz

- 1. Firstly do you agree we should lower the number on the Exec Committee, and if yes, should it be lowered to 6 or 7? The split of representatives per Island will be either 3/3 or 4/3.**
- 2. Please vote for the people that you would like to see on the Exec. The nominees are as follows: Colin Sonneveld, Nick Chater, Al Moore, Simon McLeod, Adrian Fogg, Justin Hutton, Deane Parker, Bridgit Jessep, Ray Sperling, Neil Knight.**

Your vote does make a difference – be proactive!

Please note – Paul Eames has withdrawn his name from the nominees and Bridget Jessep has been put forward as a late nomination.

OTHER STUFF

- ❖ PRE-HOSPITAL MEDICAL CARE COURSE
Date: 23 – 28 November 2003
Venue: Nelson
Cost: \$485-00
Co-ordinator: Mark Smith (from Horizons)
Space for 10 pax only
More info: Mark@horizons.co.nz
Ph: 03 384 0384
- ❖ MT COOK – BLOODY GOOD RACE
(Previously known as 'The Mt Cook to ChCh Endurance Race')
Date: 27, 28 & 29 February 2004
Run, Kayak, Mountain Bike, Road Cycle
More info: info@bloodygoodevents.co.nz
- ❖ Eddyline now offers our members a 10% discount on retail prices. You can view their range on the web www.eddyline.co.nz or contact them for a brochure 0800 85 29 25
- ❖ For adventure news in the South Pacific, check out www.adventurepro.com.au/news
- ❖ Message to all freestyle kayakers... check NZRCA website or contact Donald Calder (Sunspots, Rotorua) or Kevin Simpson (Soulsport, HB) for updates on NZ Team selections for Pre-Worlds and World Champs.
- ❖ Some useful websites:

www.nzoia.org.nz	NZOIA
www.sfrito.org.nz	Sport, Fitness & Recreation Industry Training
www.watersafety.org.nz	Water Safety New Zealand
www.rivers.org.nz	NZ Recreational Canoeing Assn
www.skoanz.co.nz	Sea Kayak Operators Assn of NZ

Things to remember....please put your vote in for the Exec committee, pay your membership and I shall look forward in keen anticipation to be inundated with your responses! Hope you all have an excellent season wherever you are.
Suzanne