

### 2019 e-AGM Minutes

30 April 2019

#### Introduction:

The Annual General Meeting for the NZCA was conducted electronically over one month from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Members were informed with 6 weeks notice via email, Facebook and through the organisations website, and given the opportunity to submit agenda items for the e-AGM, and to enter into discussion on any items of business of the meeting.

No formal correspondence was received, apart from one nomination for the executive, as recorded below.

The progress of the e-AGM was recorded and published on the NZCA website.

#### Agenda Items:

1. Approval of the club's financial accounts
2. Nominations for the executive
3. Election of officers (executive members)
4. Annual report

#### Minutes:

1. The executive voted to approve the 2018/19 financial reports as a true and accurate record of the finances of the club.

*The financial reports are included as Annex A to these minutes.*

#### Summary:

Net balance from previous financial years:	\$10,335.84
2018/19 net income:	-\$1,398.32
Total funds:	\$8,937.52



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2. There was one resignation from the NZCA executive:
  - Annette Phillips

There was one nomination for new NZCA executive members:

- Jacinda Bouilly (Advocacy rep)

3. There were exactly the right number of nominations for the positions, so all the nominations were approved by a vote of the executive, as per the club rules. Voting by the executive was carried out by email to the NZCA Executive Google Group emailing list.
  
4. The annual report of the NZCA was received by the executive and published on the NZCA website.

*The 2018/2019 annual report is included as Annex B to these minutes.*

# NZ

CANYONING  
ASSOCIATION

## Annex A:



## Profit and Loss Report

**Account:** All **From:** 1/04/2018  
**To:** 31/03/2019

Category	%	Income	Expense	Balance
<b>Income</b>				
Intrest	1%	\$ 8.90		\$ 8.90
Paypal	99%	\$ 770.00		\$ 770.00
<b>Income Total</b>		\$ 778.90		\$ 778.90
<b>Expense</b>				
Bank Charges	1%		\$ 28.05	-\$ 28.05
Canyon Fund	59%		\$ 1,291.23	-\$ 1,291.23
FMC Membership	4%		\$ 85.00	-\$ 85.00
Paypal	35%		\$ 770.00	-\$ 770.00
Withholding Tax	0%		\$ 2.94	-\$ 2.94
<b>Expense Total</b>			\$ 2,177.22	-\$ 2,177.22
<b>Grand Total</b>		\$ 778.90	\$ 2,177.22	-\$ 1,398.32
<b>Cash Profit/Loss</b>		-\$ 1,398.32		

### Balance Sheet

For the Period Ending 31/03/2019

#### ASSETS

<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>			
06-0383-0716291-00		\$	<b>8,166.77</b>
PayPal		\$	<b>770.75</b>
<b>Total current assets [A]</b>		\$	<b>8,937.52</b>

#### Fixed assets

Equipment			
Less accumulated depreciation			
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		\$	<b>-</b>

#### Other assets

Other assets			
<b>Total other assets</b>		\$	<b>-</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		\$	<b>8,937.52</b>

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Outstanding Invoices		\$	<b>-</b>
<b>Total current liabilities [B]</b>		\$	<b>-</b>

#### Other liabilities

Other Liabilities		\$	<b>-</b>
<b>Total other liabilities</b>		\$	<b>-</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		\$	<b>-</b>
<b>Total equity</b>		\$	<b>8,937.52</b>

<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>		\$	<b>8,937.52</b>
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# NZ

## CANYONING ASSOCIATION

### **Annex B:**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2018/19 CANYONING SEASON**

### Presidents report

*By Dan Clearwater*

It has been another fantastic season of canyoning around the country. Although I only managed a handful of trips myself, it is so pleasing to see so many people getting out canyoning.

One highlight for me has been watching the amount of exploration going on, especially around the middle of the South Island. In Canterbury, there's been a flurry of 1<sup>st</sup> descent fever, as the canyons in the Arthurs Pass region get systematically explored by several prolific teams. It even got to the point where 'competing' parties met by chance at the same carparks and once, even in the same canyon, as two branches joined into the main stream! The variety and quality of the new canyons is very pleasing, with many steep alpine canyons with multipitch rappels, as well as some quite aquatic and enclosed descents. Over the divide, there have been several new highly aquatic classics explored and equipped. All this makes me very excited about the upcoming 2020 Canyoning Festival in Canterbury!

Its also great to see a lot of canyons which were opened in the last season getting repeated, even the most technical ones. It seems the lower Dart Valley canyons are getting a very good reputation and seeing an impressive amount of descents.

Whilst our members are doing great things, the organisation itself had a huge success this season. With significant support from the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (to which NZCA belongs) we managed to thwart (for now) plans to destroy Griffin Creek through a hydro scheme. A huge thank you to everyone involved; future generations of Canyoners will thank you too!

NZCA has been working hard on developing a Canyon SAR capability in New Zealand. Grant Prattley and Richard Bramley have been at the forefront of this push, and I'm very proud and pleased with the achievements and direction they are heading.

Many thanks to all on the executive committee for the voluntary work that they've done. We all ought to be very grateful for the people who give up their own time to strengthening this sport we all love. Make sure if you meet them, to buy them a drink and say thank you in person!

NZCA farewells Annette Phillips from the executive at the end of this season. We thank her for all the work she's done, particularly in the advocacy role, where she has researched and written a number of submissions on NZCA's behalf.

With those big shoes to fill, Jacinda Bouilly is looking forward to the challenge. From Australia, but currently based in Timaru, we warmly welcome Jacinda onto the executive and look forward to supporting her as she finds her feet in the Advocacy Coordinator role.

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That's it from me. I wish all our members well over the winter, and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the 2020 Canyoning Festival.

### Technical Standards report

*By Richard Bramley: SAR sub-committee convenor.*

#### LandSAR

NZ Canyoning Association is now officially part of LandSAR as an associate member. In October 2019 we have applied to become a specialist discipline as well. All this will lead to recognition and funding for training and equipment for CanyonSAR. A great step forward.

We have formed a positive relationship with LandSAR who have been very supportive. The CanyonSAR GSO(Group Support Officer) is Aimee Macdonald.

#### Canyon SAR workshop

##### **February 2019**

We recently ran a two day workshop in Motueka on canyon rescue. It was a great few days. We tried to have someone there from each area around the country for a weekend to talk about and get hands about Canyon SAR.

These are the big topics that we discussed and will start making some progress on in the next 12 months: National SARex, training courses, rescue techniques / training content, liaison, budget/gear, incident database.

#### Tasman SARex

##### **November 2018**

This was a valuable exercise and provided a great blueprint for others to follow. One day of skills training followed by the second day SARex. The SARex involved a missing party, setting up an incident management team, sending out search teams, staged sending of rescue teams, rescue of two patients one of which being in a stretcher.

The SARex was cross agency with Police, LandSAR search teams/radio comms, FENZ command centre as well as CanyonSAR.

Canyoning Exec Members involved: Richard Bramley, Toine Houtenbos, Chris Whitehouse and Grant Prattley

#### SARex at 2020 Canyoning Festival

The dates for this are soon to be announced but early february 2020 we will be having a national SARex. It will involve 20-30 people from around the country testing their skills in a day long scenario. More information to come.

# NZ

## CANYONING

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### Community Report

#### Photo competition

*By Dan Clearwater*

The NZCA ran it's first ever photo competition, using Facebook to accept and judge entries. Prizes were sponsored by Access gear, and we received a bunch of entries. We'll look forward to running one again in spring 2019.

#### NZCA Canyon Fund

*By Warren Fitzgerald*

The Canyon Fund was established in late 2017 to ensure the funds raised from NZCA activities are re-invested in the canyoning community. Interest and knowledge of the Canyon Fund has grown annually and we saw a number of applications during the past 12 months.

During the 2019 financial year, the following projects were completed with the support of the NZCA Canyon Fund:

- Tunukuhoia Canyon - Pete Smith
- Kaiate Falls - Shanan Fraser
- Stonewall - Leandro den Haan
- Akatarawa Valley - Leandro den Haan
- Wilberhorse Valley (retrospective) - Tom Johns

Applications have also been approved for the following projects:

- Wilberhorse Valley - Tom Johns
- Tuke Gorges - Justin Venable
- Peg Leg - Grant Prattley
- Wainihinihi (+Kerr variation) & Muriel - Richard Bramley

Applicants will be reimbursed upon the completion of these projects.

The NZCA exec also approved an application for Whataroa Falls, which was later cancelled due to the poor rock conditions unsuitable for bolting.

The NZCA welcomes more applications to the fund.

<http://nzcanyoningassociation.org/about-us/the-canyon-fund/>

## Advocacy Report

*By Annette Philipps and Dan Clearwater*

### Griffin Creek

The main achievement this season has been the work in saving Griffin Creek. A huge amount of effort was put in by the likes of Neil Silverwood, Dan Clearwater, Justin Venable and Jake Huddleston.

Neil in particular was key to liaison at a local level with DOC Hokitika, and was the 'eyes and ears' of the NZCA within DOC's concession process. Jake Huddleston's video on 'Fighting the Griffin Creek Hydro Scheme' received over 4,000 views. We sent the video, a strongly worded submission and a copy of the guidebook to DOC Hokitika, and worked with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ to exert as much pressure as we could on the process.

What worked in our favour is the evidence we provided of the values inherent in this Canyon. Before we (canyoners) explored Griffin, DOC considered the gorge 'impassable' and therefore they couldn't assess the value of that place (for recreation, biodiversity or anything for that matter).

That we are able to show DOC the value, with imagery, guidebooks, letters has forced them to acknowledge the value it has, and the people (us!) who care. This will be one of the core strategies in the short to medium term, as we fight against the loss of canyons to development or other fates. It shows results for one of the key reasons that NZCA was formed in the first place; to represent canyoners and protect our canyons! It also demonstrates the value in affiliation to the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ. With over 21,000 members and a very strong history and voice in mountain advocacy, they multiply the impact we can make when it comes to these battles.

### Draft National Park Management Plan Submissions

NZCA also put forward submissions on the Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park and Westland Tai Poutini Management Plans. Both of these submissions aimed to get NZCA recognised as the relevant organisation to represent Canyoning, and specifically the issue of bolting in National Parks for Canyoners.

### Existing canyon development debate

In early 2019, there was a public debate on the KiwiCanyons.org Facebook group, centered around the development of Ore Stream for commercial purposes. Essentially, Deep Canyon Ltd wanted to place a few more bolts to aid safety when guiding. There were strong opinions presented from all corners of the community. Dan Clearwater and Annette Phillips met with Deep Canyon and other representatives of the local canyon community, to discuss the issue.

The result was that Deep Canyon wouldn't add the extra bolts, as we agreed that there was sufficient techniques available to provide sufficient safety as it is. We also agreed that NZCA should create some guidance for how we as a community should think about future development of established canyons. The work on this guideline is ongoing.

You can see all the work we've done on our website in greater details;

[nzcanyoningassociation.org/advocacy/](http://nzcanyoningassociation.org/advocacy/)



## Upper North Island report

*By Oli Polson*

A relatively quiet year for the Upper North Island crew. With a little exploration happening outside of the main Coromandel/Te Aroha areas.

Of note, both Tunakohoia (Te Aroha) and Kaiete Falls (Welcome Bay) received funding from the NZCA bolting fund and subsequently have been fully equipped with nice shiny abseil stations at all pitches.

Tunakohoia is a fun (albeit slippery) canyon of the north side of Mt Te Aroha with easy access (getting easier as we find faster and faster ways in...) 8 pitches in low to moderate flow make this a great Intermediate level trip.

Kaiete Falls is a quick "after work" trip for Tauranga locals with 3 pitches and great access all the way through the canyon. An ideal beginner location it has seen a number of descents since being fully equipped. The first pitch is a good technical jump when scouted well, and apparently the locals (not canyoneers) have been seen jumping the final 20m pitch!!

Descents in the Waiorongomai Valley (Mt Te Aroha) have increased and we are considering the need for bolts to replace some of the more delicate anchors in the popular Diamond Creek. More work to be done on this over winter...

Our biggest issue remains Kauri Dieback and the continued rahui/closure of the waitakeres. There have also been a number of localised track closures in the Coromandel and Northern Kaimai ranges, none of which have affected the main canyoning areas yet, however I will continue to monitor this with DOC.

From a CanyonSAR perspective; the annual Waikato SAREX this year was based on a lost person/tracking exercise with a canyoning twist. Kip Mandeno arranged for myself and 3 other "Canyoneers" to get lost while scouting catchments near Raglan. The subsequent exercise highlighted the difficulties in tracking canyoneers in thick bush as they do not behave at all like trampers or hunters (we are happy to travel in the stream bed and even happier when that stream becomes bluffed!). This was a beneficial weekend as it demonstrated the need for local groups to get a canyon advisor onboard with the IMT early on in the picture in the case of a canyon related callout... The relationship building with local SAR groups is continuing.

## Lower North Island report

*By Lee Den Haan*

Another canyoning season has seen more canyoning trips in the Wellington Region. Mainly spearheaded by the WTMC; they have included canyoning trips in their annual trip schedule. Core competent members (who have taken an intermediate course at the New Zealand canyoning school) work hard to train new members in abseiling, pitch safety and canyoning team work. They do this first at a local crag and hold training trips into the low flow/easy access canyons of the Akatarawas then subsequent trips into longer/more difficult access canyons (such as Chamberlain Ck and Eager Beaver Canyon) and finishing the canyon trip schedule with the test piece for beginner canyoneers, Stonewall canyon. Other recreational

groups have been frequenting local canyons, some even doing weekly trips to the same canyon.

It is important to note that given the geology and topography of the lower north, it is predominantly a beginners region for canyoning but offers the perfect variation in canyoning to foster the grass roots end of the community. For these reasons I have been active in applying and being granted support for developing the infrastructure. I am behind schedule but to date:

Stonewall canyon is double bolted with rigging options in abseil lines to be in or out of flow. Groups have also cleared a track to make somewhat of a shorter access pathway (it is extremely exposed in places and I will endeavor to find a way to mitigate some of the exposure on access).

Akatarawa Canyons - little Akatarawa has had some bolting done in it but after I have gone through again and feedback from the community. I have decided to change the configuration of some of the pitches, this will be done soon. Belay stations are in place and to great reception on the community

A lack of time (turns out paramedic studies consumes ones life) / bad weather windows and not having full time access to a drill has meant that I have still have some bolting to do in the Akatarawas and have underestimated my finish time. I will work at it when the variables line up for me and be sure to give my report as soon as possible.

In other respects, I have made contact with the Wellington police SAR leader Ants Hammer and will organise a trip into Akatarawa in the future. My next task is to deliver a presentation on canyoning and canyonSAR to the RCCNZ at some point. I apologise for not have more done in the region to date. I assure you I have it on my extensive to do list!

## Top of the south report

*By Richard Bramley*

It was a quieter year in the top of the south after the Feb 2018 national canyon festival the previous year. Notable occurrences:

### Tasman SARex in November 2018:

As reported on above.

This was a great opportunity to upskill local canyoners. We had a around 20 participate.

But perhaps more importantly to maintain a strong relationship with the police and local landsar. It was a reminder of the importance of working together - having police and landsar oversee a canyon rescue would likely be rather chaotic and inefficient if they don't properly understand what canyoning is.

One other observation is that there are lots of competent outdoors people in the top of the south, many of whom dabble in canyoning. But few are true canyoners, in the sense they would do multiple recreational trips each year. Therefore it is always going to be a challenge to maintain an effective rescue capability. I suspect for anything serious we'd be reliant on a small number of individuals and probably have to draw from other regions (if time allows)

### Liaison with local rescue groups

Canyoning rescue responsibility in the top of the south had previously defaulted to the cavers, as the most organised and technically competent group

However over the past year Malcolm York has really pushed the creation and strengthening of a local swift water group. As a result this group now has greater depth of members with canyon skills (although there is some cross over). Thanks to this swift water team, Chris Whitehouse and I attended the rafting rescue workshop in Murchison. This was a great way to build our swiftwater skills and is very valuable for canyoners.

### Known first descents

There have been far fewer this year given the flurry of activity in the previous two seasons. Overall I think there are few remaining obvious, easy-access canyons left to be explored in the region, although I'm sure I'll be proven wrong somewhere.

- Awapoto Stream (Chris W, Toine H, Mark C, Richard B) - likely the final first D in Abel Tas. A high quality canyon, although access is long. Will write up the topo one of these days
- Gordons Knob (James Scoltock & crew) - The steep stream off point 1114. Didn't sound very good (confirming the views of Ferg Bramley's reeve some years ago)
- Mt Murchison (James Scoltock & crew) - The creek on the true right of the access road. Had been partially descended previously and then bailed. This time completed. Apparently really nice in the lower sections, although low volume.
- Juicy Falls right branch (Abel Tasman crew) - a long day by all accounts

### Canterbury report

*By Grant Prattley*

The season started slowly – we had lots of storms with many high water days up on the main divide. By mid-January 2019 the sun started to shine on a more consistent basis, and we saw a flurry of first descents as well as lots of people heading down the classics.

#### First descents

Most of the first descents were in Arthurs Pass with over 50 new pitches. Working from north to south:

- Wesley Creek (Tom, Tom, Ash, John)
- Bealey River (James, Nola, Grant, Victor)
- Upper Bridal Veil North Branch (Justin, Hamish, Jonathan)
- Upper Bridal Veil South Branch (James, Nola, Grant, Steve)
- Rough Creek (James, Nola, Grant, Anthony, Gabriela)
- Graham Stream (James, Nola, Grant, Steve), and
- Halpins Creek (James, Nola, Grant, Steve)

Other first descents away from the main divide include Ghost Stream (James, Nola, Steve) in the Canterbury Foothills and Raven Canyon (Justin, Hamish, Jonathan, Gabriela, Anthony) in Kaikoura.

A notable second descent was though Barrack Creek (James, Nola, Grant, Steve) above Otira. This is a higher flow three star classic. A big day out with jumps, slides, polished rock and a fantastic finish. It was well worth the effort and the highlight of my season.

### Changes to existing canyons

Many of our local canyons have changed significantly over the past few years (e.g. Sharplin Falls) so we have been working closely with Dan Clearwater/Kiwi Canyons to get (and keep) the information up to date on the website especially for the upcoming festival. More to do on this front.

We are looking forward to hosting the Canyoning Festival in Canterbury in early February 2020. More information coming out on this real soon.

## Westland report

*By Richard Bramley and Justin Venable*

I'm not really qualified to be reporting on Westland, but here is what I have learned second hand (mostly through JV).

### Known first descents:

- Muriel Creek (JV, Keith R, Philip P, Richard B) - Really nice high quality canyon. Need to go back and equip
- Dickson River (JV, Keith R, Philip P, Richard B) - More of a kayakers reece and probably not worth repeating as a canyoning trip given the other options nearby, but still a very beautiful section of river with some great canyon features
- Big Wainihinihi (JV, Richard B, Philip P, another coaster) Did most of Wainihinihi, some by climbing upstream after some awkward access attempts. A little mini Griffins.
- Big Wainihinihi + Wainotnoti (Chris W, Mark P, Richard B) - Did the steep creek off Mt Kerr and then out Wainihinihi. Bolted properly. Will prepare topo.
- Solitude Creek (Philip P & crew) - Near to Hokitika Gorge. Apparently really good.

Other noteworthy descents (bound to be missing some, but the little I know...)

- Griffins (Abel Tasman crew + Troy W) - Very high water. Slow trip and a minor 'incident'. Bailed at the lower section.
- Griffins (Chris W, Mark P, Richard B) - Moderate flows. All went smoothly. 2.5hr access. 5hr descent. 8hrs car to car.

### Conservation/advocacy

As above, successful outcome regarding Griffin hydro. Big thanks to JV, Neil Silverwood, and Abel Tas crew for making the film, Chucky, as well as plenty of others.

### Extra report by Justin Venable

I've been liaising with the local River SAR team about the progress on the Canyon SAR front and they are keen to attend trainings. I've arranged a few Canyoning Manuals and Guidebooks for the River

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Team to help them train. I've also been chatting about what's happening to local helicopter pilots and rescue folks. There's plenty of interest in Canyon SAR in the area.

Of note, the huge storm in March which smashed Westland has completely destroyed Dorothy Falls Canyon.

### Aspiring area report

*By Dan Clearwater*

The classic canyons have been getting a good amount of use, with lots of local and visiting canyoneers getting amongst it .

The Canyons in the Lower Dart have been getting quite a few repeats this season. The General's reputation has been steadily increasing, though there have been a few reports of damaged anchors after storms; unsurprising given how narrow it is in many sections! Eagles Nest appeared to get a second descent, with the crew saying it was "better than the General".

A crew of Queenstown Canyoning Guides explored a small drainage on the true right of the lower Dart, calling it 'Thigh Burn Canyon' and explored Bridges Creek in the Rees.

The QT crew continued up the Hunter Valley for some explorations this season. Topos on their way soon.

- Fergusson Creek and Lake Creek; Peter Choate, Kaden Anderson, Luis Gonclaves, Taylor Redd, Koro Toro
- Green Gully. Peter Choate, Kaden Anderson, Derek Steffens, Taylor Redd.

Closer to Aspiring than to Canterbury, there was some activity in the southern Mackenzie Basin.

"Canyon Creek" was an obvious choice, but those who had a look at the lower gorge saw a wide gorge filled with boulders... Nothing much happened for a while, until Dan Clearwater went up the valley on a Paragliding trip. Although he wasn't able to go explore the canyon himself, he sent photos to a keen crew who got in there and reported a highly technical 3 star canyon; Steep, sustained, technical waterfalls, enclosed, committing and high volume. The first exploration explored the middle section of the canyon, and escaped via a pre-scouted route. A second crew began from the start of the canyon and explored the top section. The final section is as yet undescended.

First descent R40 to R10: Alain Rohr, Pete Choate, Kaden Anderson and Toine Houtenbos. 4 March '19. First descent top to R40: Alain Rohr, Mark Norman and more Ozzies. April 2019

Many of the same crew were also up the Hopkins Valley that same trip, with first descents of several projects:

- Paradise: Pete Choate, Kaden Anderson, Toine Houtenbos.
- Thar: Pete Choate, Kaden Anderson, Alain Rohr, Toine Houtenbos.



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- Dasler (main branch, TR branch and below the confluence had already been done):  
Pete Choate, Kaden Anderson, Alain Rohr, Toine Houtenbos.

Still plenty of potential in all of those valleys for new canyons, but the access and technicality does make them only suitable for strong and determined parties.