

# ONTRACK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NZ MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL

Issue 11 | November 2011

Bumper

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## WELCOME

**DARRYL CARPENTER | CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**This edition of OnTrack is an ideal opportunity to present MSC's summer outdoor safety activities, showcase our key projects plus provide a brief summary of the recent AGM. Enjoy the read.**

Recent funding success from LGB, NZP, DOC, NZSAR and NZCT now provides the necessary resources we needed to complete some long overdue projects. While the necessity of trimming budgets and reducing core services and support for outdoor safety initiatives was required, the cost to MSC's capability and capacity (as well as good will) was beginning to take its toll.

With the additional funding, the Transformation Project will now systematically review all our outdoor safety information, manuals, operational and administration documentation, our systems and processes for internal leader and instructor training, assessment and qualifications and train-the-trainer activity. We have almost become a PTE (of limited scope) and are now a Skills Active ITO workplace.

We have successfully launched the AdventureSmart website, redeveloped the Outdoors Intentions process, rebuilt [www.avalanche.net.nz](http://www.avalanche.net.nz), refreshed the Outdoor Safety Code and are scoping the rebuild of the national incident database (NID) and our members/qualifications database. These will all better meet our internal requirements and those of the wider outdoor sector.

Our internal instructor network continues to be a valuable resource embedded within our community, delivering outdoor safety public education and awareness activity as well as supporting the wider network of community volunteer leaders and instructors. Our firearms instructors continue to do deliver firearms safety education and testing to new firearms licence applicants. Our joint project with NZ Police and Iwi, Whakatūpato, grows from strength to strength.

The AGM provided the opportunity for Council to discuss, challenge and agree its position and expectations regarding outdoor safety for land-based outdoor activity. The revised Strategic Plan was agreed and provides the basis of the 2011/12 Business Plan. The outcomes model is now fully embedded as the basis for Council, Board and operational discussions. 2011/12 is shaping up to be a great year.

**Enjoy your summer outdoor adventures, safely.**

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**DISCOVER  
MORE, SAFELY**

# THE NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL

The New Zealand Mountain Safety Council (MSC) is a national organisation and incorporated society with a mandate from our member organisations to encourage safe participation in land-based outdoor activities.

The organisation operates from the high tide mark to the peak of Aoraki/Mount Cook and is principally focused on abseil techniques, alpine skills, avalanche awareness, bushcraft (walking, camping, tramping and survival), firearms safety, outdoor and workplace firstaid, outdoor safety, risk management and river safety.

The Council currently consists of 25 Member Organisations and 1 Associate Member organisation with a vested interest in safety, including Government agencies, national youth organisations and industry associations; an Executive Committee whose role is to provide governance; a National Office with full and part-time staff; a number of technical advisory and standing committees as well as 28 regional branches supporting more than 1500 instructors.

## Our mission is to:

- ▲ Enable people to enjoy their recreation safely in the outdoors.
- ▲ Foster positive community support for outdoor safety.
- ▲ Promote the development and maintenance of national outdoor safety standards for land-based activities

## Our goals:

- ▲ Increased number of leaders/ teachers/ instructors/guides are inspired, inspiring, competent and retained as leaders.
- ▲ Groups and Clubs effectively promote and deliver increased safety in the outdoors.
- ▲ Commercial operators operate safely.
- ▲ The community is more aware of outdoor safety.
- ▲ MSC is financially strong.



[www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz)

## NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF MEMBERS >>

**CEO** > Darryl Carpenter

**Education Manager** > Leonce Jones

**Business Manager** > Richard Brodie

## Avalanche & Alpine Programme

Programme Manager > Andrew Hobman

Asst. Programme Manager > Gordie Smith

## Bushcraft & Risk Management Programme

Programme Manager > Chris Owens

## Firearms & HUNTS Programme

Programme Manager > Mike Spray

Training Co-ordinator > Tracy Wakeford

## Marketing & Communications

Manager > Andrea Hubbard

## Research & Evaluation

Programme Manager > Annie Dignan

## Administration Team:

Finance > Alex Cordier

Branch Network Manager > Jane Hoedemaeckers

Administrator > Nina Klauke

Membership Officer > Jill Knight

Resources Manager > Lindsey Pickering

## REPORT >> MSC AGM, WELLINGTON 27 OCTOBER 2011

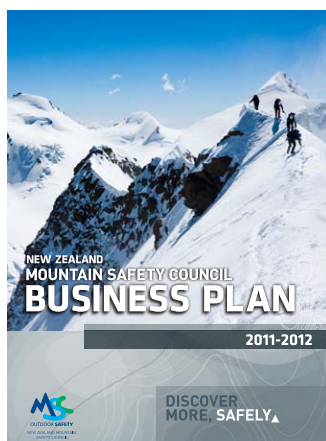
The AGM provided the opportunity for Council to sign-off the revised strategic plan, the 2011/12 business plan and to discuss, debate, challenge (and then passed) the outdoor safety agenda and expectations for the next period.

In achieving the overall outcome of 'more people participating safely in land based outdoor activity', the strategic plan contains the following key outcomes:

1. Increased number of leaders/ teachers/instructors/guides are inspired, inspiring, competent and retained as leaders
2. Groups and Clubs effectively promote and deliver increased safety in the outdoors
3. Commercial operators operate safely
4. The community is more aware of outdoor safety
5. MSC is financially strong.

Council relies on the support, endorsement and commitment of its various component and constituent parts, so time was spent during the

AGM ensuring alignment was achieved between the constitution, the Outcomes Model, and the Strategic and Business Plans. This gave a renewed sense of collaboration (with accompanying delivery expectation) of what needs to occur throughout 2011/12 and beyond. The successful implementation and achievement of the Transformation Project will be key to achieving this.



Council took the opportunity to seek (and provide) input, guidance and the collective wisdom of the constituent parts, for the transformation project, progress of the

OFA rebuild, implementation of outdoor qualifications and setting the priorities for resource and budget allocation and ensuring ongoing support for internal MSC leader and instructor development.

Time was spent further developing the concept of a national scheme for community outdoor leader development and how MSC leaders and instructors can be better supported to in turn support their community by passing on their skills, knowledge and expertise in outdoor safety and support the wider network of community volunteer outdoor leaders and instructors and MSC's train-the-trainer activity.

While 2010/11 was a challenging year, funding success in the early part of 2011/12 has meant that a number of key initiatives that were in a 'holding pattern' can now be rolled out. Council acknowledged the support and thanked LGB, DOC, NZ Police, NZ Community Trust, NZSAR, and the ongoing dedication of all the paid and volunteer Council staff.

**- Darryl Carpenter, CEO**

## IN BRIEF....

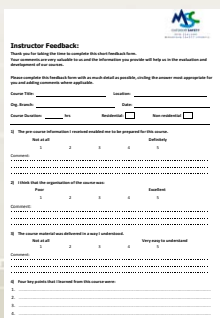
### 2012 General Revalidation

Note to all Members: Next year is revalidation year, which means now is the time to check your personal details held by MSC are correct and that your logbooks are up to date.

Visit the Mountain Safety Council website, click on Member's Login and complete the login process.

Revalidation will affect all members except for Firearms and Avalanche Instructors.

### Instructor feedback



As a part of MSC's ongoing commitment to ensuring we achieve our outcomes, we are redeveloping the instructor feedback form so that we can maximise the learning possible via this valuable information.

Technical advisory committee input will be sought to help redevelop these. This will get underway shortly and will be piloted early next year.

I look forward to having quality information that highlights the thoughts and experiences of MSC instructors in the field. Ultimately this information will ensure that we maximise the quality of the experience for our instructors and our course participants.

- **Annie Dignan, Research and Evaluation Manager**

### MSC Survival Packs



Take the hassle out of being prepared this Summer and grab an MSC Survival Pack!

Essential equipment for the outdoors including: safety whistle, pack liner, pocket survival bag and safety information. You can also get the premium pack which includes a copy of the Bushcraft Manual.

Ideal Christmas present, convenient, light weight, watertight carry pack. Get in quick, this is a limited offer of only 200 available before Christmas.

MSC members, place your order via your MSC Branch Administration Officer, everyone else please visit MSC's online shop!

## UPDATE >> CHCH SOLDIERS ON!

**Tracy Wakeford, Firearms Training co-ordinator, recently visited Christchurch to see how our folk were getting on post - earthquake.**

Our Canterbury comrades have had a year of ups and downs and many people in the area are still struggling due to a multitude of ongoing earthquakes and setbacks.

I recently visited our Christchurch Firearm Safety Lectures which have continued despite the quakes, albeit at a new temporary location.

I was humbled by the ongoing commitment of our volunteer Instructors and hearing their stories of resilience and strength through situations, some of which are hard to comprehend.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge our Instructors and volunteers (from all sectors of MSC) and personally thank our firearms team for soldiering on and continuing the good work that you all do.

I especially want to mention Coleman Gabbard whose home ended up on the ground in the earthquake, but he has gone on, attending every firearms lecture to open/close the building so that lectures can continue.

Well done Ken and the team, and a huge thanks!

- **Tracy Wakeford, Firearms Training co-ordinator**



Photo caption: Ken Watson (Firearms co-ordinator), Neville Dodd and Karl Schasching at MSC Post-earthquake Range Day and BBQ 19 June 2011. Jim Peffers in the background setting up.

## FEATURE >> WORLD CHALLENGE

**Ash Millen from MSC Marlborough Branch talks about his experiences with World Challenge**

As well as being an MSC Instructor (Abseil, Alpine, Avalanche and Bush) and for some disciplines a moderator, I have been involved with World Challenge for about four years. During that time I've been on month-long expeditions to a number of exciting locations including: Borneo, Nepal, India, Namibia, Argentina, Kenya. My next adventure will be an expedition to Vietnam and Laos at the end of November.

Part of the experience includes involvement in a community project for about a week in each country. This could be at a school, a women's shelter, an orphanage or an environmental project in a National Park or town. It is a fantastic way to spend real time with the

local people and to lend a hand on local initiatives.

But it's not all hard work and R&R is also part of the programme. You get to do some fantastic things like boating under the Iguazu Falls in Argentina, zip lining, rafting, sightseeing and lots more.

Some of the highlights of my trips include: climbing Mt Kinabalu (4100m) in Borneo; a 15 day trek over the Pin Parbarti Pass (5200m) in India; a 13 day trek up the Langtang Valley with climb to the top of the sacred mountain Tserko Ri (5000m) in Nepal and a 12 day trek in the Andes over the Abra Zucho Pass (4150m) in Argentina. Kenya was a whole different kettle of fish and I spent three weeks camped at 4790m on Mt Kenya waiting to guide eight different teams to the summit!

I thought there may be some MSC instructors out there who are looking for some paid work, the chance to travel and the opportunity to use their skills and I highly recommend checking out the options at World Challenge.

For more information about World Challenge,

[www.worldchallenge.com.au](http://www.worldchallenge.com.au)



Ash Millen (far right) with the team on the summit of Tserko Ri (5000m, Nepal)

# UPDATE >> THE FIREARMS SAFETY PROGRAMME

Since the mid 1970's, Mountain Safety Council (MSC) volunteer firearms instructors have carried out training and testing of new firearms licence applicants. MSC firearms instructors are approved by Police under Regulation 14 of the Arms Regulations 1992 which requires every applicant for a firearms licence to undergo training and testing on firearms safety.

Police fund the firearms safety programme in full. This enables delivery of training and testing, Whakatūpato, and Instructor and Ranger Officer training. There are two full time employees, a Programme Manager, Mike Spray who has overall responsibility for programme delivery and a Training Coordinator, Tracy Wakeford, who coordinates Whakatūpato and instructor training.

There are currently 498 active firearms safety instructors who deliver training and testing from 147 locations

throughout the country. They deliver to around 10,000 new licence applicants each year. There is an instructor on Stewart Island and even the Chatham Islands. MSC firearms instructors are a community based firearms safety resource and are by far are the greatest asset to the programme.



Phil Cregeen, MSC Firearms Instructor in action.

The firearms advisory committee and individual firearms safety experts, within the programme, provide advice to Police on a consultancy type basis and advice and publicity to firearms user groups and the public in general. Over recent times the programme has assisted Pacific Island Nations and Australian States to development and enhance their firearms safety programmes.

It was reported in the very first Arms Code, dated 1969, that 1 child every month in New Zealand died because firearms were left carelessly about the home. Non intentional firearm incidents causing injury and death have reduced from one a week to one a month.

A major contributor to reducing firearms incidents is the firearms safety programme and the vastly experienced firearms safety instructors who are hard working, passionate and committed.

**- Mike Spray, Firearms Programme Manager**

# UPDATE >> HOW AND WHY MSC EVALUATES

## Annie Dignan, Research and Evaluation Manager explains the importance and value of evaluation to MSC

As many of you will be aware MSC has taken huge steps in outlining the outcomes the organisation is working to achieve.

We have done this via a process of developing a visual Outcomes Model. This has then become the basis of our new strategic plan and our business plan.

Having clearly identified what outcomes we are working to achieve we need to be clearly able to articulate whether we are achieving them or at least going in the right direction.

To do this we have mapped out a range of indicators or measures that align to various outcomes and have a plan as to how we are going to collect this data.

As you can imagine there is an almost endless range of data available however we have to consider a number of parameters including the difficulty of getting the data and the level of responsibility MSC has for achieving the outcome.

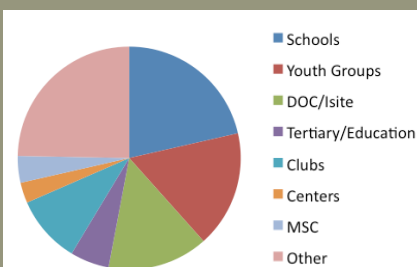
Key sources of information will include course participant feedback forms, financial data, instructor feedback forms, sales data, membership data and survey responses. This data will be reported upon via a number of mechanisms including our annual report, On Track and separate evaluation reports.

Importantly the data and recommendations derived from it will support MSC's drive to be an effective and efficient organisation working to achieve the outcome of people participating safely in land-based outdoor activity.

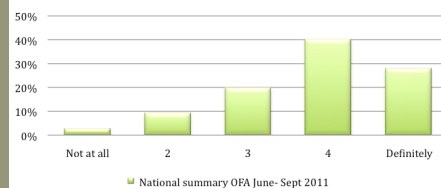
Two examples of being able to draw upon data to help us understand our performance are pictured on the right.

**- Annie Dignan, Research and Evaluation Manager**

### Organisational Representation of Online Resource Orders 2010



### The pre-course information I received enabled me to be prepared for this course



The summary of responses to a question from 105 Outdoor First Aid course participants.

# FEATURE >> AVALANCHE SEASON SUMMARY 2011

**Avalanche & Alpine Programme Manager, Andrew Hobman, reviews what has been a busy and somewhat unpredictable snow season.**

Another winter season exists as the spring winds shunt in from the West. After a late start, it's been a boom and bust type of snow year as only a handful of storms formed the basis of our snowpack.

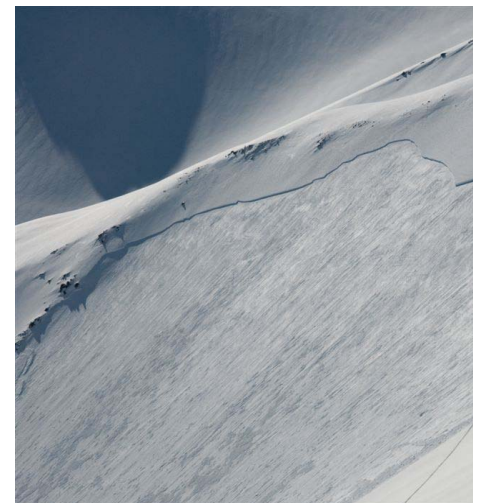
By and large they were characterised by good snowfalls to low elevations, but also by gale force winds which ended up stripping ridge top snows back to ground.

The snow pack was generally well behaved and stability was fairly consistent through the winter making a low stress season for all those working in the snow, while still providing some great skiing/riding conditions.

Unfortunately there were still some fatalities this season and similar to 2010, it was not the deep fresh snow that caused the problems but the lack of it.

The long periods between storms created a very firm snowpack in some areas and "slid for life" conditions became an issue. This contributed to an incident in Canterbury.

In other regions snow to lower levels than usual, enticed people to explore further than they usually would and a number of rescues were undertaken across the country.



## Avalanche Website Revamped

Last summer we implemented a large redevelopment to the Avalanche.net.nz website and this was launched to the public in late June. The new format allows the back country avalanche advisories to offer more detail using graphics and text to convey specifics on danger, risk, and consequences from the threat of avalanches. It also offers extended resources and information areas plus the opportunity to post your own observations on a map.

The new site was greatly appreciated by both the public and the forecasters and we have received a lot of positive feedback. New visitors to the web-site were up 25% and total hits continued to grow even though we had a late start to the season and a general lack of major avalanche issues. We are in the midst of reviewing the success of the changes made this year, and hope to further refine the forecast pages for next winter.

## Avalanche Education & Awareness Delivery

The Avalanche Education delivery went well this year but the overall numbers were down from last year. This appears to be mainly due to the lack of snow in June which led to a number of courses being cancelled.

Once the snow finally arrived, bookings picked up and successful courses were run in all areas. Other factors that affected all snow sport participant numbers were the Canterbury Earthquake, natural disasters in Australia and Japan and the general global financial downturn. Having said

this, many areas of the industry the 2011 season surpassed many people's pre season predictions and set new records of its own.

We undertook a number of public outreach initiatives including participating in the Auckland Snowshow, the Queenstown Winterfest and Avalanche Evenings at Mt Ruapehu. The Christchurch events were cancelled due to the earthquake but the bi-annual Avalanche Conference was held there in June.

All in all it was a good and mostly incident free winter, with mountain users respecting the conditions presented to them. There was one highly publicised Heli Ski incident, which highlights the need the always be prepared when travelling in the back country, no matter what the conditions are.

**- Andrew Hobman, Alpine & Avalanche programme Manager**

# FEATURE >> THE VISITOR RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

As well as managing day to day communications at MSC, Marketing & Communications Manager, Andrea Hubbard, is involved in other collaborative projects (such as the VRM project) which contribute towards MSC's goal of 'people participating safely in land-based outdoor activity'.

Every year thousands of people enjoy New Zealand's outdoors and for the vast majority it's an enjoyable and safe experience. However, unfortunate incidents do occur and many involve both visitors and residents, who underestimate the planning, preparation and sometimes the skills required for the outdoors activity they are undertaking.

Many incidents are preventable and as a leading provider of land-based outdoor safety information, public awareness and education initiatives, MSC was tasked by key organisations such as NZSAR Council & DOC to lead the project to deliver the combined positive outcomes.

## The three key projects that have been delivered are:

- A stock-take of land-based outdoor safety messages, which resulted in the Outdoor Safety Code and later the Boating and Water Codes.
- The creation and expansion of the AdventureSmart website.
- Revisiting the Back Country Intentions/Visitor Intentions process, now known as Outdoors Intentions, and creating new mechanisms.

## The Safety Codes

Back in 2009, MSC led an industry-wide collaborative project focused on bringing consistency to outdoors safety messaging. The result was the Outdoor

Safety Code. NZSAR continued to explore the Codes concept and through consultation also produced the Boating and Water Safety Codes.

MSC continues to support Government departments, governing and regulatory bodies and the sector to use the Outdoor Safety Code as a basis for consistent messaging across their public education, awareness and communication opportunities.



## AdventureSmart www.adventuresmart.org.nz

This website is designed to provide both visitors and residents with a centralised online location with links to safety information for land, snow, water, boating and air activities. It is funded by NZSAR Council and project managed by the Mountain Safety Council.

This year AdventureSmart has undergone a huge transformation with Version 2

going live in September 2011. The site contains generic activity information (it's not designed to replace or compete with tourist information) and then provides links to safety information from the appropriate regulatory or association body, public land manager, outdoor activity or service provider. The promotional campaign for the website will take place throughout Summer 2011.

## The Outdoors Intentions Process

For many years, MSC has provided a pink 'Backcountry Intentions' form for land-based outdoor activities. This form could be left with family or friends and even at some DOC visitor centres. However, in light of technological advances, it was time to revisit the form and ensure the process was better understood and more accessible.

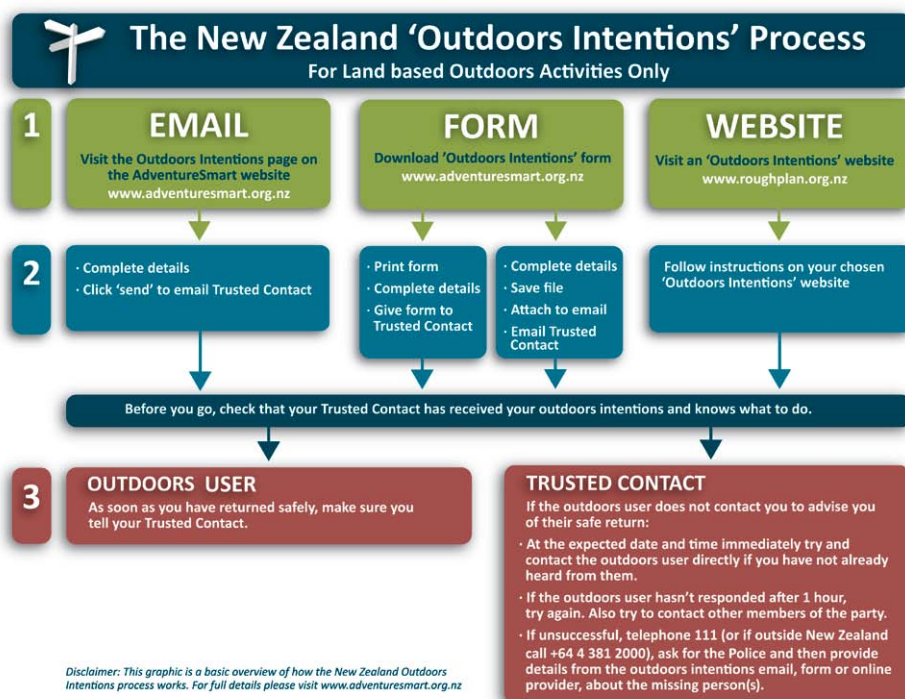
A steering committee including representatives from NZSAR, Police, LandSAR, Rescue Coordination Centre NZ and DOC, was chaired by MSC. The aim was to ensure cross-Government collaboration and outdoor sector input into a refreshed Outdoors Intentions process and the creation of new mechanisms. While the 'essence' of the process hasn't changed, the mechanisms by which you can now 'tell someone' now include:

**EMAIL** - online form, which emails your trip details directly to your Trusted Contact.

**FORM** - updated form, which can be downloaded, printed or completed electronically and emailed.

**WEBSITE** - links to other approved online intentions provider(s).

The pink form is no longer available and MSC members are encouraged to take up the role of educating the public and visitors on how to use the process and form.



Disclaimer: This graphic is a basic overview of how the New Zealand Outdoors Intentions process works. For full details please visit www.adventuresmart.org.nz

For more information about AdventureSmart, the Codes and Outdoors Intentions visit [www.adventuresmart.org.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz)

# New Zealand OUTDOORS INTENTIONS FORM

Safety is your responsibility so tell someone, it could save your life | [www.adventuresmart.org.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz)



## OUTDOOR USER INSTRUCTIONS

- OUTDOORS USER(S) may select either of these options to complete your Outdoors intentions details via a downloadable form.
- **Option 2a.** Download the form. Save to your system. Print form. Complete details by hand and give to your TRUSTED CONTACT.
- **Option 2b.** Download the form. Save to your system. Type directly into the form. Save file. Attach to an email and send to your TRUSTED CONTACT.
- None of the fields on the form are compulsory, but the more details you provide, the better the search and rescue agencies will be able to respond should the alert be raised.
- By using this form you agree to the terms and conditions.
- Whatever method you use, it is recommended that you check that your TRUSTED CONTACT has received your Outdoors Intentions prior to leaving on your trip.
- Remember to tell your Trusted Contact as soon as you have returned safely, to avoid unnecessary alarm and possible involvement from New Zealand Police.

For tips, advice and links to help keep you safe throughout your land, snow, water, boating and air activities in New Zealand, visit [www.adventuresmart.org.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz)

## TRUSTED CONTACT INSTRUCTIONS

- You have been nominated as the TRUSTED CONTACT for the OUTDOORS USER listed below, so you can raise the alarm and contact the appropriate authorities if for any reason they do not return by the expected date and time below.
- At the expected date and time below, immediately try and contact the 'OUTDOORS USER' directly, if you have not already heard from them.
- If unsuccessful try and contact other group members (if applicable).
- If unsuccessful wait 1 hour and then repeat the process of contacting the OUTDOORS USER and if applicable other group members. If unsuccessful and you are extremely concerned or bad weather has set in, go straight to contacting the New Zealand Police.
- If you are still unsuccessful in contacting the OUTDOORS USER or any members of the party, telephone 111, (or if outside New Zealand call +64 4 381 2000) ask for the Police and tell them you wish to report a missing person(s) who is on a trip in the outdoors and has not returned by the expected date and time. You will need to provide the Police with the information below.

## EXPECTED DATE OF RETURN DD / MM / YY TIME : AM PM

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Start Date: DD / MM / YY Time: : AM PM Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended track/route/huts and alternatives: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Always enter your progress and changes to plan in hut logbooks, even if you don't stay overnight.*

## OUTDOOR USER/LEADER DETAILS

(Overseas visitors please include your passport number and your nationality)

1

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address or Passport Number & Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_  
 First name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Conditions & Medication: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHO ARE YOUR GROUP MEMBERS?

(Overseas visitors please include your passport number and your nationality)

2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Conditions & Medication: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address/Passport No./Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_  
 3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Conditions & Medication: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address/Passport No./Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4 ADDITIONAL GROUP MEMBERS? (Overseas visitors please include your passport number and your nationality.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Conditions & Medication: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address/Passport No./Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_  
 5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Conditions & Medication: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address/Passport No./Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_  
 6

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Conditions & Medication: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address/Passport No./Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If you need to add more group members, please download the additional group members form.

## WHAT TYPE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT ARE YOU CARRYING?

Wet weather gear and thermal clothing  
 GPS  
 First Aid Kit  
 Extra food  
 Survival Kit  
 Emergency Shelter  
 Personal Locator Beacon  
 Firearms (with spare emergency ammunition)  
 Satellite phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mountain Radio Call sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## HOW ARE YOU TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE AREA?

Type of vehicle etc. Please also include name of bus/rental car company, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are leaving a vehicle in the area for your return, please provide details below:

Registration no: \_\_\_\_\_ Make and model: \_\_\_\_\_ Colour: \_\_\_\_\_ Parked at: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHERE WILL YOU BE GOING AFTER LEAVING THE AREA?

e.g. name/address/telephone of accommodation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Remember to tell your Trusted Contact as soon as you have returned safely.

### Terms & Conditions

The Outdoors Intentions form is provided free of charge but without warrant or guarantee. 'OUTDOORS USER' refers to the person using the form to complete their Outdoors Intentions. 'TRUSTED CONTACT' refers to the person that the OUTDOORS USER gives their Outdoors Intentions form to, whether it be via electronic or hard copy means. The process relies on the OUTDOORS USER providing correct and comprehensive information. No responsibility is accepted for users providing incorrect information, including incorrect email addresses. The process relies on the TRUSTED CONTACT receiving the information from the OUTDOORS USER and following the designated process as set out on the form. It is recommended that the OUTDOORS USER checks that their TRUSTED CONTACT has received the Outdoors Intentions (by whatever means chosen) prior to leaving on a trip. It is the responsibility of the OUTDOORS USER to ensure that the TRUSTED CONTACT they select is willing and able to respond and follow the process contained within the information they receive. No responsibility is accepted for the TRUSTED CONTACT not receiving the information or not following the correct process. The timeliness and accuracy of a search and rescue response depends somewhat on the quality, quantity and accuracy of the information that is provided by the OUTDOORS USER to the TRUSTED CONTACT and that the TRUSTED CONTACT follows the process correctly. No guarantee is given regarding search and rescue response. Internet and telecommunications providers do not guarantee uptime of their systems or delivery of electronic messages. Postal services do not guarantee timeframes of delivery of physical letters, parcels or packages. By using the Outdoors Intentions form you accept that you have read, understood and agree to the terms and conditions above.

# FEATURE >> MSC ROADSHOW

**Chris Owens joined MSC in January as the Bushcraft and Risk Management Programme Manager. The MSC Roadshow was a key project with a variety of objectives. Chris explains more below....**

As part of my induction into MSC, in September I embarked on a "Meet the MSC Branches" roadshow. I had a very enjoyable three and a bit weeks on the road meeting many fine MSC people who kindly gave me food, shelter, coffee and the occasional port.

I gained numerous candid insights into the workings of the MSC Branches and a good idea of their and their communities successes, issues and their plans to address and improve both of these. The roadshow was in two parts.

## Thank you to volunteers

Firstly, to say a profound thank you to all those who willingly give considerable community volunteer time through MSC's many outdoor safety education and awareness opportunities. I then presented an update of where as an organisation MSC is at, an idea of some of the current projects, and an idea of where we are going strategically and operationally particularly in regards to ongoing MSC support for community volunteer leader and instructor training, development, assessment and qualifications.

With the draft strategic plan finalised and now ready for sign-off by Council, at the October AGM, the meetings provided another opportunity to ensure people knew what was contained in the final version. The question and answer time that resulted was invaluable.

## Identifying Key Issues

The second part of the meeting was to discover and record the key issues the branches and their associated region were experiencing, what they believed the solution was, or at least could be, and their commitment to actions these.

While some of the issue resolution could be managed at a local or regional level, some sat with the team at National Office and I was able to ensure each action had an 'owner' and an expected timeline for resolution. As I concluded this part of the evening, my commitment was to ensure that 'actions spoke louder than words' and that what sat outside of Branch resolution was delivered on.

Throughout the roadshow I managed

to meet up with most branches during their normal meeting schedules. For some though, Branch members came together for a special meeting in order to accommodate my travel schedule - a special thank you to those who used another piece of their available community volunteer time to do this. An example of this was a good number of members from Ashburton/South Canterbury / North Otago who drove north and south to Timaru to meet me on non-meeting evening.

In addition, while some people give their time generously to MSC, I also learnt that they also commit additional community volunteer time to SAR training and operations, St John's, Scouts and Girl Guides groups, volunteer Fire Brigade, school bus drivers, coaching local sports and footy teams, as well as hold down a fulltime job and raise a family!

This commitment also relates to length of time spent with our organisation. This was probably best reflected in my catching up with Jim Rea, MSC community volunteer and instructor in Westport. Jim assessed me for my Bush 1 award sometime in early 1996, and I was able to present him with his Skills Active National Certificate level 3 in Outdoor Recreation (Leadership) and his Whitireia Community Polytechnic Certificate in Outdoor Leadership. A great journey for us both.

## Passionate Volunteers Impress

I also met with, and was very impressed by, several individuals who are passionately working to bring back some much needed life to branches who are being challenged by geographic isolation, an older (aging) MSC membership, reducing instructor pool and facing 'competition' for community volunteer time from other community volunteer organisations. These members have possibly the greatest challenge that a Branch can have and I resolved to ensure their willingness, and message, was heard.

## Next steps....

Having now gathered all the valuable information from the branches, it will be reviewed, summarised, and after being evaluated by the National Office senior management team and relevant programme managers, will be categorised and prioritised so that workable solutions are developed and then implemented in conjunction with Branches and their members.

Once again, thank you to all the people who gave me some of their valuable time and showed wonderful friendliness and

reinforced to me that this organisation has some amazing people within its membership who are committed to ensuring people, and our communities, participate safely in land-based outdoor activities. I look forward to meeting up with you all again.

**"Probably the greatest outcome of my time spent with Branches was learning about the significant amount of commitment to our communities that exists within our organisation."**

**- Chris Owens, Bushcraft and Risk Management Programme Manager**



*Chris Owens presenting Jim Rea with Skills Active and Whitireia Certificates*

## OBITUARY >> BRAD PARKES

Brad Parkes, Firearms Instructor Hawkes Bay, passed away in October after a relatively short battle with cancer. Brad joined Mountain Safety in the mid 80's and was valued as a hard working and very experienced firearms safety instructor.

For many years Brad was a columnist for the paper 'Hawkes Bay Today' writing about hunting, shooting, fishing and cooking. He had not quite finished his 659th column. He also wrote five books and numerous magazine articles. Hunting was Brad's passion.

Brad has left his loving wife Heather. He will be sadly missed by the firearms instructor team and his community of Hawkes Bay.

The Mountain Safety Council passes on our deepest sympathies.



## NEWS >> MSC WINS AT TRUSTPOWER AWARDS

Congratulations go to two MSC Branches who have recently scooped awards at the TrustPower Community Awards.

The TrustPower Community Awards are run in 24 regions around New Zealand and recognise and reward the outstanding contribution voluntary groups and organisations make in our communities.

MSC Southland were recently named winner of the 'Sport and Leisure' section for the Invercargill/Southland community while MSC Manawatu were named runner-up in the 'Education & Child/Youth Development' category for the Palmerston North community

Both awards are fantastic achievements and won by the hard work and dedication put in by the Administration Officers (Louise Craig and Heather Grady) and all of the branch volunteers who contribute in whatever way they can to their branch activities.

## NEWS >> CONGRATULATIONS JOHN RANSFIELD



Mountain Safety Chairperson Ross Meder presents John Ransfield with his Volunteer Award.

**'It is my pleasure to announce that one of our own, John Ransfield from Rotorua, has won the 'Volunteer of the Year' award at the recent 2011 Outdoor Excellence awards dinner,' says MSC CEO Darryl Carpenter.**

John is a well respected member of his community and has been actively involved for many years with a variety of organisations including five Maori Trust Boards, six Marae Committees, a number of hunting clubs, the NZ Deerstalkers Association, the Rotorua Pistol Club as well as volunteering for the Department of Conservation and Land Search and Rescue.

### Exceptional Community Service

As a volunteer firearms safety instructor for Mountain Safety Council, John also provides exceptional service to his community hosting people at his home, meeting them in remote locations (including sitting with truck drivers on the side of the road at 5am!) so they can get their firearms licence. John goes the extra mile taking photographs of people, collecting their firearms licence application fees and paying this to the Police on their behalf. These services are not readily available in remote communities and, while not a requirement of an instructor is an example of how much John is dedicated to his community and firearms safety.

John's service with Mountain Safety Council spans more than 30 years and his passion for the work has not waned over that time. John recruits trainee instructors

throughout NZ and continually promotes community interest in our various programmes.

### Instrumental Contribution

As well as being a MSC firearms instructor, John is a Whakatūpato instructor and co-ordinator. This programme is a joint initiative between Mountain Safety Council, NZ Police and Iwi and John was one of the founding members of the programme establishment working group. He has been instrumental in the setup, initial delivery and now significant growth of the programme. In addition to actual delivery, John proactively spreads the word about the programme, travelling all around the North Island to recruit interested communities and new instructors.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to John by Ross Meder, Chair of Council, during the Outdoor Excellence Awards dinner in Wellington. The trophy is sculptured out of Takaka Marble and represents the volunteer as the bedrock of New Zealand communities. In addition to John receiving his award, Whakatūpato was highly commended for the Programme Award.

'I am sure you will join me in congratulating John on this well deserved award,' added Darryl Carpenter.

# UPDATE >> TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

Education Manager Leonce Jones is managing this exciting project which will have a far-reaching effect on the whole organisation bringing with it change and ultimately improvement.

The project is focused on 8 Key areas and addresses NZ Mountain Safety's ability to deliver on its strategic objectives. Performance against those objectives will be measured through participant feedback and member agency surveys conducted by our Programme Managers supported by Annie Dignan and our Research Advisory Committee.

One of the central themes of the project is creating a sustainable organisation from a funding and operational perspective. The current economic climate is cause for concern with corporate sponsorship, government funding and general family disposable income proving difficult to attract, particularly on any long-term basis.

In addition competition for such funding between charities and the protracted and often restrictive process around making applications for available funding, often results in valuable time and resources being used up to secure annual funding with little or no guarantee of success.

The project is therefore focusing on our structure, the quality of our courses, course material review and development, learner resources and the operational and branch processes that drive training and education delivery.

With these things in mind we have already introduced a course costing model into the Avalanche training delivery programme that will return revenue to

National Office. While the returns are small, it begins to show funding agencies that we are serious about becoming more self-sustainable and that the products and services we provide are of high quality and required in the market place.

Along with this strategy we will look to secure corporate sponsorship to support the promotion of the training and education programmes on the [www.avalanche.net.nz](http://www.avalanche.net.nz) website and to use this sponsorship to support the provision of equipment, course administration and ongoing development of resources to ensure the programme continues to embrace and promote international best practice.

Current resource development is being undertaken in the Outdoor First Aid programme and several other pieces of work are in the early planning stages.

Ray Goldring is being brought in to assist use to achieve Outdoors Mark Accreditation and we have also registered with the Department of Labour as a provider of adventure tourism.

We will be providing updates and engaging with necessary stakeholders throughout the process so watch this space!



You can download and print this graphic from: [www.mountainsafety.org.nz/transformationproject](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/transformationproject)

## HISTORY OF NZMSC PROGRESS REPORT >>

Dr Mike Boyes of the University of Otago (and Chair of the MSC Research Committee) has been working on writing a history of 'MSC' as his volunteer time becomes available.

Mike sees that there are three phases: Firstly to locate and digitise the archival material from places such as the Turnbull library and the MSC archives in Wellington; secondly to write up a chronological anecdotal history from pre 1964 to 2010; and lastly to publish the social history in a succession of articles in Journals such as the NZ Journal of History. Mike is presently writing the chronological history in spans of about five years and has nearly completed the early years from 1964-1969. The draft will be circulated for feedback, verification and amendment in due course.

At present Mike is documenting the establishment of the branches from 1965 onwards. There will still be people around who know about these times but they are likely to be senior citizens.

### Can you help?

Mike would love to find out the following information: (1) date of branch formation; (2) The names of the facilitator, the first chairperson, deputy chairperson, elected officials and committee members; relevant photographs and press releases; and any other key information.

If you could send this to [Mike.boyes@otago.ac.nz](mailto:Mike.boyes@otago.ac.nz) or c/- School of PE, P O Box 56, Dunedin it would be much appreciated.

## WIN >> PHOTO COMPETITION

WIN a year's subscription to Wilderness Magazine plus more prizes.

MSC produces a number of high quality publications from pamphlets to posters, manuals to websites and we are always on the lookout for high quality photographs.

We know we have many talented photographers within our ranks so now's your chance to enter the MSC Photograph



Competition, get your photograph published and win prizes.

There are 3 categories:

- **Scenic** - views of anywhere in New Zealand.
- **MSC Education & Training** - photos of MSC training activities taking place in the outdoors i.e. participants at an outdoor first aid course or avalanche course etc.
- **Outdoors Activity** - i.e. A photo of someone taking part in an outdoors activity like tramping or crossing a river etc.

For more information about how to enter and all terms and conditions, simply visit the Mountain Safety Council website: [www.mountainsafety.org.nz/photocomp](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/photocomp)

# UPDATE >> QUALIFICATIONS AND EDUCATION

Education Manager, Leonce Jones, provides a progress update and further information regarding recent changes and their effects on MSC qualifications.

## Whitireia Polytechnic Qualifications Update

As previously advised, the sub-contracting arrangement with Whitireia Polytechnic for the award of pathway qualifications, Unit Standards and Local Course Content Units was not renewed at 1 January 2011. These qualifications are still registered on the National Qualifications framework and Whitireia Polytechnic have indicated that funding to support the previous arrangement was no longer available and instead of MSC receiving \$130,000 to support the training delivery and administration of the qualification process we would need to pay FULL COSTS. The quoted cost for 42 EFTS 126 people on a 40 Credit Certificate was \$45,680.00 plus GST per year. This would effectively ensure access to the qualification for the same number of people who have previously achieved certificates and or Diplomas in each calendar year.

MSC have been unable to source new funding for this cost. As a result we are not currently in a position to offer guaranteed provision of a tertiary qualification as an outcome of Programme Pathways without introducing a substantial fee. We are continuing to provide training and assessment as appropriate and document completion of the requirements of these qualifications and respective syllabi.

MSC will continue to provide MSC certificates of attendance at training and issue Instructor warrants to people completing the programme pathway requirements for appointment as MSC instructors in any of the MSC disciplines.

We have been recognised by Skills Active as a Workplace and are in discussion with another Industry Training Organisation about similar recognition for Rescue and Workplace Safety.

Since being advised that the sub contract would not be in place beyond the end of 2010 I have been focused on trying to ensure that as many MSC people as possible have been awarded qualifications they have completed.

## Qualifications Achievements: October 2010-current

- 45 people have been awarded the National Certificate in Outdoor Recreation (Level 4)
- 189 people have been awarded the National Certificate in Outdoor Recreation (Leadership) in the strand Bush-Walking Leader
- 230 people have been awarded Whitireia Local Certificates or Diplomas from across the range of MSC Instructor pathways and Whitireia Qualifications.
- 65 Additional people are in the process of being processed for a Whitireia certificate.
- A process to submit more enrolments for the National Certificate in Outdoor Recreation (Leadership) in the strand Bush-Walking Leader is under action.
- We are working with Skills Active to provide an Instructor Level Qualification.

## Targeted Review of Qualifications (TRoQ)

In addition to these changes the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) have in response to Government Directive embarked on a Targeted Review of Qualifications (TRoQ) on the National Qualifications Framework at levels 1-6. The review of the Outdoor and Sport and Recreation Sector Qualifications is due to be undertaken in the first quarter of 2012. The complete review of qualifications will take place over the entire 2012 calendar year. This process will include a review of National Certificates and Diplomas as well as Polytechnic Local Certificates and Diplomas. In the meantime changes to existing qualifications and unit standards are being undertaken only in urgent cases.

## DoL Review of the Adventure Tourism Sector

The Department of Labour Review of the Adventure Tourism Sector commercial operators and the introduction of New Regulations Audit and the project that is looking at qualification requirements, Safety and Operator Audit within that sector has potential to impact on the future direction of Qualifications within the outdoor recreation space.

## Tripartite Agreement (NZOIA, Skills Active & MSC) Update

To add to the complexity of the situation the decision of NZOIA to withdraw from the Tripartite Agreement provides another level of uncertainty at a time when the sector working collaboratively is essential.

The recent joint press release attempted to indicate that Skills Active and NZMSC will continue to work with NZOIA and other groups within the sector to input into all these processes to ensure clarity in the long term. In the short term NZMSC will continue to work closely with Skills Active to achieve our stated goal of having registered National Qualifications on the NZ Qualifications Framework that provide adequate recognition of competency and meet the needs of our sector.

## Forward Focus

We all need to work collaboratively to achieve clarity and consistency on behalf of all those people who operate, work or play in the outdoors and to recognise that significant compromise may be necessary to achieve a collectively acceptable outcome. One thing is sure we are focused on achieving a positive result for our members and member agencies and being able to provide qualifications in the future.

- Leonce Jones, Education Manager

# NZ MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS >>

The New Zealand Mountain Safety Council is formed of 25 member organisations all with a stake in promoting safe participation of New Zealand's great outdoors.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM N.O



Wishing you a safe and merry Christmas. Thanks for your support over 2011.

We are closed from 16 December and will re-open on the 9th of January.

The MSC online store will be open over the Christmas period but orders may not be sent out until the 16th of January.... So get in quick for Christmas!

### Post Holiday Summer Blues Party

A small function will take place at National Office on February 2nd from 4:30 to 6:30pm. All welcome but please RSVP to Andrea by 16/01/11

## CALENDAR >> DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
6 Dec	<b>MSC Executive meeting</b> When: 9-4pm   Where: National Office, Wellington
6 Dec	<b>Bushcraft and Risk Management Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting</b> Where: National Office, Wellington
16 Dec - 9 Jan	<b>National Office Christmas Closedown</b> When: Last day of business for MSC National Office is Friday 16 December and reopening Monday 9 January
2 Feb	<b>Post Holiday Summer Blues Party</b> When: 4.30-6.30pm   Where: National Office If you're passing by please let us know and do drop by Please RSVP by 16/01/11 to Andrea
18-19 Feb	<b>North Island Regional training (Southern Regions)</b> Details to be confirmed
24-25 Feb	<b>MSC Administration Officers Conference</b> Where: National Office, Wellington
2 March	<b>MSC Executive meeting</b> When: 9-4pm   Where: National Office, Wellington
3-4 March	<b>MSC Branch Chairs seminar</b> Where: National Office, Wellington
10-11 March	<b>North Island Abseil Workshop</b> Where: Whakapapa
24-25 March	<b>South Island Abseil workshop</b> Venue to be confirmed
28-29 April	<b>North Island Regional training (Mid Regions)</b> Venue to be confirmed
26-28 Aug	<b>South Island Regional training (Northern Regions)</b> Venue to be confirmed
TBC	<b>Education Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting</b> Venue to be confirmed

For more important dates and further information please visit the MSC website: [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz)

**About OnTrack >>** The OnTrack newsletter is published by the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council in March, July and November each year. **Disclaimer and submission guidelines >>** All efforts have been made to ensure accuracy but no responsibility will be taken by the Mountain Safety Council for errors or inaccuracies or for any consequences of reliance on this information. If you have any feedback, ideas or items that you would like to submit for consideration please email: [marketing@mountainsafety.org.nz](mailto:marketing@mountainsafety.org.nz) >> Submission deadline is 5pm, Friday 17 February 2012. Publication is not guaranteed and the editor's decision is final.