

# President's Update: March Madness

## Joshua Schollum

March Madness is here! In addition to existing members returning from summer we have welcomed a number of new paddlers in the first three days of O'Week. It will be great to get out with you all.

### Recent Events

**AKL Anniversary** With three days off we made good use to hit three rivers. There were a number of firsts on the Wairoa, 50/50 success on the Waiari falls, and rescue practice on Rangī thanks to Dons many pins ...

**Feb Tongo** Hitting three sections of the the Tongariro, our group wasn't limited by the slightly reduced release. I heard that stoke was high, and everyone keen for the next recreational release in April.

**Wairoa Extreme Race** The double release weekend put on a good one, with six of our members competing in both the Time Trial and BoaterX. With strong competition like Kaituna we held the back again. Highlights included not coming last and Sam's redemption run which lead to a faster time than his mates.

There are many more stories that won't fit here; ranging from beginners on Tarawera to West Coast missions and Bullerfest trips.

### To look forward to

**Puhoi** Your first trip with AUCC! Translated as "slow water" we will be floating down the Puhoi river out to a BBQ by the sea at Wenderholm. With no kayaking experience required you will meet our existing members and all the other freshies, we'll see you out there!

**Toga** Your first social event! An O'Week tradition introducing freshies to the fine off water culture of the club. Unlike sororities that steep themselves in years of history, we abuse Greek history to show some skin.

**Lake and Pool Trainings** Sessions are run by AUCC to ensure that our freshies build skills to make sure your safe on our big trips (Fulljames, Ani, and Easter). Focuses include paddling skills, boat control, and rescue techniques.

It is key that you make a Pool or Lake Training before getting on whitewater. Non-attendance may reduce your chances of making a trip.

**Fulljames** Our first river trip for the year, FJ is a special trip in the AUCC calendar. Heading down to Taupo to paddle the mighty Waikato river both in kayaks and on rafts, whilst also having a blast off the river.

**Aniwhenua** Finishing up the biggest month we have Ani. Another great opportunity to get out for introductory kayaking, serious rafting and get super social.

### Notable Firsts

Tyler Olney - Top of the Wairoa!

Will Peart - Top of the Wairoa!

HayDon - Jef's Joy

Charz - River Roll!

### Notable Swims

A common theme as people got back out the river gods pushed back. Justus is back on the playboat life, and he seems to be walking a lot, AC's first river trip back lead to a raft swim at the bottom of the Wairoa, and many other members. Here is hoping for some good paddling for the big trips!

See you out there,  
Josh

