



## SPARC Supreme Award 2007

# Mike Boyes – A Dedication

Mike has made a significant and sustained contribution to outdoor education and adventure recreation in New Zealand, and he has inspired and energised many along his professional journey thus far.

Mike Boyes is one of those people you meet and never forget. He has a presence about him that many would recognise as the mana of a rangitira; a presence manifested in his gifts with relating with young and old, with inspiring others', and with diffusing differences to bring people together for the common good. These qualities coupled with Mike's tireless, positive and jovial approach to committee work has seen him make an outstanding and long-lasting contribution to the New Zealand outdoor education and adventure recreation scene. In the past decade Mike has served on the executive committees of Physical Education New Zealand, Education Outdoors New Zealand, and Outdoors New Zealand. He also supports the Mountain Safety Council via their research and evaluation committee, has been the

Editor of the New Zealand Journal of Outdoor Education, and has conducted research work on behalf of the New Zealand Outdoors Instructors Association and Outward Bound New Zealand.

Many will not be aware of Mike's formative adventurous exploits, which include pioneering North Island river trips in home made canoes and mountaineering and tramping trips that would today be regarded as extremely bold. He worked for the New Zealand Forest Service for a period and was a mountain safety council volunteer instructor before then moving into teaching physical education, outdoor education, and music for many years. Mike became involved in the development and promotion of outdoor education at a political level more than twenty years ago, initially with supporting the outdoor training and advisory board (OTAB) and then with the risk management initiatives of the late 1980's. With the merging of the various outdoor education regional associations into EONZ Mike led the Otago region for many years

and has kept his committee role to the present day. Whilst Senior Lecturer at the Dunedin College of Education Mike enthused many teachers into utilising the outdoors as a teaching medium across the wider curriculum. He also had a significant role with the establishment of outdoor education as one of the key strands of the Hauora (Physical Education & Health) curriculum.

I was extremely fortunate to have had Mike as a colleague at the University of Otago from 1998 through 2006. There I was able to recognise Mike's gifts for teaching outdoor education and supporting student and staff research. He has phenomenal skill with imparting his outdoor education wisdom in his own empowering style, whether that occurs in the classroom or lecture theatre, in the park, on the beach, or in the bush.

In short Mike has over a long period inspired many young people into outdoor career pathways, taken an active interest in their ongoing development, and supported them in every way. His long-standing contributions in the national arena have smoothed the pathway for new and emerging outdoor teachers and instructors and helped clarify the prominent position the outdoors has within the Aotearoa New Zealand milieu. In my view there is no more deserving person than Dr. Mike Boyes for the 2007 ONZ Supreme Award.

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