

1 June 2011  
**Media Release**  
For immediate release



## **RIVER SAFETY EDUCATION – FREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR WANGANUI REGION TEACHERS**

A new river safety educational resource is being introduced in the Wanganui region. The Be River Safe resource has been produced by Water Safety New Zealand and Mountain Safety Council. The release of the resource is being led by a free professional development session for teachers at:

- **Sport Wanganui, 40 Maria Place Extension, Wanganui on 15 June 2011 from 1.00pm – 5.00pm.**

The Professional Development session will be delivered by Jill Dalton, NZ Outdoor Instructor, assessor and trainer with over 25 years experience in the delivery of outdoor education.

Sport Wanganui, CEO, Danny Jonas is encouraging local teachers to take advantage of this opportunity, “This educational resource and the associated professional development session for teachers has real relevance in the Wanganui region. The river is our most prominent geographical feature, the ability to provide our youth with information and training on the safe enjoyment of river environments and activities is essential and we must take advantage of this opportunity.”

Be River Safe has been developed for young people (primarily aged 12-18) for use in schools or with learners beginning activities in, on and around rivers. It is a multi media resource that includes a free DVD and ‘tool box’ of resources that provides a range of materials that teachers can use to build a learning programme that meets the needs of their students. It contains extensive information on identifying river features and focuses on common activities such as swimming and river crossing.

Matt Claridge, General Manager, Water Safety New Zealand explains the importance of such a resource as Be River Safe, “New Zealanders love to spend time in, on or around



rivers. However more people drown in rivers than in any other aquatic environment and the need for education to facilitate safe enjoyment is crucial.”

To book your place for the professional development session please contact:

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## **WATER SAFETY NEW ZEALAND**

Formed in 1949, WSNZ is the national organisation responsible for water safety education in New Zealand.

WSNZ manages drowning prevention and water safety in communities through education. WSNZ administers proven, proactive and preventative education interventions.

WSNZ leads the Learn to Swim and Survive sector in New Zealand. The Sealord Swim For Life initiative is WSNZ's major project. WSNZ seeks to address a dramatic decline in swimming ability of our youth. Sealord Swim For Life is a comprehensive national project established to:

- Provide all children with access to the water;
- Facilitate the delivery of quality swim and survive programmes in primary schools;
- Provide the foundations for the development of a culture that produces generations of New Zealand families that are water safe.

For more information go to [www.sealordswimforlife.org.nz](http://www.sealordswimforlife.org.nz)

