



The
**Auckland
Climber**

December '08

www.aucklandclimber.org.nz



Welcome to December's edition of the NZAC Auckland Section's newsletter. The section runs a variety of alpine, climbing and other trips and courses throughout the year and new members are always welcome. The club generally meets on the first Monday of every month at St Luke's Community Centre, Remuera Rd, Newmarket at 7.30 pm, but check the newsletter for exceptions.

Climber Content

Is there anything you would like to see in the newsletter? Do you have a suggestion for improving the newsletter? If so, drop us a line, we're keen to hear from you. Alternatively, we love getting submissions from members – whether they be Trip Reports, Items for Sale or rants. Just send your material to the editor by the 15th of the month

preceding. Call Suzanne Stickney on 845 1433 or email suzstick@hotmail.com

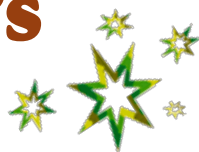
Change of Address

For any change of address, or to request to receive your newsletter by email (better for us and the environment!) contact: subscriptions@alpineclub.org.nz
NZAC Auckland Section, PO Box 3036, Auckland

Special event:

Pull on your whites and polish your balls for the

Auckland Section's Christmas Party!



Members and friends all welcome

When: Sunday Dec 14th, 3.30pm onwards.

Where: Stanley Bay Bowling Club, Stanley Point Road, Devonport

Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non members (includes bowls, petanque, instruction if you need it, and dinner. There is a bar with excellent prices)

Tickets: Available from www.aucklandclimber.org.nz, from Suzanne at Galbraiths Ale House, 10 Dec from 8.30pm or phone her on 486 2024 or suzstick@hotmail.com

You may not think that bowls could make for a lively afternoon but you are so wrong!

We want to see everyone in suitable bowling attire (prize for best dressed!) as we take to the greens for an afternoon of friendly competition – bowls, petanque and some alpine-related games, followed by a hearty festive buffet dinner, a few glasses of wine, a surprise speaker and music. Friends and family are very welcome. If you haven't been to this place before, you will fall in love with it, we guarantee it!

Come and meet some of your fellow Alpine Club members!

See you all there! Merry Christmas!

Auckland News



Ruapehu 2009 Hut Bookings

Lots of pencil bookings coming in for Ruapehu Hut's 2009 season.

If you haven't yet thought about your requirements for Section trips and courses, it would pay to pencil in as early as possible for group bookings, to avoid missing out.

The ANU Expedition to Mt Sabre 2009

The Mountaineering Club of the Australian National University in Canberra has awarded an expedition fund grant to four of its members to travel to the Darren Mountains in New Zealand to gain experience on some big rock climbs. The target is the NE Buttress of Mt Sabre, a classic route of twenty odd pitches up to grade 17. Charles Jenkins, a senior fellow in the Astronomy dept with the assistance of his wife Fiona and Guy Coulson of the NZAC Auckland section will lead the trip. The aim of the trip is to bring three young (undergraduate or postgraduate) student members of the club on a training expedition to give them a taste of climbing on big hills in remote areas – with the hope that they'll then go on to bigger and better things in the greater ranges.

The trip will take place in late February to early March 2009 with the idea of walking in to the Phil's Bivy area from the Gunn Hut, setting up camp and then seeing what develops, mostly with the weather of course. We would welcome any advice on climbing in the area, particularly on logistics and transport into and out of the Hollyford Valley, and any details on where exactly the route up the Sabre goes (avoiding the 'wally stopper' pitch if possible). Contact Guy Coulson on guyesther@maxnet.co.nz

¹Joe Brown's description of the hard move that appears a few meters up Cenotaph Corner. I don't know if "wally" translates south of the equator.

National News

UIAA Youth Camp

As part of the GlobalYouth Summit 2009, the Mountain Club of South Africa is inviting young mountaineers to an international youth meet, "Trekking in South Africa's 'Dragon Mountains'".

The event will take place in the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park, which has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, from July 11-18, 2009.

The event will be open for 8-12 participants aged 16–25 who are members of one of the UIAA member federations (eg NZAC).

The programme will include day-walks in the valleys and a choice of multi-day bivouac trips either to the escarpment (~3,000m) or trekking in the foothills, called the Little Berg. Detailed plans will be adjusted to the group's ability and experience, as well as weather conditions.

The price is Euro 230 per person, which includes transport from the airport, accommodation with members prior to the event if required, full board during the camp and transport back to the airport, management and leadership.

Deadline for registration: 15 May 2009

For more info contact ollie@alpineclub.org.nz



CHALLENGING TREKKING & MOUNTAINEERING

Looking for a more challenging holiday
adventure? Try these on for size...

LUKLA TO GOKYO LAKES
Independent lodge based trekking with expert guide and porters
19 Days from \$2047 per person

EVEREST BASE CAMP & ISLAND PEAK
Small group, lodges & camping, trekking & non-technical climb
22 Days from \$2745 per person (plus local payment)

MERA PEAK
Small group, fully inclusive & guided Everest Trek & Mera Peak Summit
24 Days from \$5805 per person

Prices are based on a twin share basis, subject to availability and change without notice. All trips start and finish in Kathmandu, Nepal. International Airfares are additional. Call us for the detailed trip notes and earlybird discounts available for a limited time on some 2009 trips.

Tel 09-355-9095 or visit adventuretravel.co.nz for more info

Adventure Travel
Life. Time. Experience

Government of Pakistan to continue with reduced peak prices in 2009

Details below:

- i. Zero royalty fee for peaks up to 6500-M.
- ii. 10% royalty fee on mountains situated in Chitral, Gilgit and Ghizer except on Spantik/Golden Peak.
- iii. 05% royalty fee on all peaks during winter season(December-February)
- iv. 50% discount on royalty fee on all peaks except as mentioned in (i) and (ii) above as per following beak-up:

S.No.	Height of Mountain	50% Discounted Fee for the Year 2009(US\$)	
		Full Team of 7 members	Each Additional Member
1	K-2 (8611 – M)	6000	1000
2	8001 – 8500 – M	4500	750
3	7501 – 8000 – M	2000	250
4	7001 – 7500 - M	1250	150
5	6501 - 7000 - M	750	100

Prices in \$ US

Date Change for Climbing Camp

This years Alpine Club climbing camp will now start on the 28 December and not the 27 as previously advertised. Please contact Margaret McMahon in Christchurch (details in committee contacts list).

Two new books from the Alpine Club

Both available from Margaret McMahon (details in committee contacts list)

Mountaineering from the Milford Rd by Gerard Hall-Jones

An illustrated history of mountaineering in the Milford region 1895 to 1970.

Includes 130 early black & white and colour photographs.

1st edition 2008

\$45 (NZAC Members \$40)

The Comprehensive Castle Hill Climbing Guide

Spittle Hill, Castle Hill Basin, is one of New Zealand's prime climbing locations and is ranked along side many of the best climbing areas of the world. We are proud to present an easy to follow guide that covers this ever-popular area of Castle Hill. 44 page soft cover book with descriptions and locations of 75 routes and over 1800 boulder problems.

By Alan Davison & Matt Pierson

1st Edition 2008

\$45 (NZAC Members \$35)

National Bouldering Series

The National Bouldering Series is really fun, only competitive if you want it to be and you can win great prizes. Start limbering up, bring your friends and have a brilliant day at our best bouldering destinations nationally. Don't forget we supply the sausies and drinks afterwards. Visit www.nbs.org.nz for instructions on where and how to wear out your fingertips.



Winter climbing meet in the Lofoten islands – 8-15 March 2009

Norwegian Alpine Club (NTK) would like to invite two climbers from your organization to an international climbing meet in the Lofoten islands, in the North of Norway. The theme for the meet is adventure, and the area has a lot off potential for new routes. There are even rumors that some peaks haven't even had a first winter ascent. The conditions are good for climbing icefalls, Scottish type mixed climbing and granite rock climbing. All this will be made available to the international guests by the local climbing club, Lofoten Tindeklubb, who is willing to share their information on what's not done, and in general be your hosts, with all that means in

this part of Norway . They will help the guests to find suitable objectives, drive them by car or boat, and pick the climbers up again after the climb.

Experience:

Climbers that can take care of themselves in a cold climate, and are skilled in their craft

Venue and dates

Venue: Kalle Hovedgård , 8310 Kabelvåg i Lofoten , Norway

Dates : Sunday 8 March to Sunday 15 March 2009

Arrival: Sunday evening the 8 March and departure day Sunday the 15th of March.

Travel and accommodation

The guests need to make their own travel arrangements to the Lofoten Islands . The airport closest to this event is Svolvær Lufthavn. Another option, which is cheaper, is to fly to Harstad/Narvik Lufthavn and then be picked up by us. This takes a couple of hours by car to the venue. The accomodation, the meals and local transport is paid by us.

How to apply

Send a E-mail to this email address marius.morstad@nih.no before 1 January 2009.



Trips

Do you have a new trip idea? Perhaps you missed one before and want a repeat? We can only run as many trips as there are organisers. Volunteer to lead just one trip this year and get to do it where, when and with who you want. You don't need to be the most proficient person on the trip, you are not a guide: it's about car-pooling, collating emergency details and forwarding information to the trip participants. Make your dream trip happen this winter, contact Richard (reveritt@ihug.co.nz) or Magnus (hammarsal@hotmail.com). Also email us to obtain updates to this list. Trips marked with "organiser tba" means that we don't have a trips organised allocated and that trip can't go ahead until we find a volunteer to do so.... All suggestions for trips welcome!

December


Christmas Party

Dec 14

When: Sunday Dec 14th, 3.30pm.

Where: Stanley Bay Bowling Club, Stanley Point Road, Devonport




Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non members

 Tickets available from Suzanne on 486 2024 or suzstick@hotmail.com or www.aucklandclimber.org.nz

Rock climbing at Ti Point

Dec 13

A one dayer to give you an excuse for a Sunday away from all those Christmas preparations. Ti Point offers both trad and sport climbing in a beautiful seaside setting. Optional Saturday departure with a stay at Goat Island camp site to get some extra climbing in, or even some diving/snorkelling at the marine reserve....

 Magnus Hammarsal  hammarsal@hotmail.com  021 31 44 22

February 2009

Adventure photography workshop

Feb 7-8




Marty is going to run adventure photography workshop in first weekend of February 2009, 7th and 8th. More details will be announce later.

March 2009

Hut Working Bee

Mar 14/15

A chance to make use of the long summer days to work on the hut before the snow comes.




 Brad White  Whitebradnzl@hotmail.com  021 918 642

April 2009

Hut Working Bee

Apr 17/18

A chance to make use of the long summer days to work on the hut before the snow comes.

 Brad White  Whitebradnzl@hotmail.com  021 918 642

Trip Report

Taranaki – Labour weekend

Martin, Magnus, Theresa, Anthony, Andrew G, Andrew B, Ruth, Kenyon, Cormac, Georg, John.

Trip report by Anthony Stead

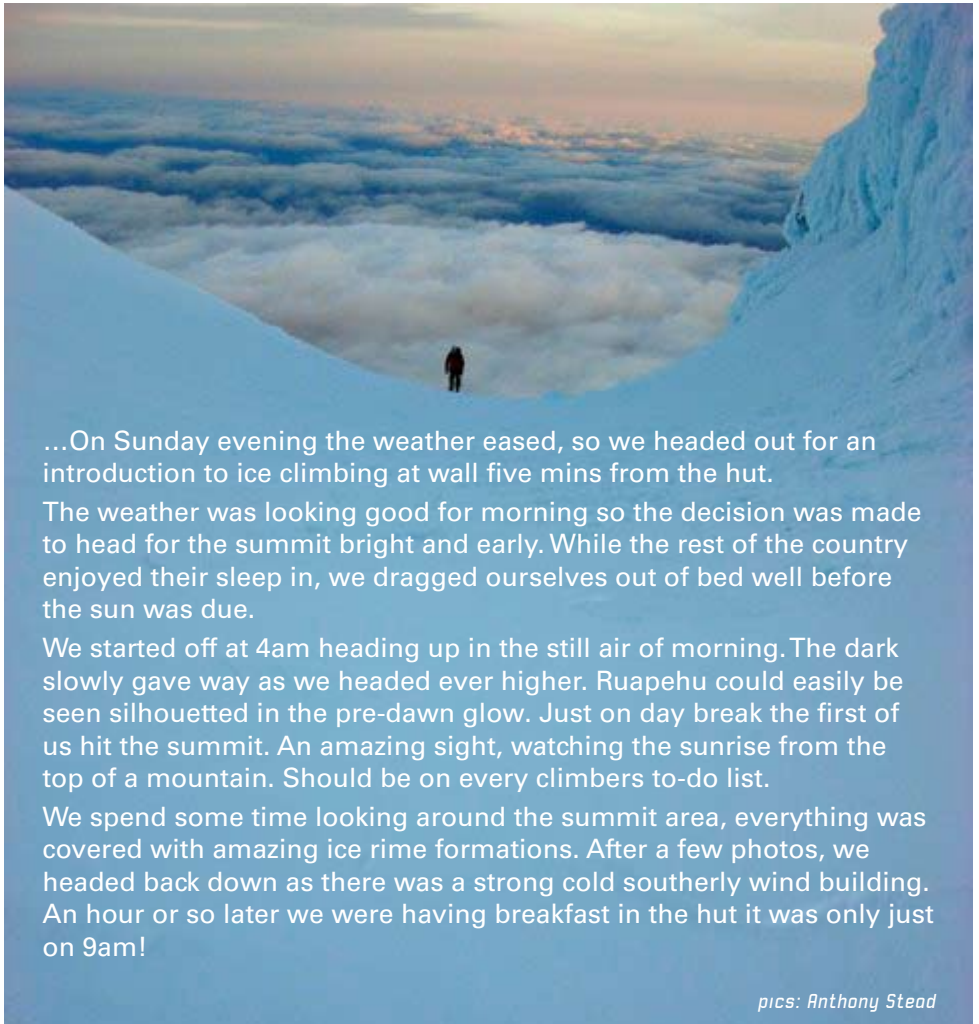
Labour Weekend 2008

We Left

Auckland at 5pm on Friday, our goal was the Taranaki Alpine club hut half way up the North-East side Mt Taranaki. Five hours later we arrived at the car park at the base of the mountain in the pouring rain. No one in the car had been to the hut before so we had no idea what we were in for. With the all the cloud, rain and dark, we almost blindly headed up the track. 1.5 hours later we saw the dim glow of a light out of the haze, we'd found our home for next few days.

Saturday morning greeted us with good low-level vis but as we started up the mountain the conditions quickly worsened. After 400 vertical meters the visibility dropped and rain/wind started, and we quickly made the choice to return to the hut. The following 30 hours produced high winds and snow down to the car park at the base of the mountain...





...On Sunday evening the weather eased, so we headed out for an introduction to ice climbing at wall five mins from the hut.

The weather was looking good for morning so the decision was made to head for the summit bright and early. While the rest of the country enjoyed their sleep in, we dragged ourselves out of bed well before the sun was due.

We started off at 4am heading up in the still air of morning. The dark slowly gave way as we headed ever higher. Ruapehu could easily be seen silhouetted in the pre-dawn glow. Just on day break the first of us hit the summit. An amazing sight, watching the sunrise from the top of a mountain. Should be on every climbers to-do list.

We spend some time looking around the summit area, everything was covered with amazing ice rime formations. After a few photos, we headed back down as there was a strong cold southerly wind building. An hour or so later we were having breakfast in the hut it was only just on 9am!

pics: Anthony Stead

2008/09 committee contacts

Chairperson & Section Rep – Deryn Williams

Phone: 441 3094
email: deryn@hyper.net.nz

Treasurer & Section Rep – Allan MacLachlan

Phone: 579 8009
email: allan_mac@xtra.co.nz

Secretary, Newsletter Editor & Events

– Suzanne Stickney
Phone: 486 2024
email: suzstick@hotmail.com

Trips Organisers

Richard Everitt
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Magnus Hammersal
Phone: 021 314 422
email: hammarsal@hotmail.com

Hut Managers – Brad White (& Richard Knott)

Phone: 021 918642

Instruction & SnowCraft Organiser – Chris Munro

Phone: 029 238 6230
email: nzacsnowcraft@gmail.com

Meetings Organiser – Matt Robertson

Phone: 362 1984
email: matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com

Vice-Chair & Membership – John Salisbury

Phone: 834 6699
email: jmsalisbury@googlemail.com

Librarian & Events Assistant – Andrew Hinkes

Ruapehu Hut Bookings – Margaret McMahon

Phone: National Office (03) 377 7595
during office hours
email: admin@alpineclub.org.nz



More images from
the Taranaki trip
Anthony Stead

