



The  
**Auckland  
Climber**

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

September '09

*trip report*

**tukino**

*meeting next month*

**double  
billing:  
Toby &  
Peter**

*Welcome to the September 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 7.15 pm, but check the newsletter for exceptions.*

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***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. Contact Ant Stead by emailing: newsletter@aucklandclimber.org.nz

***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

***This month's meeting:***

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There is no regular meeting on the first Monday in September – Stephen Venables came just a day earlier on August 31 – so we counted it as September.

Look out for some great meetings this year!

***Next month's meeting:***

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**Monday October 5, 7.15pm, St Lukes Church Hall, Remuera.**

## **KHAN TENGRI**

**(7101m) , Khazakstan by Toby Johnson**

Toby climbed Khan Tengri, 1 of the 5 “snow leopard peaks”, in 2000, the last 1000m solo, with an unplanned bivvy at 6850m. Toby's adventure was a true epic and anyone from newbies to old hands will be recognise many of the themes: judgement calls, mistakes and successes, and hard work.



***and***

*‘The formula I use to climb mountains successfully from my Auckland base camp’*

**by Pete Cammell**

Toby will be followed by NZAC President Elect, Pete Cammell on climbing from an Auckland base camp. Pete has climbed extensively in New Zealand, with the Mt Cook region becoming a firm favourite early in his climbing career. He's also climbed in the European Alps, the Himalayas, Africa and the US, including Yosemite's Half Dome. Along the way he's bagged a number of first ascents. Currently he's climbing voraciously in New Zealand and has climbed all but one of Hugh Logan's 'Classic Peaks'.



# National News

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## *Armchair Mountaineering – On Special*

The bibliography of New Zealand mountain climbing by Graham Langton has just gone on special. Down from \$10 members and \$15 non members, it is now available for only \$8.50 each + p&p.

Order online direct from our homepage [www.alpineclub.org.nz](http://www.alpineclub.org.nz) with Visa or MasterCard, or send your order through with payment to the Club's National Office – NZAC, PO Box 786, Christchurch 8140.

## *NZAC member lost in Avalanche*

The club was saddened to hear of the death of heliskiing guide Jonathan Morgan in an avalanche at the Ragged Range near Methven in August. Jonathan was a veteran guide with Alpine Guides and respected for his dedicated and cautious approach to mountaineering and the mountains. In 2004 he received a Royal Humane Society medal recognising his efforts to save a skier who had fallen through a snow bridge and into a crevasse on the Ramsay Glacier.

## *Anyone lost an ice screw?*

Our party found an ice screw on Sunday morning (9 Aug) on Ruapehu below the Chiming Bells route. It is a number 13. If the owner can identify the brand, we can return it to them. Mobile 021 766 120.

## *2 Ski Mountaineering Races*

The Scarpa Craigieburner ski mountaineering race will be taking place this year on the 5th of September, 8.30 am at Craigieburn Valley Ski Area. Competitors will have the chance to use the lifts or their own steam to race around the mountain. It is essentially a day's ski touring or club field skiing condensed into about 1-2 hours. For more info go to [www.craigieburner09.blogspot.com](http://www.craigieburner09.blogspot.com).

The Tour is a 2 day, backcountry ski touring team race, based out of Cheeseman Ski Area. The Tour will take place on the 19th and 20th of September 2009 and follow a similar format to some of the biggest ski mountaineering races in Europe. Teams of 2 will travel together, following an established course. For more information email [info@thetournz.com](mailto:info@thetournz.com)

# Auckland News

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## *Auckland Section AGM*

The NZAC Auckland section AGM was held on Monday August 3rd 2009 at St Lukes Community Centre – Remuera Road, Newmarket

**1) Introductions to existing 2008 committee. Each committee member gave a run down of their portfolio for the year.**

Deryn Williams – President

John Salisbury – Membership / Vice President

Chris Munro – Chief Instructor and newsletter

Brad White – Hut Maintenance

Allan MacLauchlan – Treasurer

Richard Everitt and Magnus Hammarsal – Trips

Suzanne Stickney – Events and newsletter

### **Issues of note:**

**Instruction:** Chris Munro provided information for discussion on the proposed introduction of instructor qualifications.

**Meetings:** we have not had a meetings' person for most of this year.

**Hut:** Ruapehu hut looking good – but rubbish underneath needs removing. Need to look at Whangaehu Hut now.

**Trips:** always looking for new trips.

**Financials:** Dick Seddon asked whether the gear assets were worth as much as our accounts show they are worth.

## **2) New Committee for 2009 nominated, seconded and welcomed**

Chris Munro- President Auckland section and Chief Instructor

Magnus Hammarsal – Trips

Pete Cammell – Meetings

Christa Dickson – Membership and Vice President

Suzanne Stickney – Events

Sean Wright – Treasurer

Brad white – Hut Maintenance

Deryn Williams: website and instructing (ex officio)

Also on the committee:

Gerald Lanning

Toby Johnston

Charis Wong

## **3) Points raised in 'any other business'**

- a) Library: Enthusiasm to see the library back – both the old library and new additions.
- b) Kit: John Salisbury suggested that we need someone to maintain the club's kit – or at least to check its worthiness. Deryn Williams added that the club is well equipped but keeping it that way is difficult unless someone takes responsibility. Suggestion to buy harnesses.
- c) Meetings – Pete Cammell wants to see better meetings, and more money spent on meetings. Suggested that meetings need to engage with all our members of all ages. (and has subsequently become Meetings person!).
- d) Membership – Deryn wants to see some NZAC brochures at Extreme Edge and other places.
- e) Allan gave a vote of thanks for outgoing president Deryn Williams' contribution.

## **Stephen Venables talk**

It's not often we get such a celebrated climber visiting New Zealand and those who managed to get along were treated with some great stories from his many trips into the greater ranges in Asia. A big thanks to all who helped organise this, especially Suzanne Stickney who unfortunately couldn't be there on the night due to illness.



## **2009 committee & contacts**

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### **Chairperson & Chief Instructor** – Chris Munro

Phone: 029 2386230

email: [chairperson@aucklandclimber.co.nz](mailto:chairperson@aucklandclimber.co.nz)

### **Vice-Chair & Membership** – Christa Dickson

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### **Treasurer** – Sean Wright

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### **Secretary** – Gerald Lanning

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### **Trips** – Magnus Hammarsal

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### **Hut Manager & Gear Organiser** – Brad White

Phone: 021 918642

email: [hut@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:hut@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Meetings** – Peter Cammell

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### **Hire Gear** – Cormac Flynn

email: [gear@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:gear@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Website** – Deryn Williams

email: [webmaster@aucklandclimber.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@aucklandclimber.org.nz)

### **Ruapehu Hut Bookings** – Margaret McMahon

Phone: National Office (03) 377 7595

during office hours

email: [admin@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:admin@alpineclub.org.nz)

# 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 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!

*Alpine climbing is dangerous! You need to have the appropriate skill for any trip that you wish to attend.*

## **Grading Levels:**

**Beginner** means someone who is at least a current SnowCraft student, and is competent with the skills covered on the course to that date.

**Intermediate** would be proficient in all the basic alpine skills taught on the course.

**Advanced** would have already gained further alpine experience and is comfortable on alpine grade 2+ climbs.

You may need to assure the organiser that you have the appropriate skill level before they let you attend. The best way to do this is to attend the monthly Monday night meeting, introduce yourself to the organiser and tell them what skills and experience you have. This is not just for your safety but for the safety of others on the trip.

## September

### *Girdlestone*

*Sept 5-6*

Climbing on one of Ruapehu's classic peaks. Details coming soon.

**Level** *Intermediate*

 **Gerald Lanning**

### *Whakapapa-Tukino traverse*

*Sept 12-13*

Have bunks booked at the NZAC Hut. Suggestion has been made of a Whakapapa-Tukino traverse, climbing peaks and/or ice along the way. Could be done as two parties, one starting at Whakapapa, spending Friday night there and Saturday at Whangaehu Hut, one party doing the same trip in reverse. Otherwise suggest your own objectives, based from the NZAC Hut!

**Level** *Beginner/Intermediate*

 **Magnus Hammarsal**  [hammarsal@hotmail.com](mailto:hammarsal@hotmail.com)  **021 314 422**

## October

### *Mt Ruapehu*

*Oct 10-11*

A chance for new snowcrafters to get out there and put their newly learnt skills to the test together with other club members. Climb to the top, climb on the Pinnacles or climb whatever takes your fancy.

 **Magnus Hammarsal**  [hammarsal@hotmail.com](mailto:hammarsal@hotmail.com)  **021 314 422**

### *Mt Taranaki*

*Oct 24-26*

Staying at Taranaki Alpine Club's Tahurangi Lodge. Chance for summiting, ice climbing etc. dependent on the size and ability of the group. Great chance for snowcraft graduates to put new skills to the test.

**Level** *Beginner/Intermediate*

 **Ant Stead**  [antstead@gmail.com](mailto:antstead@gmail.com)



## November

### *Massey University Hut, Turoa*

*Nov 7-8*

Tahurangi and/or Girdlestone – maybe even traverse the two. Tahurangi would be good for ex snowcrafters or beginners and the traverse for intermediate level.

**Level** *Beginner/Intermediate*

 **Shane Inder**  [S.Inder@massey.ac.nz](mailto:S.Inder@massey.ac.nz)

## Trip report

# Whangaehu / Tukino

by Antony Stead

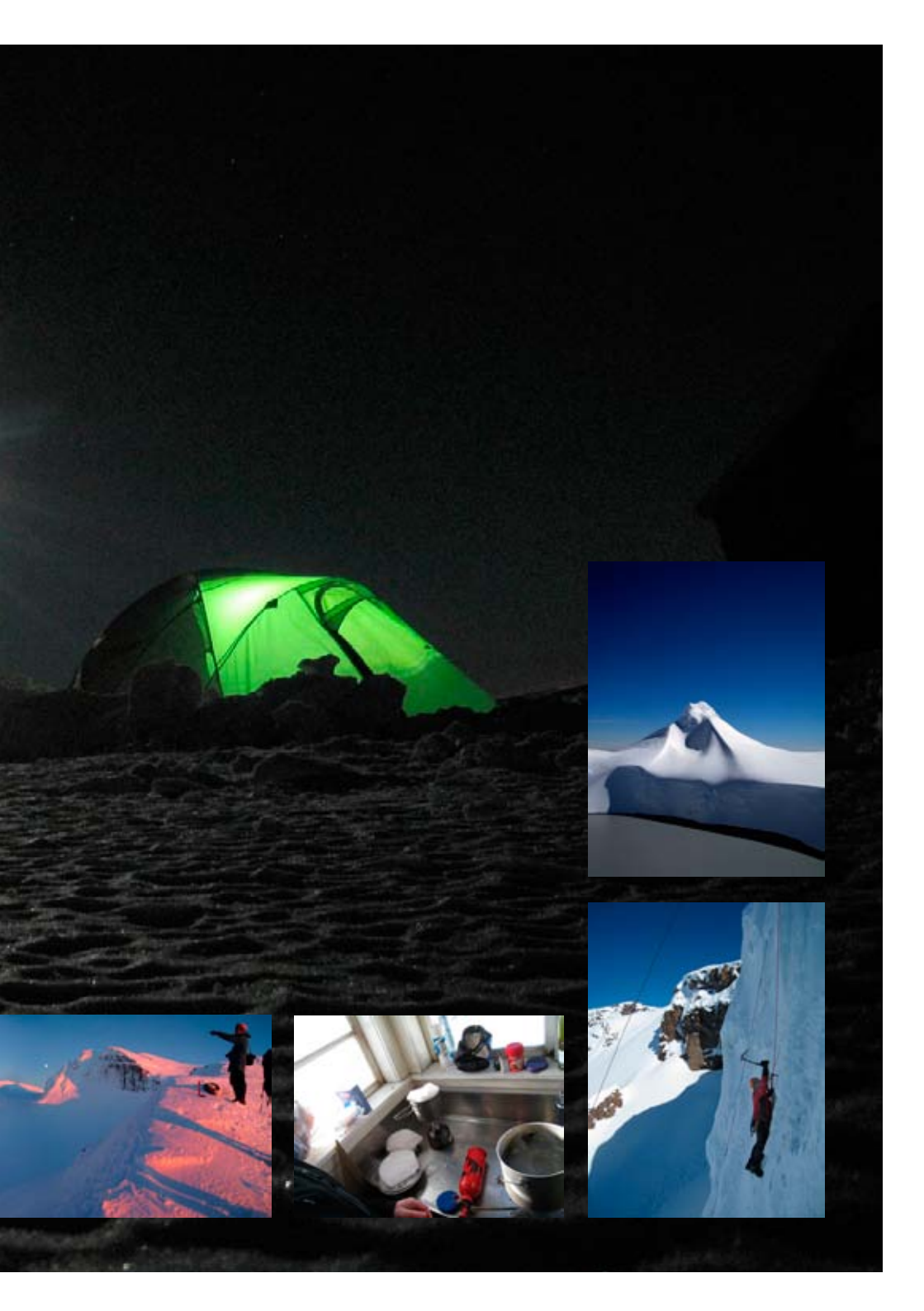
It was looking to good to be true, two near-on perfect weekends on Ruapehu. The entire mountain was laid out in front of me without a cloud to be seen.

“Margaret’s Leap” is the arguably the most accessible ice face in Tongariro National Park. A mere half-hour walk from the car park and it came into view. There was a good covering of ice/snow, and lots of different grades of climbing – enough for all to play. I started on what was basically a steep snow climb, and by the end of the day, I was tackling big vertical sections further along the face. We had three ropes going at the same time on the face.

As the light started to fade, we headed for the NZAC Whangaehu Hut. There were 10 of us in total but only 6 beds, so there were a few campers. An alpine start was needed to make the most of the great conditions on Sunday, so we headed up the mountain with the moon shining down followed by the pre-dawn glow of the sun. There was an amazingly quick change of colour as the sun came over the horizon. Some moved up the Cathedral Rocks and over to Te Heu Heu peaks, some headed back down to the hut for breakfast.

After breakfast we head back up the mountain again, suckers for punishment some would say! Now the sun was baking us in the still, summer-like conditions. We attempted to head up to the ridge that leads up to the summit, but the sun was so intense, that we became increasingly worried how the face would hold up to the fourth day of sun. There were pieces of ice raining down on us and it was still only early in the day, so we pulled the pin on that route and headed to Pyramid Peak where we could see climbers peppered across the peaks, making the most of the conditions. After lunch, we removed our crampons and slid back down to the hut. All in all, it was a great trip, the weather was very kind and the only thing that limited us was our physical ability.







Tukino hut



Top: 'The Swedes'  
Bottom: 'The Irish'

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