



# *Auckland Climber*

## **Welcome to the New Zealand Alpine Club Auckland Section Newsletter.**

Join us for alpine or rock climbing trips, and social or armchair climbing. Meetings are usually held at St Luke's Community Centre, 130 Remuera Rd, Newmarket on the first Monday of each month – exceptions will be published. Meetings begin at 7:30pm with announcements and usually a slide show, then tea & coffee and nibbles are provided afterwards. A gold coin donation for food and refreshments is appreciated.

*This month's meeting:* **Monday August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Speaker: Allan Uren**

**Topic: How I got into climbing**

Allan Uren moved to Wanaka in 1977 and his proximity to the Aspiring region germinated the mountaineering seed. He has climbed in Alaska and elsewhere in the USA, for example the Cassin Route on Denali's (Mt McKinley) south face. His ways of supporting his climbing habit are varied – he has been a painter and decorator, abseil access technician, kitchen-hand, ski-patroller and more recently a freelance writer. He has had articles published in *The Climber*, *New Zealand Alpine Journal*, *New Zealand Geographic*, *Wilderness* and *Adventure* magazines. Co-author of the NZAC Mt Aspiring Region guidebook. He currently lives, loves and climbs from a new base in Fox Glacier.

*Next month's meeting:* **Monday September 6<sup>th</sup>**

## *Committee Contact Information*

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<b>Sarah Owen</b> Snowcraft Organiser	027 5589081	Sarah.Owen@acnielsen.co.nz

## *Gear for sale*

- **Bivy Bag**, made by BASK: [www.bask.info](http://www.bask.info) . Waterproof & highly breathable. Weighs only 450gm. Brand new. Excellent emergency shelter. \$190
- Very light and compact red BASK **down jacket** designed for extreme alpine performance. Insulation: white goose down 400gm (F.P. 750 +/- 5%). Weight: 1-1.2 kg; Temp rating: down to - 25 C. \$400  

Call Alex 021 1609217
- North Face "Arctic Patrol" **parka**, synthetic fill, unused, size L \$300
- Mountain Hardwear "Chugach" **pants**, synthetic fill, unused, size L, \$200
- Marmot mountain **jacket**, 3-ply goretex, used very good condition, size L, \$350 ono  

Call Eric 09 266-2966 after 6pm
- Lowa **plastic boots**. Women's size 5 (UK). Brand new (wrong size!) \$299  

Call Dan (03) 479 9928 or 021 176 9893, or e-mail: [dallan@nhnz.tv](mailto:dallan@nhnz.tv)
- 170cm Rossignol **skis** with Silvretta **ski-touring** bindings & skins, plus 185cm Volke skis without bindings \$300  

Call Marcel 09 636 5345
- Beal 8.6mm x 50m Dry **rope** - excellent condition RRP \$279, only \$150
- Black Diamond Express **ice screws** 17cm and 22cm - good condition RRP \$149, only \$75  

Call Nick 6390963 or 021-1404845

# Notices



## **NZAC National Annual Climbing Camp Ahuriri Valley 31<sup>st</sup> Dec to 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2005**

Canyon Creek in the Ahuriri Valley is a fantastic area, much of which was recently purchased by the Nature Heritage Fund for public use, and is administered by DoC. The valley provides easy access to mountain routes with a range of difficulties and also has some excellent walking possibilities in forest and open tussock country. Road access is possible

all the way to camp. The Mt Brewster to Barron Saddle guidebook written by Ross Cullen, gives details of mountain routes ranging from Grades 1 to 5, including Mt St Mary, Mt Barth and the challenging Mt Huxley. The mountains in this area offer some excellent challenges to the new climber looking to extend his or her horizons, as well as to more mature club members wishing to relive their glory days. There are several possibilities for multi-day circular trips beginning at the campsite, and supporters will also be able to access this camp, enabling non-climbing partners and families to participate in the great mountain atmosphere in one of the more beautiful valleys in the Southern Alps. To find out more you can visit our website at [www.alpineclub.org.nz](http://www.alpineclub.org.nz) and look under Activities >Climbing Camps or email: [climbingcamp@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:climbingcamp@alpineclub.org.nz)



## **Poems from the Mountains and Valleys of New Zealand**

This collection, "Always a little further: poems of mountains and valleys", celebrates the mountains and valleys of New Zealand and those who go there. Barry Smith's poems and photos capture the motives and inspirations of those who venture beyond road-ends. They explore youth, age, tramping, summitting, the weather, hunting, campfires, maps, huts and bivvies, and other outdoor experiences. This is the first New

Zealand book of poems with a mainly alpine theme. Barry Smith, retired scientist, mountaineer for 50 years, has written poetry for over 25 years. His poems have appeared in several of NZ's poetry publications and the New Zealand Alpine Journal. RRP \$19.99. Copies may be obtained from the author – Barry Smith, 56 Orchard Avenue, Hamilton, or at [2smiths@wave.co.nz](mailto:2smiths@wave.co.nz)



## **Arthur's Pass Nat Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Sept**

DoC is organizing a weekend of celebrations for this event with many speakers, walks, displays and other activities to commemorate the anniversary. See the DoC website or email Wayne Costello, Waimakariri Area Office, [wcostello@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wcostello@doc.govt.nz) for details.

## **O'nuku's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday - AUTC nostalgia opportunity - 7<sup>th</sup> Aug**

The AUTC hut in the Waitakeres, Ongaruanuku, is sixty years old in August 2004. AUTC is planning to have a hut birthday celebration on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Aug. The plan is to have a shared lunch (12:30) at the hut that day, with the possibility of staying on for a barbeque dinner (5:30) and maybe to stay overnight if you want to do that as well. RSVP to the organiser Matt Healy: [m.healy@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.healy@auckland.ac.nz)

## **Banff Film Festival Prize Draw Winners**

Congratulations to the winners of the prize draw: Deanne Douglas, Natasha Van Hoppe and Julia Purvis. Prizes kindly donated by Macpac, Bivouac Outdoors and Outdoor Action.

## **Snowcraft Course**

A new keen bunch of alpine mountaineers are currently being trained on the NZAC Akld Snowcraft Course, with the help of skilled volunteer instructors from the section. Note that the Ruapehu hut will be full for these weekends.

## **National Intermediate Instruction Courses**

14 Aug - 15 Aug, Ruapehu Intermediate Alpine Climbing, Ian Ruthven.

14 Aug - 15 Aug, Arthur's Pass Intermediate Climbing, Sunrockice Ltd.

August (to be confirmed, Remarkables Intermediate Climbing, Summits Etc.)

Please contact the NZAC National Office for more information on the courses (cost is \$199).

## **Notice from Ruapehu Hut Manager**

Remember to book your stay in the hut to avoid turning up to a over-full hut. Hut fees must be paid within 14 days of your trip. There are prepaid envelopes in the hut for your hut fees. Fees are \$15 (\$25 non-members) for Saturday night and \$10 (\$20 non-members) for any other night. An administration fee of \$10 on top of your hut fees is payable if you have not paid within 14 days.

Suresh Nanu, Hut Manager.

## **Ski-touring Trips**

I have booked limited space in the hut for 5 trips. The idea being that the first several trips will be open to all abilities. There will be no huge objectives so don't feel pressured. The later trips will have objectives and will only be suitable for people who are confident with their gear.

Kevin Jose Tel: 6244522 [Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz)

## **Website Watch**

[www.alpineclub.org.nz](http://www.alpineclub.org.nz) - subscription forms, alpine & rock climbing guidebooks, information about huts, regional and national club news, and inspirational articles.

[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) - track and park information, weather and maps.

[www.snow.co.nz](http://www.snow.co.nz) - latest snowfield information and webcams.

[www.avalanche.net.nz](http://www.avalanche.net.nz) - check the avalanche risk before heading out there.

[www.mountainz.co.nz](http://www.mountainz.co.nz) - share your mountain adventures.

# ***Trips***

If you have any questions about any of the trips regarding itinerary or skill levels required then contact the organiser for that trip or myself. To sign up, either contact the trip organiser or sign up at Auckland Section NZAC meetings. Trips marked with "organiser TBA" means that we don't have a trip organiser for that weekend. If you'd like to contribute by organising a trip yourself or have any more ideas of how we can make our trips programme better/more interesting then please contact me on 09 630-6265 or email on [kwt\\_lee@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:kwt_lee@yahoo.co.nz)  
Kathleen Lee (Auckland Section NZAC Trips Officer)

**July 31/ August 1 - Ski Touring Instruction Course** - organiser Andy Pulman  
Kevin Jose Tel: 6244522 [Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz)

**August 7/8 - Ski Touring** - Avalanche training on Sunday. This trip is full but if enough people are interested I might coordinate another.  
Kevin Jose Tel: 6244522 [Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz)

**August 7/8 or August 14/15 - Mangetepopo Hut.** Staying at the Mangetepopo Hut, options of summiting Ngauruhoe, Tongariro and doing the Tongariro Crossing itself in winter conditions. This area is ideal for snow craft course beginners where ability to self-arrest is a must.  
Pat Costello Tel: 479 4311 (h) [pat.costello@clear.net.nz](mailto:pat.costello@clear.net.nz)

**August 14/15 - Avalanche Awareness course Ruapehu**, run by Mountain Safety Council  
Mark Woods Tel: 07 377 6403 or 021 555 904 [info@peakrisk.co.nz](mailto:info@peakrisk.co.nz)

**August 21/22 – Ski touring trip** - See note above  
Kevin Jose Tel: 6244522 [Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz)

**August 22 - Kayaking at Herald Island** - Need to meet at my place at 9.30am ready for a 10am start to get full use of the tide. Up at Riverhead pub around 11.30 for an hour (max) then back at Herald Island around 2pm.  
Janet Holt [jmholt@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jmholt@xtra.co.nz)

**August 28/29 – Ruapehu hut booked for Snowcraft course weekend #2**

**September - 4/5 - winter tramp from NZAC hut on Ruapehu to Whangaehu Hut on Tukino Ski Field side.** A good chance to practice traversing across steep slopes on this trip (limited to 8 people max).  
Steve Venton Tel: 021 505 508 [steve.venton@bigfoot.com](mailto:steve.venton@bigfoot.com)

**September - 11/12 - Ski touring trip** - See note above  
Kevin Jose Tel: 6244522 [Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz)

**September - 18/19 - Ohakune - Ascent of Girdlestone and Taurangi from Turoa side** + options of ice climbing. Organiser TBA

**September 24/25 - Avalanche Awareness course Ruapehu**, run by Mountain Safety Council

Mark Woods Tel: 07 377 6403 or 021 555 904 [info@peakrisk.co.nz](mailto:info@peakrisk.co.nz)

**September 25/26 - Ruapehu hut booked for Snowcraft course weekend #3**

**October 2/3 - Ski touring trip** - See note above

Kevin Jose Tel: 6244522 [Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Jose.Brothers@xtra.co.nz)

**October 9/10 - Sea kayaking**

Allan Maclachlan Tel: 09 579 8009 [allan\\_mac@xtra.co.nz](mailto:allan_mac@xtra.co.nz)

**October 23/24/25 - Taranaki (Taurangi Lodge) - Labour weekend**

Kathleen Lee Tel: 09 630 6265 [kwt\\_lee@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:kwt_lee@yahoo.co.nz)

## ***Trip Reports from Members***

### **Mid Winter Christmas Trip Report – June 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

Kathleen was promising a turkey dinner with a difference – all the trimmings but not an oven in sight to cook it with, “come along and see...” went the ad in the *Climber*. Well, I had to go, even if the weather forecast wasn't helpful – perhaps there was of some kind of a long lost Maori hangi technique involving digging down in the snowpack to volcanic rocks or maybe some ‘hard bastard’ club tradition of eating raw turkey.

Saturday morning had us hemmed in with cloud but everyone was keen to get out in case this was the best of the weather. Mark went to look for a bit of waterfall ice, so I tagged along to give it a go. Just up from Delta Corner were two small waterfalls, the second one giving us some nice ice. Mark free-climbed up the short climb, the ‘crux’ being the bash through the small cornice at the top. I seconded on belay borrowing Mark's hammer. My first go at this and “I'm lovin' it!”



At around 2300m the viz cleared up as we rose above the cloud level. Not much to see – Ngauruhoe was cloaked by a dome of cloud – but seeing the top spurred us to plod on. At the Dome Shelter we snacked and came up with various plans for the rest of the day. As the cloud level rose to envelope our views once again, going back to the hut to imbibe in some early Mid-Christmas conviviality sounded very appealing. Deryn & Chris

looked for suitable lines to ski/board down, eventually heading for the Notch.

Brian, Alex, Peter & Eric headed for Tahurangi following the western ridge around the crater lake. Mark & I traversed around the inside of the crater lake, plugging through energy sapping knee-depth snow, hoping to tackle a more direct line up to Tahurangi, but as the cloud thickened, it didn't seem so appealing so we headed for the ridge earlier up a steep snow slope. At the ridgetop, we saw Alex & co making their way behind us up the ridgeline. We ditched our packs & climbed the last nub of rock to the summit. Mark managed to get up a nicely iced gut with one tool. I borrowed his hammer again for a bit more security to get up – the view under my feet of a direct line down to the Turoa T-bars was a little disconcerting for my comfort! At the top, the wind that had been practically absent all day elsewhere, caught us here, making our stay brief. We were above the cloud again here and were afforded great views over Waiouru and to the south. Starting down again, we got off the ridge and headed across to the Notch descending to the hut marvelling at the alpenglow bathing the Pinnacles and surrounding slopes, reaching Delta corner on sunset. Kathleen and Chris greeted us outside, taking a break from the mulled wine production and consumption enterprises taking place in the hut to admire the views.

Inside was a food & alcohol preparation sweatshop. Chris & Anna were adding croutons as a final touch for our delicious first course of tomato soup. Then after more mulled (or not) wine we were treated to roast turkey and steamed vegetables. Mark continued to do the rounds offering even more seconds of turkey and the remaining gallon of cheese sauce to any poor soul willing to stuff anymore



in. After being cajoled to eat more turkey than I ever thought possible, dessert arrived in the form of luscious crème anglaise with Christmas or chocolate pud. Of course, no hut weekend is complete without hut games and Deryn kicked them off with some rather painful looking tests of flexibility – obviously designed to show that men are the weaker (or at least, more inflexible) sex. Very demeaning to watch grown men – including myself – on their knees lunging for a party popper on the floor with their noses. Inevitably the telephone books came out and Chris & I managed a pretty ordinary eight. The next morning saw the return of the clag, but some hardy souls set forth for a bit of a gander up the Pinnacles.



I, like any finely tuned athlete, listened to my body and stayed put in the hut avoiding all possible movement. Lunchtime saw the cloud-level lift outside and the return of the turkey for those who lingered. We packed up and enjoyed a pleasant walk back to the carpark.

The turkey cooking technique was the tease and for those of you who were unfortunate enough not to make it to this

salubrious Solstice event the real trick remains a secret for you to discover next year. See you for a mulled wine toast then.

Cheers, Chris Munro

### ***For Sale***

Two pairs TELEMARCK ski boots (Garmont/Libero, Sizes 26.5 (about 8.5 US) and 28.5 (10.5 US)) and bindings (Voile, one pair standard and the other with release mechanism). Boots and bindings in very good condition. Price \$200 per set.

Boots are \$700 new. Also some skis if you want (90 cm and 210cm ).

Phone Butch 09 4147247

### ***Climber Content***

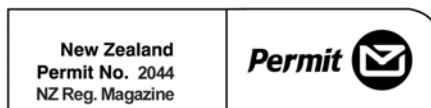
Deadline for each issue is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding. Send any content for the climber to the Editor, Deryn Williams, PO Box 4043, Auckland or [deryn@hyper.net.nz](mailto:deryn@hyper.net.nz). Send any photos for inclusion as a jpeg or tiff image, 300dpi at print size (up to 200mmx150mm/8"x6").

### ***Change of Address***

For any change of address, email your new details to NZAC headquarters.

[subscriptions@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:subscriptions@alpineclub.org.nz)

New Zealand Alpine Club  
Auckland Section  
PO Box 3036, Auckland



**The Auckland Climber - NZ Alpine Club Auckland Section Newsletter**