



Auckland Climber

Welcome to the New Zealand Alpine Club Auckland Section Newsletter.

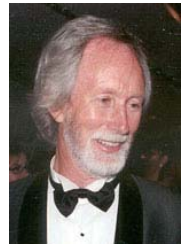
Join us for alpine or rock climbing trips, and social or armchair climbing. Meetings are usually held at St Luke's Community Centre, 130 Remuera Rd, Newmarket on the first Monday of each month – exceptions will be published. Meetings begin at 7:30pm with announcements and usually a slide show, then tea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

*This month's meeting: **Monday November 1st***

NZAC Auckland Xmas Dinner with Graeme Dingle

After last years very successful Christmas dinner we have decided to repeat the formula - great guest and great venue. This year our guest speaker is Graeme Dingle, ONZM, MBE.

Where? Langtons Restaurant, Summit Rd in Mt Eden
When? 6.30pm, Friday December 10th
How much? Cost is \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members



Join us with Graeme for the 2004 NZAC Auckland Section Christmas dinner. More details under Notices.

*Next month's meeting: **Monday February 14th***

So how was your Christmas holiday?

Bring along your slides and regale us with tall tales of high mountains conquered and far-off wilderness explored, and you might even be rewarded with a bottle of wine or a voucher for outdoor gear.

Committee Contact Information

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Sarah Owen Snowcraft Organiser	027 5589081	Sarah.Owen@acnielsen.co.nz

Gear for sale

- Pair of ski touring skis (good brand but old). Contact Deryn 021-627-892

Notices

NZAC Auckland Xmas Dinner with Graeme Dingle

Graeme is a Kiwi climbing legend. He has circumnavigated the Arctic, traversed the Southern Alps in a 100-day epic, climbed the six major European north faces in a single season, and more recently, he has turned his hand to helping challenged youth get a kick-start in life with a healthy dose of self-esteem through Project K. Graeme has received the MBE for services to outdoor pursuits and received the "Award of New Zealand" in 1995 for services to Sport & Recreation. To sign up for the dinner, send cheques made payable to "NZAC Auckland Section" to arrive no later than Friday 3rd December to the address below. I will confirm by return email or phone so please include one of these. For further details contact Tim Swain on 482 2275 / 021 064 2762 or tswain@ihug.co.nz.

Christmas Dinner
NZAC Auckland Section
PO Box 3036
Auckland

Rental Avalanche Transceivers

The Auckland Section has decided to invest in a set of ten avalanche transceivers to be made available to section members to rent (cheap!) for trips into the mountains. Keep yourself safe out there! Contact Suresh for bookings.

Cunning Running

For those of you who need a bit of practice with your navigation, and want some exercise thrown in, the Auckland Orienteering Club has a series of summer evening events in Auckland park areas. For some it's the opportunity to enjoy a summer evening outdoors, while others return sweaty, muddy and scratched. Get fit for those Christmas trips...

<http://www.orienteingauckland.org.nz/ssflyerfinal.pdf>

DOC news

- Elcho Hut in the Hopkins River valley, South Canterbury, was recently upgraded to DOC hut standards in a joint effort between DOC and NZAC. The hut, built in 1938, is an NZAC hut. DOC donated a log burner and fire surround as well as a fire escape ladder, then keen NZAC members from Oamaru installed all the new features and have brought the hut back up to scratch.
- Consultation is sought for upgrades and improvements to:
White Horse Hill Campground
Hooker Track
See the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz for details and to submit your comments.

NZAC National news

• *New National Instruction Courses*

Two courses will be run during February and March; alpine climbing and adventure rock climbing, aiming to encourage people to help out at section level with beginner and intermediate instruction by providing an incentive, and to up-skill lead instructors by exposure to best practice in the field. Participants will need to be nominated for the limited places available. Contact Dave Crofts (Section Rep) for more information.

• *Bevan Col Aircraft Landings*

The Aspiring National Park management plan review is coming up and the position of the Club on the matter of helicopter landings at Bevan Col was discussed recently. A national Club position was seen as important on the issue as we have a major interest with regards our Colin Todd Hut, but also regarding any changes in usage in the next ten years. A motion to the effect of the following was passed as a draft for further comment from members and sections:

“That the Club support a tightening of restrictions for aircraft landing at Bevan Col, including the possibility of banning flights during the busy summer months.”

• *Home of Mountaineering*

The search for a suitable home for the Club continues and we have been looking at commercial properties that may fit the bill. One option which is gaining favour is the purchase of a new property which would ensure better security for our valuable book collection, more usable space for the office and library, and be lower maintenance in the long term. This is a departure from the character houses that we have been

investigating closely up to this stage. A consultation phase with major donors will be undertaken to ensure that this change of direction is understood.

- **“Rock Deluxe”**

New rock climbing guidebook to selected South Island crags and boulders should be available by Christmas.

“Southern Faces” all ready to go for Christmas

Southern Faces is a feature-length film about the South Island climbing scene. It's a comprehensive film that features all aspects of rock climbing, from bouldering to sport routes, to multi-pitch trad lines, and includes loads of information and interviews at each of the areas they feature: Paynes, Charleston, Castle Hill, Port Hills, Dunedin, Wanaka, Queenstown and the Darrans. Look out for news of a screening in Auckland to be announced shortly, and the DVD will be available for order off the Southern Faces website www.southernfaces.co.nz soon.

Massage in the Bay

Kia ora koutou. There will be a massage service offered at Whanganui Bay this summer from Christmas onwards for three weeks and whenever I am at the Bay. There will be planting of natives at this time around the camp site as well. We have already planted some Pohutukawa to stop this area from getting too swampy and to make the campsite more accessible so please be aware of these plants. Noho ora, Kiri Diamond.

The Climber magazine 50th issue - Creative Writing Competition

The summer issue of *the climber* will be our 50th, and to celebrate we are announcing a creative writing contest open to all readers of *the climber*. There is a total \$1250 prize pool on offer and the best entries we receive will be published in the magazine. Stories can be either fiction or non-fiction, but an additional award will be given to the best pure fiction piece we receive. See the Noticeboard on the website for more info www.alpineclub.org.nz

NZAC National Annual Climbing Camp Ahuriri Valley 31st Dec to 8th Jan 2005

To find out more you can visit our website at www.alpineclub.org.nz or email: climbingcamp@alpineclub.org.nz

Tongariro National Park Mountain Shuttle - Discount for Members

20% member discount for Mountain Shuttle services around the Tongariro crossing. Contact Kevin Gardiner at Mountain Shuttle 0800 11 76 86.

Website Watch

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 - track and park information, weather and maps.
www.avalanche.net.nz - check the avalanche risk before heading out there.
www.mountainz.co.nz - share your mountain adventures.

Climber Content

Deadline for each issue is the 20th of the month preceding. Send any content for the climber to the Editor, Deryn Williams, PO Box 4043, Auckland or 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

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
Kathleen Lee (Auckland Section NZAC Trips Officer)

December 4 The Goat Alpine Adventure Run

An 18km Alpine Adventure Run, the event will commence at the Iwikau Village Amenity Area proceeding down the Bruce Road to the commencement of the Round the Mountain Track. The run will then proceed along the Round the Mountain track to the junction with the Ohakune Mountain Road turning left up the road to the finish line at the Turoa Ski Field amenity area.

www.thegoat.co.nz/index.html

December 5 Kauri Run

The Kauri Run is a tough 25km off road mountain run set in the spectacular but rugged Coromandel Peninsula. The race starts on Waikawau Beach on the Pacific Coast and finishes in the township of Coromandel. The run reaches 580m above sea level and includes 360 degree views of the Pacific Ocean and Hauraki Gulf.

www.kaurirun.co.nz

December 11/12 Ti Point rock climbing, Goat Island snorkelling

Could be a day trip or weekend trip depending on your time available. Plan is to leave Saturday morning, climb one day, snorkel the next (weather permitting) and camp north of Ti Point on Saturday night. You can hire snorkelling gear at the beach. This will be a great way to start your summer activities.

Tim Swain Tel 09 482 2275 tswain@ihug.co.nz

December 18/19 – January 12/13 NZAC summer South Island trips

Have fun down there!

January 22 Wild turkey off road half marathon + 16km fun run

21km in the Waitakere Ranges including the Pararaha Stream. Also a shorter 16km bush track only option

www.hunuahardman.co.nz/WildTurkey/wildturkey.htm

January 29/30/31 Auckland NZAC Annual Burns Supper (Taranaki)

Great summer rock climbing and tramping on Taranaki accompanied with the traditional Burns Supper on the Sunday night - Haggis, neeps, tatties, whisky, leek soup, sherry trifle, silly Scottish speeches. Join me in celebrating my Scottish heritage.

Kathleen Lee Tel: 09 630 6265 Kwt_lee@yahoo.co.nz

Trip Reports from Members

Sea Kayaking Trip Report, October 8th and 9th

Not put off by the bad weather reports, Alex, Allan, Brett, Deryn, Egor, Fraser, Grant, Jane, Karen, Kathleen, Sarah O & Sarah S headed to the Lake Tarawera Holiday Park. All arrived safely after the drive through some torrential rain; although Karen was a bit shaken after a possum committed suicide under her car, even after careful avoidance tactics were employed!



Saturday morning, it had finally stopped raining, and after "no fluffing around please" we got to our launching spot at Punaromia, right on time to meet the kayak hire man. All kitted up and ready to go we set off, with a few of us having to turn back a couple of minutes later to put on rain jackets! Still the rain didn't last long and we were soon enjoying our paddle around the lake, taking in the beautiful scenery, admiring the swans, ducks and kingfishers, and visiting the Tarawera eruption memorial at Moura Point. A few fishermen were on the lake but no spare trout were offered, much to our disappointment. Sarah O got in twice as much paddling as the rest of us in her sleek down river boat taking the opportunity to get some training in for the Coast to Coast.

By lunchtime we were at our Hot Water Beach campsite, tents were up, lunch was down and we were back in the kayaks stocked with red wine and heading for the best hot pool in town. A couple of casks and a bottle of wine later we were having a raucous time. (Apologies to the family we scared off!) A quick dip in the cold lake was had by all (goodness knows why but it seemed like a good idea at the time!), then some more relaxing in the hot pool with chips and dip that just had to be passed the correct way.



Back to the campsite, with some visiting another hot pool on the way, while others went for a run over to Lake Rotomahana and back.

Dinner was accompanied by more red wine and Egor's dessert of pancakes with sour cream & jam were to die for! Allan did a good job of tying up most of the food in the shelter but during the night the leftover pancakes became possum's delight! Revved up by the sugar rush, the possums had a right ole party in the middle of our campsite, knocking over pots and pans and crashing into Grant's tent in the excitement. A wee while later nature called for Kathleen and another possum's delight was to give her a fright!



Sunday we all headed over to Lake Rotomahana but this time Allan was the only one keen enough for a dip in the cool lake. The paddle back was via some more thermal springs with more beautiful scenery and wildlife. The trip back to Punaromia was a bit more challenging with the wind against us, but we all made it back safely having had a fantastic time.

Girdlestone via Blyth Hut, 16th and 17th Oct

Ciprian, Hamish, Joseph, Steve, Eric, Keith, Geoff, Chris, Georgina, Emma and Grant

The weekend storm was still building when we arrived at the shelter of Blyth Hut, late Friday night. After a few false starts the wood stove was fired up... and promptly dubbed the TV set!

Saturday, the storm continued as forecast. We embarked on a 6 hour "Storm Bash" eastwards on the Round the Mountain Track in a vain attempt to reach the Wahianoa Gorge. The frequent stream crossings providing ample opportunity for the less nimble to wash the mud from their boots.



Geoff, our local policeman, was aware of local conditions, and so joined us after our morning walk. The storm raged on unabated deep into the night. We drank, ate and made merry, while Joseph fed wood to our voracious TV set – all part of our secret plan to appease the weather gods.

Sunday started lethargically – none could believe the wind and rain had actually stopped! We set off for Girdlestone at a frantic pace in cloudless, balmy conditions, would the weather hold? Following a stream crossing, most of us still had dry feet...perhaps Saturday's practice had paid off after all. Sidling the ridge slowed Hamish slightly, as he had to chop steps between the rock bands. This was good; it allowed us mortals to almost catch up.

An oven-like snow bowl, between the south and southeast ridges, gradually steepened to the gnarly bits guarding the summit. We headed up the chutes between the cauliflowers on excellent firm snow. Steve and Emma pitched, while the rest of us, not wanting to demonstrate our lack of rope skills, teetered upwards. A whiteout descended to raise confidence levels – by



hiding the exposure. It also made arrival at the summit an unexpected event.

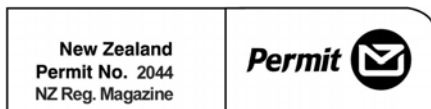


Technical difficulties were provided by sastrugi-encrusted gendarmes. One move across an ice balcony jutting precariously over an exposed gully should be remembered by most, especially as it had a large hole right through it! Georgina was uncontested winner of the 'biggest-goolies-award' by her use of only 1 tramping axe for the ascent.

We fixed ropes for the descent while the whiteout lifted, revealing the snowy splendours of Mitre, Cathedral Rocks and Tahurangi. The descent was, as they should be, uneventful.

This was despite the now balling snow and the trip leader's navigation. Arriving at the hut after a 10.5 hour funfest, we dredged energy levels for a packing frenzy before hoofing back to the cars and an early morning arrival home.

New Zealand Alpine Club
Auckland Section
PO Box 3036, Auckland



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