



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 months meeting: **Monday May 3***

Auckland Section Slide Competition

Bring along your best slides to compare with the best in the Section, or just come along for a fun evening. There will be prizes for the winners who will then be invited to enter the national photographic competition. See details below.



*Next months meeting: **Monday May 31st***

Note the change of date for Queen's Birthday

Speaker: Mark Jones



Mark Jones is a highly qualified and experienced outdoor educator, most recently lecturing in Auckland's University of Technology. His passion for adventure and expertise with a camera make him an outdoor journalist of increasing regard authoring numerous articles. He will talk to us about Adventure Philosophy and some of his adventures. See below for more details.

Committee Contact Information

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Climber Content

Deadline for each issue is the 20th of the month preceding. Send any content for the climber to 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

Gear for sale

- > Asolo Plastic Climbing Boots - Ladies, size 8 - \$300
Charlet Moser Black Ice Crampons (clip back, strap front) - \$150
Buy both as a set for \$385. Practically brand new - only used once!
Contact Melissa on (07) 542 0731 or mdonnelly@multiserve.co.nz
- > First Need water filter, not used, not needed - \$20
Contact Deryn deryn@hyper.net.nz

News

Banff Film Festival 2004 (Wed 26th May)

Whether you are an experienced mountaineer or an armchair adventurer, this event is for everyone. Don't miss the excitement! The World Tour brings a selection of the best films from the Banff Mountain Film Festival to enthusiastic audiences in more than 20 countries each year. This collection of films is chosen to provide a diverse range of subjects, styles, lengths and activities. For 28 years, the Banff Mountain Film Festival has celebrated the spirit of adventure and the mountain environment. See the website for more information about the Festival: <http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/tour/>.



NZAC Auckland is hosting this one-night festival of outdoor and climbing-oriented short films which will be held at The Village, St Luke's, from 7pm (doors open from 6:30pm). Tickets are available for \$15 each at the next club meeting (May 3rd) or from Bivouac Outdoors (Queen St or Newmarket) or Outdoor Action (Barry's Point Rd) or by sending a cheque to NZAC Auckland Section, PO Box 3036, Auckland before May 21st. Please include your contact details & return address as well as the number of tickets required. There will only be limited door sales, so make sure you get your tickets now.

Included in the selection of films for this year's festival is historic footage of early climbing expeditions to K2 and Everest, a modern-day attempt on the North Face of the Eiger using 1930s equipment, ice-climbing frozen waterfalls (and other objects) in Europe, extreme mountain-biking, white-water kayaking, and a little bit of rock-climbing with a difference.

We need your help to make this film festival evening a successful NZAC Auckland section event, so please tell all your friends and colleagues. The more the merrier! Also, if you would like a poster to advertise the film festival at work or at other outdoor clubs, please contact any committee member.

Notices

Message from DOC Wanaka: Colin Todd Hut will be closed for the week of 26 April to 30 April 2004 so that we can undertake maintenance work. The work may extend a couple of days either side of these dates depending on weather patterns at the time, however we shall endeavour to keep disruption to hut users to a minimum and complete the work during the closure period.

British Mountaineering Council 6th International Climbing Meet

Plas y Brenin, North Wales, 9-16 May, 2004

Unfortunately it's too late now to apply to go to this year's meet, which has the theme "**Modern Advances in World Climbing Standards**" and will focus on cutting edge performance and standards in world climbing. Clubs need to nominate representative climbers (both male and female) operating at the upper levels of the sport in their country to attend and share their experiences at this international climbing meet. Perhaps you could keep this in mind for next year?

2004 Mountain Safety and Avalanche Seminar (Fri 28 & Sat 29 May)

The Mountain Education Centre of New Zealand is pleased to host the 2004 Mountain Safety and Avalanche Seminar in the Central North Island 29 May 2004. The theme of this seminar is Mountain Safety and Avalanche Awareness, with particular emphasis on the unique situation as experienced on the North Island Volcanoes.



Venue: Youth Development Centre, Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre of New Zealand

Costs: \$95-00 per attendee (includes seminar, handout notes, morning and afternoon teas, lunch Sat and dinner Sat night).

Accommodation: This is available at OPC on a B&B basis for both Fri and Sat nights.



19-Day Cycle Tour from Lhasa to Kathmandu (June 14th – July 5th)

Join me on a fully guided and supported expedition into Tibet from Nepal to ride the second biggest downhill in the world and get closer to the real nomadic people of Tibet. For bikers with an adventurous spirit, this expedition visits all the monasteries and places of interest in the cities and towns and gives you the chance to ride the most scenic sections of the Friendship Highway. An experienced Nepali mountain bike guide who is fluent in Nepali, English and Tibetan will smooth your ride, help your acclimatisation and assist in communication with the Chinese officials. The trip starts and finishes in Kathmandu. Organised by Rebecca Wood (overseas ex-NZAC member).

For details, please email editor or Rebecca Woods rwoods@nist.ac.th

“MOUNT EVEREST: The Reconnaissance 1935” by Tony Astill

Adapted from the diaries of members of the expedition led by Eric Shipton, this “Forgotten Adventure” is the record of the fifth expedition to Mount Everest. The tale is told through the diaries, letters and photographs written and taken by members of the team, particularly Dan Bryant (the first New Zealander on Everest), Edmund Wigram, Edwin Kempson, Charles Warren and Bill Tilman.

After travelling, climbing, exploring and surveying across country, the party reached Rongbuk on July 4th. The reconnaissance began and within a week camp had been established on the North Col. During a ‘veritable orgy’ of mountain climbing they had reached the summit of 26 peaks, all over 20,000ft. high. Approx 300 pgs, with original photos, maps & illustrations, and an introduction by Sir Edmund Hillary. Should you be interested in ordering one copy, or more, of this subscription edition (£50), or the standard edition (£25-£30) please contact me - Tony Astill, Les Alpes Livres, ‘Arcadia’, Hazel Grove, Ashurst, SO40 7AJ England. Any questions, please contact me at alpes@supanet.com.

Message from DOC Te Anau: Blue ducks released in Milford track valley

On Wednesday 25 February 2004, Department of Conservation staff released three captive-reared endangered blue duck, or *whio*, back into the headwaters of the Clinton River in Fiordland National Park. *Whio*, which inhabit the wild white waters of New Zealand, are found nowhere else in the world. DOC would like your help to protect these endangered blue ducks and would appreciate hearing about any *whio* that climbers or trampers might see on their adventures.

Alpinism Festival at Kayseri, Turkey May 17th to 19th

Climb Mt Erciyes 3917m, do some ski-touring and sight-seeing, and meet other keen climbers! For details, please email editor.

Notice from Ruapehu Hut Manager

During Easter a working bee was held at the hut. Some of the repairs completed included rebuilding the front door, finishing placing wire mesh on the walls of the drying room and replacing the cover of the electrical meter box. Photos and measurements were taken of the roof to assist with the re-roofing, which should be happening in the near future. There was a large amount of discussion as to the possibility of extending the hut so another water tank can be added. We are presently discussing options on this matter with DOC officials. Thanks to Sean Harris and Grant Sutton who helped out over the weekend at very short notice.

P.S. Geoff managed to carry a sheet of 18mm plywood on his head from the Top of the Bruce all the way to the hut. This explains the flat spot on his head!

May 3rd Meeting: *Auckland Section Slide Competition*

Bring along your best slides to compare with the best in the Section, or just come along for a fun evening. There will be prizes for the winners who will be selected by popular vote. Spot prizes will also be given for the best "wisecracks".

Winners will be invited to enter the national photographic competition midyear, which has heaps of neat prizes. You may enter in any of the six categories (the same used for the national competition):

A = alpine Activity

G = alpine General

N = alpine Nature

R = Rockclimbing

H = Humor

P = Photojournalism

Full descriptions of these categories can be viewed on the NZAC site:

<http://www.nzalpine.org.nz> under Activities.

Please write your name and the category on your entries and mark slides with a dot on the bottom left of the mount when viewing it in the correct orientation. Bring along your entries before the meeting (between 7:00 and 7:30) so we can sort them: try to be as early as possible! Entry is available only to NZAC members, and any picture that has not been entered before is eligible. Please limit entries to a maximum of 3 per category.

May 31st Meeting: *Speaker: Mark Jones*

Mark Jones is a highly qualified and experienced outdoor educator. He has spent his life adventuring and working with people in the outdoors, notably at Tihoi Adventure School, The Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre or most recently lecturing in Auckland's University of Technology. Jonesy has mastered the technical skills to operate at a high level in a wide variety of terrain, Big walls in North America, NZ's deepest caves to her highest mountains, polar sea kayaking, and steep whitewater. His passion for adventure and expertise with a camera make him an outdoor journalist of increasing regard authoring numerous articles.

Adventure Philosophy - aims to "*Inspire others in all walks of life to seek their own adventures, pursue their dreams, be creative, and value the world around them.*"

We share this philosophy through our core values:

- Inspirational role modelling
- Personal adventure
- Professionalism and integrity
- High quality sharing via all forms of media

Adventure Philosophy believes in an adventurous spirit - the determination to pursue a dream or vision, the tenacity to overcome barriers, a willingness to take calculated risks, and a respect and affinity for the earth. Adventure Philosophy believes an adventurous spirit lies in the heart of people that make up a healthy society.

<http://www.adventurephilosophy.com/>

Whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire and enthusiastically act upon must inevitably come to pass.

Trips

We have many exciting trips coming up this autumn – rock climbing in Wanganui Bay, Mangatepopo and Wharepapa, abseiling 100m into the sea, canyoning in the Waitakeres and caving in Waitomo. Then our snowcraft trips to Ruapehu mark the beginning of the winter season. Note that John Salisbury has started his series of mad West Coast Wobbles again. So if you don't have time to go away for the whole weekend, John's alternatives are a great way to experience a half-day adventure only 40 mins drive from Auckland.

To sign up for a trip, or if you have any questions about any of the trips regarding itinerary or skill levels required, contact the trip organiser or myself, either by phone or email, or at Auckland Section NZAC meetings.

Kathleen Lee (Auckland Section NZAC Trips Officer)

May 1/2 – Wharepapa Rock via Bryce's café – accommodation will be camping at the school or bunkhouse accommodation at Bryce's café. This is the place for beginners to practise leading on bolts and it has a variety of grades on volcanic type rock for those wishing to push their sports climbing abilities.

Rob Frost Tel: 479 3831, 021 178 1193 robert_frost@hotmail.com

Lucy Hawcroft Tel: 360 7604, 021 1855 325 Lucy_hawcroft@yahoo.com.au

Sun May 2nd – John's West Coast Wobbles - Te Henga sea caves - walk to gap, lasso spike & slide across (harness & crab needed), walk back along beach, thru cave 1 & swim thru sea cave 2 (optional, togs required), walk to cave 3 & back in time for tea. Meet @ 10:00am at 5a Porter Ave, Te Atatu South (rear house down r.o.w).

John Salisbury: Tel: 834 6699 salisj@xtra.co.nz.

May 15/16 – Beginners Caving Trip in Waitomo Caves - run in conjunction with the Auckland Speleo Group (ASG) which is Auckland's caving club. This weekend will involve a variety of horizontal and vertical caving, where we will be staying at the ASG Club hut with the cost of \$8pppn and leaving AKL on Friday night. This has bunk bed accommodation, electricity, microwave, stoves, hot showers, lounge with fire etc. A donation will be required to cover the caving instructors/guides food and fuel cost over the weekend. Group size is limited to 12 people. Will require everyone to be competent with a self-protected abseil. There will be no prussicking required. This is a great way to explore the North Island's world famous underground caving system.

Ben Mathewson Tel: 021 487 236 ben.mathewson@contactoffice.net

Sun May 16th – John's West Coast Wobbles - Destruction Gully 1 - sealine boulder scramble w. seals etc. near Little Huia. Meet @ 11am at 5a Porter Ave, Te Atatu South (rear house down r.o.w).

John Salisbury: Tel: 834 6699 salisj@xtra.co.nz

Sat May 22nd – Canyoning in the Waitakeres – this will be a great opportunity to go off the beaten track in the Waitakeres. You'll be exploring a streambed for ½ day where getting wet is a definite result. Also the option of jumping 9m into water pools - a very fun and alternative way to see the Waitakeres.

Dave Crofts Tel: 09 361 3842 dave.crofts@aut.ac.nz

June 5/6/7 – Queen's birthday weekend – intermediate snowcraft refresher course – Ruapehu– Accommodation will be at the Alpine Club Hut. Now is the time to brush up on your snowcraft skills before winter sets in.

Deryn Williams Tel: 527 7689 deryn@hyper.net.nz

Sun 13th June - John's West Coast Wobbles - Pararahaha Gorge - stream & boulder bash. Meet @ 11am at 5a Porter Ave, Te Atatu South (rear house down r.o.w).

John Salisbury Tel: 834 6699 salisj@xtra.co.nz

June 26/27- Solstice weekend – mid winter Christmas dinner in Ruapehu NZAC hut – mmm – mulled wine, Christmas pudding, turkey with all the trimmings and of course Christmas cracker jokes – all produced without a proper oven. Turn up to see how all of this is achieved. Also includes chance to explore various peaks on Ruapehu if the weather is good.

Kathleen Lee Tel:09 630 6265 kathleen.lee@airnz.co.nz

If you'd like to contribute to the club by organising a trip yourself or have any ideas of how we can make our trips programme better/more interesting then please contact Kathleen Lee on 09 630-6265 or email Kathleen on kathleen.lee@airnz.co.nz.

Snowcraft Course

Hurry! Last few places for this year's course. Learn some alpine climbing skills such as crampon techniques, self arrest, snow shelters and belaying & abseiling on snow/ice. Contact the Snowcraft Organiser for further details.

July 10/11 – instructor's weekend for snowcraft course

July 13 – Theory night for snowcraft course weekend #1

July 21 – Bulk Gear Buy at Bivouac

July 24/25 – Snowcraft course weekend #1

August 24 – Theory night for snowcraft course weekend # 2

August 28/29 – Snowcraft course weekend #2

September 21 – Theory night for Snowcraft Course weekend #3

September 25/26 – Snowcraft course weekend #3

Trip Reports from Members

Weekender to Homebay, Motutapu

Allan, Sarah S, Sarah O, Fraser, Piria, Paul, Sean (author), Colin

The plan was for the 8 keen kayakers to meet at 8:30am Saturday morning at the boat ramp at Okahu Bay (near Ferg's Kayaks). A big challenge for anyone at that hour, on a weekend. In the end it proved too much for a few of the crew. But by the crack of 10:30am we were ready to seize the day. The boats are launched and we're, o, wait a minute, and someone's running back to their car! Ah, now we're all ready to go. The Bean Rock lighthouse was the first stage of the 10 km journey to Rangitoto. The water is beautiful out to Kelly Tarlton's. The summer sun of January had done a nice job of warming it up (February was just a quick detour into winter and never actually happened). On the way out to Bean rock, the ocean swell began to grow and a slight sea breeze had awakened. In hindsight this was an early warning of what was ahead. The paddle to Rangitoto was otherwise uneventful. Idle chitchat carried across the waves as we caught up with the goings on of each other's lives. The sea breeze grew and gave our lazy bones a welcome push towards our first stop on this trip. Our



fearless leader, Allan, called for a well-deserved rest break as we neared the Rangitoto Wharf. After securing out boats on dry land, a decision needed to be made. Should we make a bid for the summit? At 260m above sea level this was no easy decision. This Christmas season saw many a South Island trip end far short of the peak. Not to mention that our bellies were rumbling with the thought of the lunch hour at hand. After much discussion, and a near mutiny, it was Decided: We would seize the opportunity and head to the summit. The rough terrain, a reminder of the island's volcanic origin, would have ordinarily posed no problem; however, today was no ordinary day. It was race day for some running-sailing-cycling challenge. Legions of boaties were continuously shuffling past. Though our progress was slightly delayed by the continual sidestep, the entertainment value was well worth the time (the Cowboys and Indians were a particular favorite). In the end, the summit attempt was a huge success, as all 8 of our team made it. The views we were rewarded with were breathtaking. The Hauraki Gulf truly is truly a marvelous sight.



After eating our lunch and having our fill of watching runners shuffle past, we were ready to leave. But as a famous New Zealander once declared, 'getting down is quite important too'. This was punctuated with a dramatic helicopter rescue that we were witness to. It

seems that a race participant checked in at the summit but did not pass the second checkpoint. Apparently not enough water on a hot summery day was the cause of the tragedy. At 260m you can't be too careful. As we made our way back to the boats, we were fortunate to come across a second Alpine club group, also heading to the top; Mark, Kathleen, Nigel, John Salisbury and Marita. A quick hello, and we wished them luck to the top, as they did for us on our remaining journey.



Made it to the bottom, some of us rather faster than others. Seems that Fraser, Sarah S, and Piria had eaten too much and felt the need to burn off those damnable extra calories. But we made it back to the dock to find our boats hadn't been scavenged or 'borrowed'. The next

stage of the trip was a paddle to Islington Bay on our way to the campsite at Home Bay. While at the top of Rangitoto the wind was well on its way to 15 knots as predicted by the Met Service. Some days even they get lucky. However, the waves just added a bit of interest to the paddle, though Paul may disagree with us here (we'll get back to this later). A quick detour into Islington Bay was quite pleasant, as it sheltered us from the wind. The remains of the World War II bunkers and docks were also interesting to paddle past. In fact Piria found them so interesting, Sean had to chase after her to let her know the group was making for Emu point (turns out it was more of a waking from a wee afternoon kip).

Emu point, with its grand sand stony-looking cliffs (we really needed a geologist with us) loomed before us and the water was rather rough with the wind. Always with the wind. Kayakers bobbed in and out of sight as the swell rose and fell around us. The numerous white-capped waves sent refreshing sea spray into our faces. Spray skirts did their best to keep all the water in the cockpit of the boats. Ah, nothing like getting out into the great outdoors. Who needs cafes really? But a few hours later and we were safely pulling into Home Bay. For those who are unfamiliar with the area, Home Bay is a stretch of sheltered large pebbly beach on the east side of Mototapu Island (which is right next door to Rangitoto). The campsite lies in a small valley between 2 hills to the north and south. A pleasant spot to spend the night all in all. After dragging the boats up past the high tide mark, a lovely spot to pitch the tents was found. Well out of earshot of the school camp that was in progress. We were also conscious of the 8 litres of wine we had between the 8 of us (we'd learned our lesson about drinking lots of fluids from our stop at Rangitoto). The evening was very pleasant. Allan organized a BBQ feast that could have fed half of Africa, but we managed to polish it off just by ourselves. Must admit the evening remains a bit fuzzy, but I'm sure the wine had nothing to do with it.



Next day came early. Very, very early. 8am ish early (it is the weekend right?). But we got up. Or rather Sarah S announced that she would very much like a cuppa if anyone would be getting up to set the billy to boil. The slightly damp clothes left to dry overnight on the near by trees were well and truly not so dry. Builds character they say. Breakfast was eaten (have to say it's impressive that the eggs survived the trip intact), tents dried out and kayaks packed. Ready for the trip back to town. Which is the cool thing about kayaking the Hauraki Gulf. You feel nicely isolated, but don't have the epic drive back home.

First stop was to be Motuihe Island. The water was like a lake. So different from the heaving water it was the day before. But beware the calm. Especially when you are in the sights, er, shipping lane of a Fuller's Ferry. This is where we get back to Paul's story. Six of the crew were merrily paddling ahead. Sean and Paul were lazily enjoying the morning (not too lazily though). Around us many fishing boats were coming and going, looking for a second breakfast (as you do). Off in the distance a boat appears that is heading towards our group. No problem, long ways off. Hang on, it is getting really big and is a ferry! Paul's boat being built primarily to specifications of floating rather than speed, life suddenly became rather exciting. In the end all ended well, with the added bonus that the wake wash made for an exciting ride!

Motuihe was very nice. Its claim to fame in recent times was its use as a quarantine station and as a World War I prisoner of war camp. Have to come back here to camp some day. And the excitement just never ends with our group. Sarah O was spotted rescuing Allan from the drink. Well, ok, it was more of a practice run. So we were told. After a quick snack break on Motuihe, it was off to Brown's Island. Paul, still reeling from his experience with the old tug he was piloting, was quite keen to try a new boat. Just in case he was in the market for something a bit different. Piria gamely took the bait. We figured that she might actually be able to keep back with us now that she was helming the ol' tug. Turns out she has a magic paddle (she traded boats but not paddles and was still leading the pack, though not by much -hmmm).

Brown's Island was a perfect spot for a crisp dip in the ocean. We had hardly beached our boats when Sarah S was back in the water for a dip. The rest of us weren't far behind, though Sean and a few others were rather keen to get back out. Brown's Island (also know as Motukorea, which means island of the oyster-catcher, was going to be the second successful summit attempt in as many days. This gang was on fire!

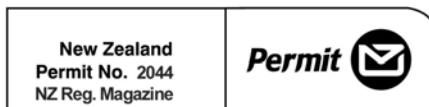
With the day growing old we began our trip back to Okahu Bay. It's always sad to leave an adventure weekend behind. And what better way to finish it off than with an ice cream stop at St Hellier's beach. Ohh yeah, me please! First we had to cross the mud flats to the shore, which was a good 100m away. And that was after we dragged our boats past the water as the tide was coming back in for sure

(Colin assured us). After the ice cream had been eaten or melted down our hands, we climbed back into the kayaks for one last leg. Straight after dragging them another 150m back out to the sea - where the tide was meant to be rising.

As our weary bodies pulled our boats on the Okahu Bay boat ramp, the weekend trip was over. And if we were so bold to say so ourselves, this was the best Alpine Club kayak trip ever! New club altitude records were broken with the two successful summit assaults on Rangitoto and Brown's (Motukorea) Island. A grand weekend.



New Zealand Alpine Club
Auckland Section
PO Box 3036, Auckland



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