

rate and we felt that we were doing the food, tea and coffee a disservice by not consuming them so we quickly attended to this. In fact the number of breaks started to put most council work gangs to shame. Back on the job and the flashing on the southern end of the building was lifted and a rubber seal placed under to stop snow being blown into the hut. Some of the rivets in the roof were replaced. By late afternoon the Aucklanders in the party had difficulty in concentrating on the work and after careful analysis we realized this was due to a lack of caffeine. A walk to the Knoll Ridge Café was necessary, as the addiction could not be shaken. At the café we tried to convince tourists that we were a prison work gang and this was partly successful as the café soon emptied.

Colin displayed his cooking skills later that evening and we all agreed he would make someone a good wife. After watching the sun setting over "Mt. Taramont" and listening to Geoff's "best arrests stories" we hit the sack. On Sunday many of the smaller jobs were completed including fixing the toilets. After investigating some crags and a spot of rock-climbing, we drove back to the big smoke.

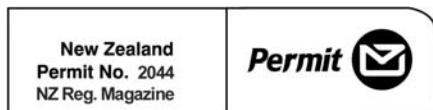
Thanks to Mark Blair from RAL for his assistance without which the work would have taken considerable longer to complete, and congratulations to Geoff for obtaining a Doctorate in Working Bee Organisation and Practical Skills with First Class Honours.

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
New Zealand Alpine Club
Auckland Section
PO Box 3036, Auckland



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 April 4th

Annual General Meeting

We need **YOU!!** No, don't stop reading! We don't bite, and we do offer food & drink incentives to club members who turn up for the AGM, even if just to vote their absent friend onto the committee. You don't need to commit yourself to the committee – you can just help out on an *ad hoc* basis too!

We need a bean-counting **TREASURER** to look after our millions, a keen DIY handyman for **RUAPEHU HUT MAINTENANCE**, an imaginative and enthusiastic **TRIPS OFFICER**, a finger-in-the-pie person to be the annual **PHOTOCOMP ORGANISER**, and an **EDITOR** for this wonderful piece of journalism.

Next month's meeting: Monday May 2nd

Auckland Section Photocomp

Dust off your photos and try them out in the local photo competition. There will be prizes for the winning photos which will be selected by popular vote. Winners will be invited to enter the national photographic competition mid year. 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 = Rock climbing **H** = Humour **P** = Photojournalism

Full descriptions of these categories can be viewed on the NZAC website: <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. 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.

Committee Contact Information

Mark Roberts Chairperson	630 6265	mark_roberts26@hotmail.com
Dave Crofts Vice Chairperson	815 1564	dave.crofts@aut.ac.nz
Maurits van den Berg Secretary	812 8638	maurits@mvdb.tax.co.nz
Tristan Harrison Treasurer	620 1404	tristanh@xtra.co.nz
Kathleen Lee Trips Organiser	630 6265	kwt_lee@yahoo.co.nz
Tim Swain Meetings	482 2275	tswain@ihug.co.nz
Deryn Williams Climber Editor	021 627 892	deryn@hyper.net.nz
John Salisbury Membership	834 6699	Salisj@xtra.co.nz
Suresh Nanu Ruapehu Hut Bookings	021 815210	ruapehuhut@paradise.net.nz
Geoff Bradley Ruapehu Hut Maintenance		
Sarah Owen Snowcraft Organiser	021 429718	Sarah.Owen@acnielsen.co.nz

Gear for sale

- Rock shoes, ladies - Rock Pillars, hardly worn, small UK 6.5, EU 40, \$70
Ph John Salisbury 09-834-6699

- Black Diamond Camalots - \$90 - sizes 0.1 - 3 inclusive
- Beal 86mm x 50m rope - new condition - RRP \$279 only \$130
- 5.10 UFO climbing shoes - un used - 9.5US - \$150
- Arc'teryx Gore-Tex Alpha SV Jck, Lge - RRP \$899, only \$550
- Marmot Precip Jacket and pants - Med - \$150 and \$100
- Ortovox X1 Transceiver \$500

All of these are in excellent condition; call Nick Monteith 021-140-4845

Notices

Rental Avalanche Transceivers

Cost will be \$3 per day for members, \$5 per day for non members. Contact Suresh (Hut Officer) for bookings.

There is strong possibility of getting wet, so bring a change of clothes. Meet at rear house, 5a Porter Ave, Te Atatu South, 11am.

John Salisbury Tel: 834 6699

May 22 – West Coast Wobble

There is strong possibility of getting wet, so bring a change of clothes. Meet at rear house, 5a Porter Ave, Te Atatu South, 11am.

John Salisbury Tel: 834 6699

June 4/5/6 - Queen's birthday weekend – Intermediate snowcraft refresher course – Ruapehu – Accommodation will be at the Alpine Club Hut. Now's the time to brush up on your snowcraft skills before winter sets in. Organiser TBA

June 11 Lactic Turkey – Piha Rogaine

See www.lacticturkey.co.nz for further details. If you want some team mates to compete with then get in touch.

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

June 18/19 Mid winter Christmas dinner in Ruapehu hut – mmm – Mulled Wine, Christmas pudding, turkey with all the trimmings and of course Christmas Cracker jokes. Also includes chance to explore various peaks on Ruapehu if the weather is good. Organiser TBA

July 2 Lactic Turkey – Cascades Rogaine

See www.lacticturkey.co.nz for further details. If you want some team mates to compete with then get in touch.

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

Report from Committee

Hut Working Bee 12th & 13th March

Geoff Bradley, Mark Blair, John Salisbury, Brian Lamb, Colin Megson, Ciprian Toader, Suresh Nanu.

This working bee was a real test of Geoff's practical and organisational skills. We arrived at the Top of the Bruce early on Saturday morning and packed our usual tramping gear including circular saws, electric drills and dyna bolts into our packs. At this stage we were quite willing to walk up to the hut, however Mark insisted we take the chairlift. After a considerable amount of arm twisting from Mark we reluctantly agreed. The fact that Mark is Manager of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts had nothing to do with the fact we got the lift up at a very reasonable rate. We soon arrived at the hut and much to our disgust the heavy materials had been already airlifted there.

Geoff gave a quick lecture on the jobs that we had planned. Soon the hut resembled a construction site. A new set of steps he had built were fitted, the cover on the electric meter box was repaired and refitted, and the floor in the entrance way was repaired with new joists. The jobs were proceeding at a rapid

Banff Film Festival

This year the Banff Film Festival will be held in Auckland on the weekend of June 18th and 19th at the ASB Stadium in Kohimarama as part of a week-long outdoor festival, which will also feature a sport-climbing wall for you to admire the flexibility and daring of some crazy rock-climbers, or perhaps have a try yourself?

NZAC Auckland Section Snowcraft Course

The Akld Section is running a snowcraft instruction course over winter for people new to the alpine environment in order to gain confidence and experience in basic alpine climbing. Learn skills such as how to walk in crampons on snow/ice, self arrest, building snow shelters, and belaying or abseiling on snow/ice.

Course dates: (July 9 10 instructors) July 29-31 August 26-28 September 23-25.

July 9/10 – Instructor's weekend for snowcraft course

Tue, July 19 – Theory night #1

Wed, July 20 – Bulk gear buy at Bivouac Outdoor for participants

July 30/31 – Snowcraft course weekend #1

Tue, Aug 23 – Theory night #2

August 27/28 – Snowcraft course weekend #2

Tue, Sep 20 – Theory night #3

September 24/25 – Snowcraft course weekend #3

Contact Sarah Owen (Co-ordinator) for more details and to put your name on the list. Tel: 021 429 718, sarah.owen@acnielsen.co.nz

Mountain jobs

We're looking for mountain capable people to spend a winter with us at the Playground of the Gods. Job descriptions: mtolympus@xtra.co.nz or by phoning Ed Cook, ph/fax A/H 03 3127 187.

1) Mountain Manager or Assistant Manager/Snow Safety Officer. (Industry experience essential)

2) Catering/Chef (40 people x 3 meals/day)

3) Ticket Office / Canteen.

NZAC National news

Aspiring Hut will be closed from 25th to 29th April 2005

Internal maintenance work will be undertaken, including sanding and re-varnishing of the common room and kitchen floor.

International Events

“Rocks Are For Everybody” – Russia 8th – 19th June 2005

Seminar on route setting on natural rock, intended to help local climbers to set routes on their crags and for international participants to share understanding of route setting and grading on different rocks and in different parts of the world.

Contact NZAC National for more info.

2006 UIAA Ice Climbing calendar

The UIAA invites proposals for events to be included in the Ice Climbing calendar for 2006. Contact NZAC National if you have an event you want to be included.

MHE Training & Climbing Camps Sep/Oct 2005

These camps are an introduction to high-altitude climbing in the Himalayas, with 1.5 weeks training camp, and then 2.5 weeks supervised climbing of Satopanth (7,000m) or Bhagirathi (6,500m) peaks. Contact NZAC National for more info.

Initiation for Himalaya Expedition

We are organising an expedition to climb the west ridge of Shivling in the Garwahl Himalaya in September/October 2005. We need another 10 people to help cover peak fees (\$4000 inc Liaison Officer). Rohan Kilham happy_rohan@hotmail.com

Youth Ascent of Mt Elbrus 10-17 July 2005

Ukrainian Mountaineering and Climbing Federation mountaineers invite you to participate in the joint ascent to the highest peak of the Caucasus and of Europe - Mt. Elbrus (5648m). Contact NZAC National for more info.

DoC News

Kathmandu sponsors lizard conservation

This summer, DoC has uncovered new habitats of rare New Zealand alpine geckos, helping to unravel the mysteries of these elusive and unique NZ species. They are really keen to hear about any sightings of geckos either recently or in the past from the alpine zone of Sth Is mtns from climbers, trampers and alpine enthusiasts.

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 kw_lee@yahoo.co.nz
Kathleen Lee (Auckland Section NZAC Trips Officer)

April 16/17 – Rock Climbing Instruction weekend I

Sarah Owen Tel: 021 429 718 sarah.owen@acnielsen.co.nz

April 16 – Hunua Hard Man and Woman

A mountain bike ride around and through the Hunua Ranges in Southern Auckland, 80km Individual or 2 person relay and 60 km Individual

www.hunuahardman.co.nz

April 24 – West Coast Wobble

There is strong possibility of getting wet, so bring a change of clothes. Meet at rear house, 5a Porter Ave, Te Atatu South, 11am.

John Salisbury Tel: 834 6699

May 7/8 – Rock Climbing instruction weekend II

Sarah Owen Tel: 021 429 718 sarah.owen@acnielsen.co.nz

May 8 – West Coast Wobble