



Auckland Climber

Greetings alpine fans and welcome to June's missive from the New Zealand Alpine Club Auckland Section.

Join us for alpine and rock trips and social or armchair climbing. Meetings are usually held at 7.30 pm at St Luke's Community Centre, 130 Remuera Rd, Newmarket on the first Monday of each month – unless otherwise noted. Tea & coffee follows the evening's feature and a gold coin donation for refreshments is appreciated. Everyone welcome!

This month's meeting: **Monday May 30th**

Kevin Jose on Caving

Kevin Jose AKA The Cave Man comes armed with his slides to inform and delight us on the subject of caving. Find out where the best caves are, learn about rock types and cave formation, how to cave, and finally he'll be talking about a couple of longer caving trips he's done.

Next month's meeting: **Monday July 4th**

Roger Mayhill on Climbing in Aussie

"Lets see...

Rock Climbing in Australia

or

Great Sandbags I have been pointed at.

or

Thank God we don't have carrots, batman starts, sharp iron plates & fire ants.

or

The world's best climbing areas are on the great flat land."

(I think this means that Roger will be discussing the various climbing opportunities in Australia – Ed.)

2005 Committee Contact Information

Maurits van den Berg Chairperson	021 757 503	maurits@mvdv.tax.co.nz
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For Sale

John Salisbury 0211 699 756 is selling:

Ladies Asolo 3 Season Boots. UK Size 6.5, EU 40. Offers

Simon Baxter 09-445-2216 is selling:

Ski Touring Gear: K2 Ski's 170cm with Fritschi FT88 Bindings and Skins \$230

Notices

Ruapehu Hut Happenings by Suresh

I am well on the way to getting funding for a new kitchen and plan to build it later this year. If you can assist with this project please get in touch with me. Two groups who use the hut on a regular basis have agreed (after some persuasion) to donate a new microwave and an electric jug. If anybody has access to a good discount for these items, please let me know. Thanks, Suresh (contact details above).

Avalanche Transceivers available to rent

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

Banff Film Festival

When: 19th June (PM & Evening showings)

Where: Waipuna Conference Centre, Mt. Wellington **Cost:** : \$18.00

Tickets: available at the start of June from Bivouac , City & Newmarket & Outdoor Action in Takapuna.

Auckland hosts the final New Zealand showing of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. Presented by the NZ Alpine Club, the tour has attracted sell-out audiences at all seven other locations throughout the country. The film programme includes some of the best mountain theme films from the Banff World Tour and covers rock climbing, ice climbing, extreme mountain biking, wild white water kayaking and historic Antarctica exploration.

The Auckland festival is distinctive amongst the national tour for the addition of a range of other activities designed to complement the film programme. These include a mountain and outdoor expo, gear and services, a climbing wall set-up for demonstration and competition, and a photo display of the NZAC national photo competition entries.

We're looking for volunteers to assist on the day (appropriately bribed with comp tickets!). Interested? Contact Shirley Wintersgill SWintersgill@adhb.govt.nz

NZAC Auckland Section Snowcraft Course

The Auckland section is running a snowcraft instruction course over the winter for people new to the alpine environment. Learn how to walk in crampons on snow/ice, self arrest, build snow shelters, and belay & abseil on snow/ice and much more. There are only a few places left so get in quick!

Course dates

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 2-4th Sept – Snowcraft course weekend #2

Tue, Sep 20 – Theory night #3

September 24/25 – Snowcraft course weekend #3

Contact Sarah Owen (coordinator) for more details: 021 429 718

sarah.owen@acnielsen.co.nz

We are also now looking for instructors for the course. If you can lend your expertise (intermediate to advanced), please call Sarah.

News

REMEASURING MT. EVEREST

Beijing: The Chinese Academy of Sciences will send 36 geographers to re-measure the world's highest peak for the fourth time. A Chinese measurement in 1975 showed that the peak was 8,841.13 meters in height. With the change of climate and environment, it is believed that the mountain may have grown 10 millimetres each year since the last measurement.

The ALL NEW PLATEAU HUT, Mt COOK

The new Plateau Hut has been officially opened by the PM. It's been engineered to withstand winds of up to 250km per hour - and its designers say it sets new international standards in innovative design for alpine structures.

Plateau Hut is arguably this country's most well known alpine hut and has always commanded attention thanks to its position beneath the eastern slopes of Aoraki/Mt Cook at a height of 2200m. It's a major destination for mountaineers and climbers wishing to climb New Zealand's highest peaks - Aoraki / Mt Cook (3754m) and Mt Tasman.

INVITE FROM THE FEDERATION OF BULGARIAN ALPINE CLUBS

The Bulgarians are organising an international rock climbing meet in Vratza just outside Sofia from 21st -25th September 2005. The expenses of two NZAC members will be covered (sadly this doesn't include flights!).

Anyone interests should contact Nikolay Panayotov, President, Federation of Bulgarian Alpine Clubs email: bac@netbg.com; website: fbac.net

Alternatively contact NZAC Margaret McMahon: margaret@alpineclub.org.nz

Trips

If you have any questions about any of the trips, or wish to sign up please contact the trip organiser, or the Trips Officer, Grant Sutton. If you'd like to organise a trip, or have any ideas on how we can make our trips programme better/more interesting then please get in touch with Grant.

Grant Sutton **Tel. 638 3346** or email grants22@clear.net.nz

June 4/5/6 - Queen's Birthday Weekend Intermediate Snowcraft Refresher Course

Organiser: Deryn Williams – deryn@hyper.net.net

For everyone who has some winter skills or who has completed the snow craft course and wants to get back up to speed after the long and snow free summer.

Accommodation at the Alpine Club Hut, Ruapehu

Thursday June 9/ June 16th/ and due to popular demand, August 8th. Caving Trip under Suburban Auckland

Organiser: Brett McGill mcbrett@clear.net.nz h. 09 817-3800

Landscape Road, Mt Eden. This isn't a huge cave system and doesn't have glow worms but it is geologically quite fascinating. There are two parallel lava caves with a narrow passage connecting them. Will run this trip after work: Meeting at 6:00pm. This trip is now full, but check nearer the time for cancellations.

June 11 - Lactic Turkey - Piha Rogaine

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

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

June 18/19

Mid-winter Christmas Dinner at the Alpine Club Hut, Ruapehu

Organiser: Matt Robertson matthewjvroberson@hotmail.com

Mulled Wine, Christmas pudding, turkey with all the trimmings, and of course Christmas cracker jokes. A weekend of Christmas festivities and snow based activities.

July 2

Lactic Turkey – Cascades Rogaine

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

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

July 9/10

Snowcraft Course - Instructor's Weekend

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

An ideal opportunity for those interested in instructing on the snowcraft course to refresh/enhance their current intermediate/advanced skills.

Please get in touch asap.

July 8/9/10

Intermediate Snowcraft Weekend (1 of 3)

Organisers: John Boon jboon@unitec.co.nz 021 616 416

Maurits Van den Berg maurits@mvdv.tax.co.nz

Weekends for those who have done the Snowcraft course or Winter Skills and want to improve and make the transition from novice to independent mountaineers. The weekends will focus on planning, navigation, weather and avalanche awareness, and reinforcement of the technical skills learnt on the snowcraft course.

Weekend 2 : August 12/13/14 - Weekend 3 September 16/17/18

Tue July 19 Theory Night for snowcraft course. Sarah Owen

Wed July 20. Bulk gear buy night at Bivouac for snowcrafters. S. Owen.

23/24 July

Ruapehu Hut to Whangaehu Hut Traverse, Tongariro Nat. Park

Organiser: Steve Mellor, Tel: 483 7746 steve.mellor@telecom.co.nz

Friday night at club hut, Sat night at Whangaehu Hut A good chance to practice traversing across steep slopes. (Trip numbers will be limited, some may need to carry tents, Whangaehu Hut has only 6 bunks). Level Intermediate/ Advanced

July 30/31 Snowcraft course weekend #1 Sarah Owen

Aug 6/7

Ohakune Girdlestone

Organiser: Eric Major i8manu58@hotmail.com (Eric is away until late June)
Ascent of GirdleStone and Taurangi from Turoa side plus options of ice climbing.
Level Intermediate/ Advanced

Aug 13/14

Intermediate Snowcraft Weekend 2 of 3

Organiser: John Boon jboon@unitec.co.nz 021 616 416

Aug 20/21

Mangetepopo Hut, Tongariro Nat. Park.

Organiser: jenny.andrew@clear.net.nz

Option of summiting Ngauruhoe, Tongariro and the Tongariro Crossing in winter conditions. This area is ideal for snow craft course beginners, ability to self arrest a must

Aug 20/21

Ski Touring Weekend 1

Organiser: Ciprian Toader 021 1746 195 ctoader@yahoo.com

Details to follow n next issue.

Trip Reports

West Coast Wobble – 24th April – Keyhole Rock

by John Salisbury

Once again, a fresh-faced group of trusting devotees, who had forgotten what it was like last time, or who hadn't been before, assembled at the crack of 11am to pit their skill & daring against the unknown, i.e. I didn't know where I was going. Joining me in this attempt to find where I was were Alex, Deryn, Justine, Marita, Paul, Rachel, Shirley, Steve and last but not least vocal, Suzanne.

We soon found ourselves at the Anawhata carpark three hours before low tide, so decided to try to find Bob Harvey's route up to the old Maori shelter caves. Off we went along a potentially private road down to the beach, which dropped us off in the Anawhata Stream opposite the bach. No sign of shelter caves; they were up the *other* valley, oops. No whit abashed, we skirted the stream edge until forced into varying degrees of immersion by the bluffs & lunched on the beach.

Only two hours to low tide. Um, I think there's an interesting cave to the right if we sidle round the coast a bit (children, don't try this at home). Alex decided to show us how easy it was by taking his fishing rod. An hour of scrabbling & leaping onto sea-washed, weed-covered boulders brought us to a fine, three-entranced cave with little chance of progress above the waterline. A dignified retreat was

achieved and we were ready to attempt the main objective of the day, Keyhole Rock.

Now whilst there was a goodly low tide, there was also a howling SWesterly, so when we got to the crossing point, it was a surfer's nightmare. Undaunted, Paul found a relatively shallow section that was uncovered occasionally & leapt boldly into it at the wrong moment. But the gauntlet was thus fairly thrown down, so most of us followed & got round the back of the island & up into the keyhole, observed with some trepidation by some trampers on the shore. I waded & swam back & took a couple of photos & the rest returned safe but moist.

The final leg of the trip was to climb up the headland by Paikea Bay, via the loose, disintegrating conglomerate slope, but the view was amazing & we still don't know what the solar-powered box there is for. The sea was whipped to cream in the inlet & many a photo was taken. Then back up the hill & home to a well-earned rest.

Climbing Instruction Weekend - May 6-8, 2005 by Jane Turner

Instructors: Roger "Sensei" Mayhill, Mike "Flaming Gallah" Thomas, Brett "Ladies Man" McGill

Students: Grant "Ensuite" Sutton, Ciprian "Haute Cuisine" Toader, Grant "Body Noises" Reynolds, Mike "Dyna" Thompson, Jane "Oooh me and 7 boys" Turner

This trip was a reversal of the usual phenomenon: instead of the usual high probability of meeting a Jane or a Sarah, there was a 25% chance that someone was called either Grant or Mike. Somewhat confusing if both were climbing next to each other and someone on the ground was yelling "Grant, go left...."

We started Saturday morning in the bouldering cave with some reinforcement on the climbing fundamentals: footwork, balance and body weight centering, and maintaining straight arms as much as possible. After a couple of traverses, we headed out to Smiths and launched ourselves onto the Pinnacles for a warm-up climb in the hot sun. Some basic practice on the ground to get us clipping more smoothly both left and right handed and with quickdraws facing both ways was really helpful. After a couple of climbs, it was getting busy at the Pinnacles so we headed over to the Swamp Wall where Rhinoplasty seemed to be the favourite climb of the afternoon.

Saturday night saw Brett disappear off to dinner with a local (lady), Roger, Grant and Mike headed to Te Awamutu for pizza and Ciprian whipped up a pasta masterpiece for Grant S, Mike T and Jane (we just can't understand why he's still single!). Meanwhile Grant S had commandeered the next door empty cabin as his private bathroom.

Sunday started off damp as it had rained quite a bit in the night and was still drizzling. This was a good opportunity for a couple more hours in the bouldering

cave, further refining our technique on hand grips, body direction, footwork, extending our reach and having a yoga competition. By late morning the rain was clearing so we went off to Froggatt where we started on the Slug Wall and progressed to Animal Biscuit Valley.

By the end of the weekend, we definitely had a better repertoire of skills for climbing two grades harder. As Grant S so astutely summed it up: "it's all about technique apparently..... "

Web Watch

Check your winter conditions at:

www.avalanche.net.nz

www.metvuw.com

www.metservice.co.nz

Climber Content

Deadline for each issue is the 20th of the month preceding. Send any content for the climber to the Editor, Suzanne, at suzstick@hotmail.com. Send any photos for inclusion as a jpeg or tiff image, 300dpi at print size (up to 200mmx150mm/8"x6").

Change of Address

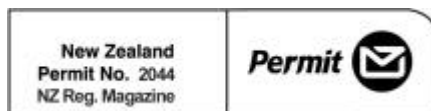
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subscriptions@alpineclub.org.nz

New Zealand Alpine Club

Auckland Section

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