



# Auckland Climber

Welcome to September's edition of the New Zealand Alpine Club Auckland Section's newsletter. August was busy month; a record turn-out for last month's meeting, the annual NZAC photo competition and best of all, loads of trips (despite the weather).

The club runs a variety of alpine, climbing and other trips throughout the year and meets on the first Monday of the month at 8.00 pm at St Luke's Community Centre, 130 Remuera Rd, Newmarket. New members are always welcome.

This month's meeting: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September – 8pm

**Erik Monasterio**

**'Kaleidoscope of Wonders: Bolivia, Peru & the Amazon'**



Introducing Christchurch's multi-talented Erik Monasterio: mountaineer, photo-journalist, musician, *and* consultant psychiatrist. His CV reads like he made it up – come and find out if he did.

He'll be speaking about Bolivia (the country, the people, its fascinating history, the classic routes and the new routes), about memorable first ascents in Peru, and he'll even throw in a brief tour of the Amazon.

There's no stopping him!

## 2005 Committee Contact Information

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## Winter Notices

### Snow Anchors & the Mt Tasman Tragedy 2003

Coroners court finding on the four deaths that occurred on Mt Tasman in December 2003 asked the NZ Mountain Guides Association and the NZ Mountain Safety Council to look into whether current practices with snow anchors in New Zealand are adequate. Don Bogie carried out this research on behalf of MSC. For a copy of the report go to:

[http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/publications/publications\\_details.asp?catID=2&name=Snow+and+Avalanche](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/publications/publications_details.asp?catID=2&name=Snow+and+Avalanche), click on the PDF the article titled "snow anchors".

### The West Coast – Alex’s Big Plan

Thinking about the new season ahead? Fitness a problem? Fed-up with gym climbing? Stuck going nowhere (work, study, girls/boys, life, family, Auckland)? (*Ok, get on with it!*)

How about a three weekend free therapy course in the Waitakeres?

The plan:

First weekend – walk/coaster/wade from North Piha to Muriwai, or in the opposite direction.

Second weekend – as above but from Whatipu to Piha, or in the opposite direction.

Third weekend (the Grande Finale) – the whole lot: Whatipu to Muriwai, or Muriwai to Whatipu

Each time we need two have two parties walking towards each other and swapping cars at the end.

I am suggesting that we kick off on 3-4 Sep. Is anybody keen?

Contact Alex Scherbakov [AlexanderS@datacom.co.nz](mailto:AlexanderS@datacom.co.nz)

### **Avalanche Transceivers**

**The Club has purchased a number of these for members to take out in the winter. If you're heading down to the mountain this season for tramping or ski touring give Suresh a call on 021 815210 (after 3.15pm). Hire Charges: \$3 per day for members, \$5 per day for non members.**

## **News**

### **NZAC 2006 Climbing Camp Information**

The 2006 NZAC National Climbing Camp will be held in the Rees Valley from Saturday 31 December 2005 until Saturday 7 January 2006. The camp is being hosted by the Otago Section of the NZAC which is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006.

The camp is opportunity for climbers to get together to climb mountains, socialise, explore and enjoy the great outdoors. Non climbing family members are welcome at the camp. Members of overseas alpine clubs are especially welcome to attend. A base camp will be established that will function as an information and safety centre. Some people will choose to use the camp as a base for day walks while others will venture into the surrounding mountains for multi-day adventures. For more info and registration go to:

[www.alpineclub.org.nz](http://www.alpineclub.org.nz)

N.B 'Climber' has been told there will be a spa pool on site this year!

## **Mountain Bike Orienteering in Rotorua.**

**When:** 4 September 2005. Start any time from 11am to 1pm

**Where:** Whakarewarewa Forest. 5km east of Rotorua on Tarawera Rd (towards Blue Lake).

**Cost:** Individual: \$10, Family \$20

**Bring:** Whistle, Compass, Bike kit.

4 Courses:

A Little Insane: 30km, Grade 4 riding

Fabulous Fun: 20km, Grade 4 riding.

Sunday Ride: 10km, Grade 3 Riding.

Kids Course: 2km, Grade 2 Riding.

For more info contact Kent Dickson 07 3489830 or email [cayuga-ducks@paradise.net.nz](mailto:cayuga-ducks@paradise.net.nz)

## **Invitation to Indonesian Climbing Gathering (letter as received)**

Dear climbers from around the world,

In this message we kindly invite you to participate in the International Climbing Gathering 2005 that will be held on Sept 24 -27, 2005 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (the birth place of Agung Etti Hendrawati - 2nd ICC Rank Women Speed 2005 after Daone).

The organizer will provide transportation from the airport to the location, and accomodation during the event.

Hope you could participate and see you in the rock!

Kind regards,

Maman Hermansyah

General Secretary of the Indonesian Climbing Federation (FPTI)

President of the Southeast Asian Climbing Federation (SEACF)

Email [margaret@alpine.org.nz](mailto:margaret@alpine.org.nz) for more information on this!

## **Trips**

Lots lined up for September, but worth getting your name down early as trips are filling up fast. It's been great to see lots of new faces over August, and Weekend 1 of the snow craft course was a great success.

A big thank you to all the organisers who have made these trips possible.

Grading Level '**Beginner**' means someone who is at least a current snowcraft student, and is competent with the skills covered on the course to that date.

**Intermediate/ Advanced** for those with further alpine experience.

If you'd like to contribute by organising a trip, Alpine or otherwise, or have any ideas how we can make our trips programme better/more interesting please contact Grant (Trips officer). [grants22@clear.net.nz](mailto:grants22@clear.net.nz) or 09 638-3346

## **September 3/4 - Snowcraft course weekend #2 Sarah Owen**

### **Sep 3/4**

#### **Ohakune Girdlestone** *Level Intermediate/ Advanced*

Ascent of GirdleStone and Taurangi from Turoa side plus options of ice climbing. Bring 2 ice tools, rope, snowstakes and ice screws if you have them. Based at Ohakune backpackers Fri/Sat nights. Ice climb on ski field if weather turns sour. Eric Major [i8manu58@hotmail.com](mailto:i8manu58@hotmail.com) H266-2922 after 7pm weekdays or Rosemary Findley Tel:585-2287 [rosefindley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rosefindley@xtra.co.nz)

### **Sep 10/11**

#### **Ngauruhoe Traverse** *Level - Beginner + Fit*

Start at Mangetepopo road end, traverse Ngauruhoe with your kit! great bum-slide down the east side and cross-country to Oturere Hut. Return via the poled route or the summit of Tongariro on Sunday. Confidence in your ability to self arrest is a must.

John Salisbury Tel: 834 6699 [salisj@xtra.co.nz](mailto:salisj@xtra.co.nz)

### **Sep 10/11 - Pinnacles Madness** *Level: Intermediate/Advanced or above!*

Pinnacles traverse (depending on route recce/beta beforehand), or general pinnacles routes. Staying at the hut on Friday, Saturday nights. Back up plan of ice climbing or other alternatives in event of bad weather, avo risk etc. Rope work required, including possible huge abseil, so partnerships preferable. Bring rope, 2 tools, stakes, pigs, ice screws and long slings for the rock. Places are limited. Hamish Bunn

[hamish.bunn@beca.com](mailto:hamish.bunn@beca.com) 021 516 029

### **Sep 17/18- Intermediate Snowcraft Weekend 3 of 3**

You have already done the snowcraft course and want to develop those skills and start putting them into practice. Note, this is not a formal course.

John Boon [jboon@unitec.ac.nz](mailto:jboon@unitec.ac.nz) 021 616 416

or Maurits Van den Berg [maurits@mvdvdb .tax.co.nz](mailto:maurits@mvdvdb.tax.co.nz)

### **Sep 17/18 - Ski Touring Weekend 2**

Glide effortlessly past the intermediate snowcraft participants as they plug steps to where you have already been! See details below. Ciprian Toader Tel: w307 5999 or 021 1746 195 [ctoader@yahoo.com](mailto:ctoader@yahoo.com)

**Tue Sep 20 Theory night** for snowcraft course weekend #2 Sarah Owen

**Sep 24/25 Snowcraft course weekend #3** Sarah Owen

**Sep 24/25 - Ohakune Girdlestone** *Level Intermediate/ Advanced*

Going for the triple-peak-challenge (Mitre, Tahurangi and Girdlestone)!!!

Bring rope, 2 tools, stakes, pigs and screws

Ciprian Toader Tel: w307 5999 or 021 1746 195 [ctoader@yahoo.com](mailto:ctoader@yahoo.com)

**Oct 1/2**

**Taranaki (Symes Hut)**

Ascent of Mt Taranaki from Dawson Falls (south side). Possible ice climbing on summit. Drive down Friday night, overnight in a lodge and Sat morning walk to Syme Hut and then to the summit. Saturday night at Syme Hut (after removing ice to get in) Sleeps 10.

Rosemary Findley Tel:585-2287 021-038-3181 [rosefindley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rosefindley@xtra.co.nz)

**Oct 1/2**

**Ski Touring Weekend 3**

Ciprian Toader Tel: w307 5999 or 021 1746 195 [ctoader@yahoo.com](mailto:ctoader@yahoo.com)

**Oct 8/9**

**Intermediate Snowcraft Replacement Weekend.** Replacement for the second weekend which was postponed due to bad weather.

John Boon <mailto:jboon@unitec.ac.nz> 021 616 416

or Maurits Van den Berg [maurits@mvdvdb .tax.co.nz](mailto:maurits@mvdvdb.tax.co.nz)

**Oct 22/23/24 Labour weekend**

**Taranaki (Tahurangi Lodge)**

Ice climbing, Alpine ascent of the East Ridge or Teds Alley, easier summit routes include North Ridge and Surrey Road. For the brave-cold rock climbing.

TBA

**Note on the three Ruapehu Ski Touring trips**

Based at the Whakapapa hut plan is to do various day trips.

Ski experience: intermediate. Basic snow skills are also needed, as bad snow conditions might require use of crampons.

Contact Ciprian w307 5999 Cell: 021 1746 195 Email: [ctoader@yahoo.com](mailto:ctoader@yahoo.com)

# Trip Reports

## Wangaehu Traverse - 23/24 July 2005

Participants: Steve Mellor, Bruce Calvert, Grant Sutton, John Salisbury and Sally Johannesson

There were 6 of us then there were 5 of us and then there were 4 of us!! A the last minute Greg Virtue could not make the trip down, so 5 of us arrived at varying times on Friday night. On Saturday morning Steve succumbed to the effects of the Taihape fish and chip feed of Friday night so it was left up to the 4 of us to complete the business!!

The climb to the hut on Friday night was fabulous, a full moon, very little wind and a quick arrival to the 'lights on'; hot soup, warm room and a soft bed!! However, the wind howled during the night and although the sky was clear on Saturday morning the wind remained fierce.

With revised plans due to the weather, but nevertheless determined, Bruce and I set off for the summit plateau followed by Grant and John!! It was a slow climb because of the southerly, but in a few short hours we were nearly there and delighted to see Grant who caught us up just before we reached the summit plateau....and kicked the final steep steps. Thanks mate!! Our intention was to go across the plateau and at least foray down onto the Wangaehu glacier, but by the time we had munched a few goodies we were experiencing white out conditions. Somewhat reluctantly (yeah right!!) we decided to start back and at least enjoy the walk down and wind on our backs. On the way down we found John and fell upon Suresh, Jules and Andrew who were intending to climb and camp on top for the night. They too decided to head back down.

On Sunday, none of us felt greatly inspired, probably due more to our endurance of Suresh's banal humour on Saturday night than the less than ideal conditions outside, and the intrepid 4 left for home.

We will return!!!!

## Ice Climbing at Ruapehu 15/16/17 July

Eric, Rosemary, Emma, Hamish, Georgina, Jozsef, Grant, Rob, Ciprian and Iain made their way down to Turangi for the night, in preparation for the trip to Tukino the following morning. The aim of the trip, which was hatched as a result of Grant spending too many late nights looking at the Mountainz website, was to do some ice climbing on waterfalls close to the Tukino Ski Field on the eastern side of the



mountain. The recent warm, snow-less weather had made us not too hopeful of finding any ice, but looking forward to a good weekend on the mountain.

All week the forecast had been promising wind and rain to be followed by wind, rain and snow! However a late change to the forecast proved correct and Saturday dawned clear and calm. Our arrival at the ski field base seemed to confirm our expectations of fairly sparse snow cover, and any ice waterfalls were too liquid for climbing on!

We kitted up and headed up the slope to investigate. A short ½ hour climb led us to a fantastic wall of ice, tucked away on the south side of a bluff. It was positioned out of

the sun enough to freeze even in the relatively warm conditions. The waterfall provides an area of about 10-15m wide and 30-35m high for climbing, giving options for a number of routes. Handily placed rocks at the top provided some good anchors for top ropes

The group set up some ropes and Hamish was sent down as guinea pig for the 1<sup>st</sup> climb. Not too long later he reappeared with a large smile on his face, which set the scene for a day of climbing. The more proficient of us made a number of ascents, while others expended a lot of energy unsuccessfully and discovered the view from inside the waterfall was scenic but damp!



Unfortunately Rosemary picked up a black eye, sporting enough red meat to make a butcher's look like an organic vege shop, but otherwise we had a great day. Even though we spurned usually important activities like eating and drinking there still wasn't enough time in the day and darkness was closing in as we made our way up to spend the night at the Whangaeahu hut.

Ten people in a hut built for 6 makes for a tight squeeze but with lots of to-ing and fro-ing we settled ourselves in for the night and set about consuming the food and drink we had taken with us. We did however discover that consuming large

quantities of wine in a small hut with an outside loo makes for a frequently disturbed nights sleep.

The following morning we awoke to a fresh dumping of 10-15cm of new snow. We were enveloped in the clouds and so postponed plans for climbing higher up the mountain and descended back down to the previous days site, where we attempted to hone our abilities.

Plans were made for a return journey later in the season. All in all a great weekend

## The Classifieds

To sell stuff in 'Climber' email [suzstick@hotmail.com](mailto:suzstick@hotmail.com) with details.

### For Sale

MSR XGK stove w. fuel bottle plus extras trilliam base and padded cell - \$200

Black Diamond Camalots - \$90 each, sizes 1,2,3

Wild Country Tech Friends sizes - 0, 0.5, 1, 1.5 - \$75 each

Metolius Tri cam - size 0 \$60

Ortovox X1 transceiver \$400

Arc'teryx Alpha SV Gore-Tex Jkt, size Lge \$500

5.10 UFO rock shoes - unused US9.5 \$125

Black diamond double Skylounger portaledge, Metolius haul bag - price negotiable

All gear is in excellent condition. Nick 09-6390963 or 021-140-4845

A set of NZAC Journals from 1892 to 2005.

Included are:

- Most Bulletins from the first volumes to Climbers.
- Climbers issued so far.
- A series of NZAC Handbooks.

Offers to :

Patrick McNamara -ph - 03 6846495 or e-mail: [padraimac@xtra.co.nz](mailto:padraimac@xtra.co.nz)

**Secondhand climbing books (instruction, guides)** from around the world - \$5 or below. These all belonged to a member on Auckland section, drop into Bivouac Newmarket to view.

## Web Watch

Check your winter conditions at:

[www.avalanche.net.nz](http://www.avalanche.net.nz)

[www.metvuw.com](http://www.metvuw.com)

[www.metservice.co.nz](http://www.metservice.co.nz)

## 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, Suzanne, at [suzstick@hotmail.com](mailto: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/ to go High Tech

For any change of address, or to request to receive your newsletter by email (better for us and the environment!) contact [subscriptions@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:subscriptions@alpineclub.org.nz)

New Zealand Alpine Club

Auckland Section

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