



Auckland Climber

Welcome to February's edition of the NZ Alpine Club's Auckland Section newsletter. This is the first newsletter of 2006, and the section wishes everyone a happy year ahead.

The club runs a variety of alpine, climbing and other trips throughout the year and new members are always welcome. The club meets on the first Monday of every month (with a few exceptions for Bank Holidays- see below!) at St Lukes Community Centre, 130 Remuera Rd, Newmarket.

This month's meeting: Tuesday 7th February– 7.30pm

'Members' Alpine Adventures over Summer'

The crampons are still wet and the memories are still fresh so what better time for club members to stand up and spill the beans about the highs and lows of their Christmas break alpine adventures?

Members are encouraged to come along and talk about any ascents/adventures/climbs. If you have slides, pictures and even wobbly video camera footage then so much the better!

Meanwhile, there'll be plenty of opportunity for the audience to ask sensible questions /shout slanderous heckles as the evening progresses.

2005 Committee Contact Information

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Auckland Section News

Reminder of Change to Ruapehu Alpine Club Hut Bookings System

Please note that bookings for the club's hut should now be made through Margaret Mahon, NZAC, Christchurch on 03 377 7595 or admin@alpineclub.org.nz

National News

HOMER HUT, SOUTHLAND

Please note that the builders are in and the hut will be closed from 16th January - 8th March 2006 inclusive.

Any queries, please contact John Cocks, Homer Hut Upgrade Project Manager, by email john.h.ocks@nz.mwhglobal.com or phone 474 3975 wk or 473 0518h

SHORT ROPING

In the light of last year's Ball Pass accident a new paper on short roping has been published, you can see it by going to www.alpinerecreation.com/shortroping.pdf

CONGRATULATIONS TO SEAN WATERS AND JOE KIPPAX

Club members may remember last year's entertaining evening with Sean who regaled us with slides, video and witty reportage of their 2004 expedition to Tibet (which turned into an expedition to China when their permits were cancelled at the last minute).

The good news is that their 2005 Expedition went where it was supposed to and on 10th Sean November 10th they made a first ascent of Tibetan peak, Birutaso (6550m). As ever, the pair faced a fair few tests and reached the summit at 10pm and were thus forced to have a night in a rock bivvy just below the summit – without tent and sleeping bags. You can read more about their adventures at www.summitfootprints.com

As a happy addendum the pair has just been jointly awarded the 2005 Macpac Mountaineer of the Year Award.

International News

PAKISTAN PEAK FEE CUT TO CONTINUE

'Mountain lovers, adventurers and climbers will be heartened to know government of Pakistan has decided to continue 50 percent concession in royalty fee for peaks above 6500m, waiver of the royalty fee for peaks upto 6500m and reduction of royalty fee for mountains located in Chitral, Gilgit and Ghizar districts to 10%. Climbers from all over are invited to avail of this huge concession in 2006 that may not continue afterwards. Please review the following website link :

<http://www.nazirsabir.com/news> OR

<http://www.nazirsabir.com/news/peakconcession2006.php>

BMC INTERNATIONAL SUMMER ROCK CLIMBING MEET - 7 - 14 May 2006 Plas y Brenin, North Wales

The British Mountaineering Council is pleased to announce it will be holding an International Summer Rock Climbing Meet from 7 - 14 May 2006. The NZAC is invited to nominate 2 climbers to take part. Note: The first application form has to be in by **3rd Feb** .

For further information contact www.thebmc.co.uk or email becky@thebmc.co.uk

Trips

A big thank you to all the organisers who have made these trips possible. If you'd like to contribute by organising a trip or have any ideas for trips please contact Grant (Trips Officer) grants22@clear.net.nz or 09 638-3346

February 17/18/19 - Rock Climbing at Whanganui Bay

Leaving Auckland on Friday night and returning on Sunday.

Climbers at all levels are welcome. Accommodation is to be camping (\$10 per night)

Organiser: Tom Igusa tel 834-6395 or 021-527-530- igusa@slingshot.co.nz

Sun Feb 19 - Paddle to the Pub

Kayaking from Herald Island at 10am and finish at around 3pm. Kayaks can be hired if you don't have one. Organiser: Janet Holt, jmholt@xtra.co.nz, tel: 416 4555

Sat Feb 25 - Mountain Biking 42nd Traverse

The classic MTB day trip, get some late training for the Colville Connection.

Organiser: Maurits van den Berg, maurits@mvdv.tax.co.nz, 021 757 503

March 25/26 - Mt. Moehau, top of the Coromandel.

Based on a farm with a beach at Port Charles, can accommodate 6-8 people indoors, and numerous in tents, 3.5 hours drive from Auckland. "Wobble" style tramping up the Okahutahi Stream - slightly rugged tramping for 3 - 4 km, then scaling the steepish loose face of 'Little Moehau', easy 8hrs return. Possible other activities swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, (not surfing), mountain biking.

Investigate a possible new rock climbing venue at Pakau Point.

Organiser: Ron Vautier - e-mail contact preferred

H 527-8554 leave a message or ronvautier@hotmail.com

Easter Trip: April 14th-17th – Arapilies, Melbourne, Australia

Club Trip to the Southern Hemisphere's foremost climbing area, 4 hours from Melbourne.

Please contact John Salisbury on 09 834 6699

Trip Reports

NZAC Climbing Camp – 27th – 2nd Jan '06, Rees Valley, Southland by John Salisbury

An account of the NZAC Camp – Rees Valley - 2006

This year's camp was held up the Rees valley, a kilometre or so up from Big Muddy Creek. About 100 or so people were on the camp, with much coming & going through the week, as the weather was variable (foul) for the first few days. There was a good turnout of Australian members as well as people from all over the world.

Saturday 31st December saw the camp kick off with a fine evening and a barbeque with beer and wine around the two communal tents, which were heavily used through the week.

The forecast was poor for most of the week, so many people did day trips. One party who set off on the Saturday summited Mt. Earnslaw, the only group to do so. Quite a lot set off on the Sunday & spent days in tents & bivouacs in Kea Basin.

On Sunday, Marita & I walked to 25 Mile hut, which was in a poor state, carried onto Big Devil Hut, which was locked, & returned to 25 Mile. As it was hosing down, we lit the fire & dried out as best we could. The bunks were chain link fencing nailed to the frame, the kapok mattresses were original 1950's issue, heavily used as community housing by mice, so we put our bivvy bags over them & had a good night's sleep, apart from worrying about those stuck out on the mountain. Better than our 2 man tent!

As it had not let up by Monday morning, we decided to tidy up the hut a bit, so we burnt the worst, burst mattress, tried to alter the chimney to let the smoke up, instead of down & out of the door, excavated the hearth of about a quarter of a metre of ash, evicted the bottles & burnt out pans & had the place relatively shipshape when Dave Bamford, Hugh Logan & party turned up to see where all the smoke was coming from. After a brew, we decided to follow them back to camp as the rain had eased off a bit, so we restocked the wood & returned down the valley. Line dancing was the highlight of this evening's entertainment, we had to sing the refrains ourselves, which made it hard to concentrate on the steps. The next day, Tuesday, we walked up as a group to see some of the old mine workings at the Invincible Mine, how anyone stood it we don't know, the snow was down to 1200m & it was midsummer!

As Wednesday was forecast wet again, we set off late to 25 Mile hut & had a freezing night there, then off to Shelter Rock hut near the Rees Saddle on Thursday. A lovely walk & a great hut. On Friday, we walked back to camp & helped tidy up a bit, then there was a great get together in the remaining communal tent. On the Saturday we cadged a lift back to Queenstown.

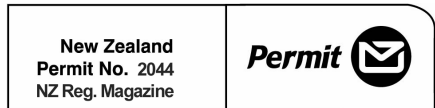
After a couple of days in the fleshpots, we did the Gillespie Saddle walk out of Makarora with Micki Okabe, but didn't go up to Crucible Lake as the weather was so bad (Micki did). A great two weeks and an excellent camp; thoroughly recommended.

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.

Change of Address

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
NZAC Auckland Section, PO Box 3036, Auckland



The Auckland Climber - NZ Alpine Club Auckland Section Newsletter