



Auckland Climber

Welcome to March's edition of the NZ Alpine Club's Auckland Section newsletter.

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) and the venue is usually St Lukes Community Centre, 130 Remuera Rd, Newmarket. However, this month, there's a change!

This month's meeting: Monday 6th March – 7.15pm

Pub Quiz- with an Alpine twist!

Cardrona Ale House, 73 Normanby Street, Mt Eden

Switch off the X-Box, and dust off the kids' copy of 'The Pictorial Encyclopaedia of the World' because it's the Alpine Club's inaugural Pub Quiz! And it'll be a great opportunity for members and new & old and partners and friends to come together for a bit of friendly competition and a few laughs.



In a 10 round competition there'll be 5 Alpine themed rounds (where the common sense of non members will certainly come in handy!). The other 5 rounds will rely on team's general world knowledge, mime ability and creativity with scissors and sellotape!

Teams can be up to 6 people, but don't worry if you haven't got a team together – we'll be sorting that out on the night! It's \$5 per head to enter and in return we'll have a few prizes up for grabs.

We look forward to seeing you all then!

2005 Committee Contact Information

Maurits van den Berg Chairperson	021 757 503	maurits@mvdb.tax.co.nz
Kathleen Lee Secretary	845 4487	kwt_lee@yahoo.co.nz
Allan Maclachlan Treasurer	579 8009	Allan_mac@xtra.co.nz
Grant Sutton Trips Organiser	638 3346	grants22@clear.net.nz
Shirley Wintersgill Events Manager	638 5349	swintersgill@adhb.govt.nz
John Salisbury Membership	834 6699	salisj@xtra.co.nz
Suresh Nanu Ruapehu Hut Manager	021 815210 (after 3.15pm)	snanu@slingshot.co.nz
Margaret McMahon Ruapehu Hut Bookings	03 377 7595	admin@alpineclub.org.nz
Sarah Owen Instruction Coordinator	Tba	sarahowen99@hotmail.com
Mark Roberts Chief Instructor	845 4487	mark2005roberts@yahoo.co.nz
Deryn Williams Section Rep.	021 627 892	deryn@hyper.net.nz
Suzanne Stickney Newsletter Editor	638 5349	suzstick@hotmail.com

Auckland Section News

BANFF FILM FESTIVAL, 16th May 2006, St Lukes Cinema, Auckland

Watch this space for more info on this brilliant and popular event that showcases some of the best in Alpine endeavour and cinematography. Film selection is underway, the tickets are being printed and they'll be available at April and May's meetings & at Biviouac and Outdoor Action from the end of the month.

THE BLACK DIAMOND CLIMBING WEEKEND - 24th - 26th March '06'

Where : Wharepapa

based at Bryce's café

Events :

'Big wall climbing'

Seminar and slides presented by Kester Brown

Wharepapa School Hall (next to Bryce's) Fri night 24th

Mini Indoor Bouldering Competition

Prizes and giveaways Bryces café Sat night 25th

“No Worries, climb on my gear”

Demo Gear available – chance to try some of the latest gear on some of the best climbing in NZ, Bryce’s Café Sat 25th

Bryces Top 5 Trad Route Challenge

Grab a copy of the challenge to go in the draw for ‘Booty’ prizes drawn Sat 25th

Where to stay : **Bryces Outdoor Centre, 1424 Owairaka Valley Rd Wharepapa South** Self contained units from \$20 a night, Bunkroom available for larger groups, Camping available for \$4 a night

For more information contact Bryce’s Outdoor Centre on 07 872 2533

National News

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT ELECT, NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB

Members are invited to send nominations for the next President-Elect to the National Office by 1 April 2006. The May CCM will then make an appointment from these nominations. Nominations should be signed by the members making them and by the nominees, and should be accompanied by a brief CV of the nominee.

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

Either 11th or 12th March - Rock Climbing at Wharepapa on the best weather day of the weekend.

On Thurs 9th. Jon will make a call on which day the trip will run & car pooling will be organised accordingly. E-mail Jon to let him know which day/s you can go. Organiser: Jon Hind 021-1222-334 , 522 5181 after 6pm , HindJ@conwag.com

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

Classified

Wanted

Plastic Mountaineering Boots small sizes 7,6,5,4,3 in reasonable condition
Email westcoastclimbing@clear.net.nz

Situation Vacant

Glacier Guide, Franz Josef Glacier

Guiding company requires a climbing guide with glacier experience.

NZOIA or NZMGA qualifications preferred. Full training given, fun workplace, flexible time off, excellent wage. westcoastclimbing@clear.net.nz for more details.

Guide Books Required

Has anyone got second-hand copies of the following guidebooks they would be interested in parting with to a new member?

Mt Cook/Aoraki; NZ Backcountry Skiing, Arthur's Pass, Mt Aspiring and Barron Saddle/Mt Brewster. Please contact Martin Berka 021 0323191 [mberka\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:mberka(at)gmail.com)

Trip Reports

Honeymoon on Haidinger – 1st January 2006 - by Kathleen Lee

We were newly weds - and the husband was to organise the honeymoon. Much to my surprise and delight, our romantic getaway was to consist of a 12 day trip in Pioneer hut with 4 other guests and rain forecast for the first 4 days. On day 3, fine weather was forecast for next morning (New Year's day), with showers developing in the afternoon followed by a further 5 days of rain, thunderstorms and gale force winds.....The race was on to climb a peak, get back to the hut and then catch the helicopter out by the early afternoon, before being hut bound.

Haidinger was the mountain chosen - close to the hut and feasible to bag in a morning. It has a grade of "3+" – so steep snow slopes would maintain our

interest, and the idea of being the first team on top of Haidinger for the year 2006 had some romantic appeal to me.

We set off at 3am, feeling the time pressure and the cold ice under our feet as we crunched our way 2km up the Fox Glacier to the bottom of the route. We had eyed up the route the day before and it looked very easy to navigate. We only had to negotiate an ice couloir to gain access to a steep snow slope, make our way to the top of the snow slope, traverse left across another steep snow section, climb through another ice gully and then the summit would be ours. It would take an estimated time of 3 hours from the base of the route to the summit.

Three hours later, I was at the top of the first snow slope, my calf muscles aching from the continuous front pointing and my body becoming weary rapidly. Time and energy were running out as we slowly pitched our way across the snow slope traverse and up the final ice gully. As the slope angle became steeper, the words "I'm f*cked" started to ring through my head with every upward movement. I stopped every 5 minutes for another 5 mins, as I climbed further up the mountain. I needed to stop frequently to suck in oxygen to recharge the energy in my lead weight calf muscles. Everything was taking twice as long as we had anticipated. Time was still marching on.

Our summit experience was met by an unwelcoming frosty wind, biting sharply into our skin as we stopped for a few nibbles and honeymoon photos. The brief time spent admiring the views were worth the exhausting efforts after all. The views towards Mt Cook were truly stunning.

Then I started repeating the words "I'm F*cked" to myself again after I peered over edge to look at the descent route. I'd need a lot of concentration to get down safely. Our descent down the mountain included 75m of abseiling down to a ridge, traversing the ridge and then walking down another steep ridge to the safety of the glacier. The key to a successful descent was to stop myself from falling asleep as my body and mind slowed down from only 2 hours of sleep the previous night. As descending requires less physical exertion than ascending, it tends to switch the mind off as well. I stopped to wait for one of my climbing partners for 10 minutes, whilst sitting un-roped on a rock perched on the final steep ridge. The forward falling motion of my head made me realise that I was asleep and needed to wake up rapidly. The Fox glacier was still 300m below me – a bit more attention was still required. I wondered if any climbing accidents occurred from mountaineers falling asleep and rolling off the mountain!

After a short abseil off the final ridge, my husband left his sac sitting on the glacier to retrieve the rope. A gust of wind blew the sac down a crevasse and more time was spent belaying him down the crevasse to fetch it. Time still ticked on as we used up the last of our reserve energy to quickly march back to the hut.

At arrival back at the hut I could only describe my recent experience with the words "I'm so over mountaineering!". I was exhausted after 11 hours of mental and physical exertion. It was a totally draining experience.

The weather had closed in down the valley and the helicopter did not come to pick us up.....



It is now day two of being hut bound and I'm spending hours in this hut waiting for a weather clearance. I'm looking at the glossy magazines with pictures of the beautiful mountains which I can climb and the rewarding view that the summits have to offer. I'm reading about the hero stories of climbers who inspire me. Exhaustion – what was that all about? Would I repeat the whole experience again? Most definitely...I can't think of a better way to spend a honeymoon and New Year's Day.

Next stop Mt Aspiring!

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

