

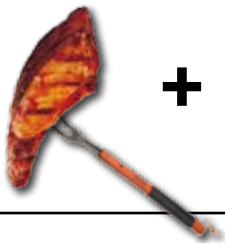


The  
**Auckland  
Climber**

October '06

this month

# nanda देवी



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next month

**BBQ and  
Climbing**

*Welcome to October's edition of the NZAC Auckland Section newsletter. The club runs a variety of alpine, climbing & other trips throughout the year & new members are always welcome. The club generally meets on the 1st Monday of every month at St Luke's Community Centre, 130 Remuera Rd, Newmarket – but look out for a few exceptions for Bank Holidays!*

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***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](mailto: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](mailto:subscriptions@alpineclub.org.nz)  
NZAC Auckland Section, PO Box 3036, Auckland

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***This month's meeting:***

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**Monday 2nd October 7.15pm**



# nanda devi

In 1995, Aucklander Chris White was involved in an expedition run by the Indian Army to climb Nanda Devi West via Longstaff Col traversing the long ridge between Nanda Devi East and West and returning via the same route. Nanda Devi (height 7108 metres) is India's highest mountain. Shrouded in controversy and highly sacred it is one of the world's most fascinating high peaks. Chris says "The ascent was attempted in a 'retro' manner and involved the seven D's of Himalayan story telling: death, dysentery, decay, deprivation, disunity, disharmony, and dahl!"



Come and find out more about this memorable expedition. (sounds like a right laugh!!)

***Next month's meeting:***

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**Monday 6th November**

## **BBQ and Climbing**

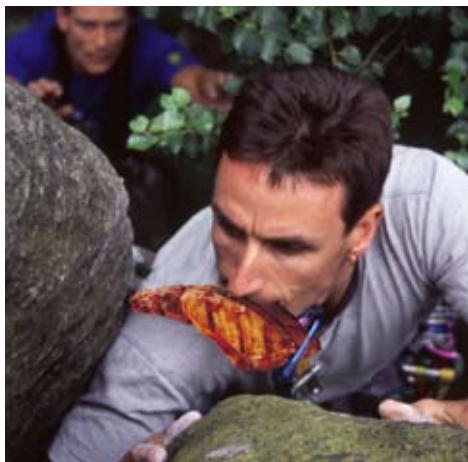
Time again for the club's annual BBQ and Climb to welcome in what promises to be a gorgeous summer! Members new, old and prospective are invited to come along for a social climb and a bite to eat. Just turn up from 7pm. \$5 for BBQ.

**Where:** Adventure Specialities Trust,  
4 Winston Place, off Central Park Drive,  
Henderson.

For directions see:

[www.adventurespecialities.co.nz/ast/aboutus/where.php](http://www.adventurespecialities.co.nz/ast/aboutus/where.php)

For more info and to report vegetarianism, contact Matt, Meeting's Organiser, on 523 4419.



# News

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## ***Wanted: Hut Manager***

The section is looking for a Hut Manager to join John Salisbury, Hut Maintenance Manager in keeping an eye on the Club's Ruapehu Hut.

The role would involve liaising with John on hut issues, occasionally liaising with HQ over hut fees and expenditure and helping to keep the hut adequately maintained and stocked by talking to people who are coming and going from the hut.

It's not a big job and the role would suit anyone who has been to the hut and who could spare one or two weekends a year for a working bee.

For more information please contact Kathleen Lee, Chairperson on 845 4487.

## ***Mt Aspiring National Park – Your Views***

The Department of Conservation is currently reviewing Mount Aspiring National Park's Management Plan. In order to gain as wide a range of views as possible, DOC would like to hear from park users about what they think makes the park special for mountaineering and tramping.

Your response to the following questions would be valued.

1. How valuable is the experience of climbing Mount Aspiring/ Tititea and its neighbouring peaks?
2. Do you think that experience is sustainable over the next decade?
3. How does the value of climbing and tramping experiences in Mount Aspiring National Park differ from other national parks?
4. Is Mount Aspiring National Park still the home of what many describe as 'the big trip'?

Your comments would be appreciated by 14 February 2007

Department of Conservation,

PO Box 5244

Dunedin

or

[aspiringreview@doc.govt.nz](mailto:aspiringreview@doc.govt.nz)



## ***Expedition Funding News***

Auckland Climber has heard that New Zealand climbers are under represented in expedition grants awarded through the Mount Everest Foundation.

Set up after the 1953 Everest expedition, the foundation offers funding to New Zealand and British mountaineering groups. Here's the criteria: (taken from their website: [www.mef.org.uk](http://www.mef.org.uk))

"Primarily British and New Zealand expeditions which plan geographical exploration, first ascents of, or new routes on, high or remote mountains are likely to qualify. Applications to little-explored or formerly inaccessible areas are particularly encouraged. The MEF also supports education and research involving the world's mountains regions: research expeditions to any high mountain regions are also eligible for funding.

The Screening Committee meets to consider applications twice a year – in November and March.

Closing dates for receipt of completed applications are 31st August and 31st December of the year prior to the expedition. These dates are strictly observed, and expeditions are never considered in retrospect."

## ***Trip reports:***

Bumper Trip reports in next month's issue provided the weather improves (Grrrrrr). Has anyone been to the South Island? We'd love to see some pictures or hear about your adventures. Email the newsletter editor: [suzstick@hotmail.com](mailto:suzstick@hotmail.com)

*NZAC Presents:*

# *Lifetime Membership to Graeme Dingle*

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**By Matt Robertson**

At an age when most men are planning more time on the golf course and possibly the occasional walking holiday to Italy, Graeme Dingle has no plans to retire. "At 60 I am doing my best work," says Graeme, "the most powerful time of my life I see as between 60 and 65."

Given what he's achieved in the preceding 60 years, that is quite a promise. The mountaineer and explorer's curriculum vitae is impressive; first ascents in the Southern Alps, six classic European north faces in a single season, a winter traverse of Southern Alps, Himalayan expeditions and a North West Passage crossing.

With a such a list of achievements, it was only natural that the New Zealand Alpine Club would award Graeme with Lifetime Membership, and on Thursday 31 August Auckland section Chairperson, Kathleen Lee, managed to pin down the busy adventurer long enough to give him his certificate.

Beyond adventure there has also been his achievement as a leader in youth development in New Zealand, first with the Outdoor Pursuits Centre and then with Project K and the Foundation for Youth Development.

Project K and the Foundation for Youth Development currently have 15,000 young people 'at risk' involved in various schemes designed to build their confidence and self-esteem, as well as provide the essential life skills that they may have missed out on. Each child begins by participating in a wilderness experience. There they learn that significant challenges can be "broken down into little steps that teach big lessons," according to Graeme.

Graeme recognises that there is still much work to be done, with 22,000 New Zealand



children currently going without any kind of schooling whatsoever. The enthusiasm that sparkles in Graeme's eyes turns to a fire when he reels off New Zealand's depressing youth statistics.

Project K works with kids before they get into trouble, but Graeme draws a great deal of personal pride from his previous work with the Journey programme in the late 1980's. The Journey programme used

similar methods, but with convicted criminals, and it successfully changed the lives of four out of six participants.

The project did not continue because of a lack of political support, a fact that disappoints Graeme. "The (current) recidivist rate is in the 90's" he points out "it's a bloody site cheaper in every way."

In many ways he is a Kiwi Renaissance man, mountaineer, explorer, writer, campaigner and educator. But there is another string to his bow, painting.

Painting has been a passion since before he discovered the outdoors, but one for which he has so far achieved no renown. A self imposed lack of exposure may be the reason for this: when partner Jo-anne suggested exhibiting his work, he "immediately got stage fright"

Whether or not we ever see his art, it is unlikely that Graeme will be resting on his porch with his memories any time soon. The enthusiasm for his youth work and the outdoors will keep him going for a long time to come.

The enthusiasm is contagious, and is an enthusiasm for life, not glory. Graeme draws great pride from the fact that "No one I have ever been with in the mountains has ever been killed or injured." It seems it is this concern for others that also powers his youth work.

One wonders what he will achieve in the next few years if he gets the kind of government backing that he perhaps deserves.

**To find out more about Project K contact see [www.projectk.org.nz](http://www.projectk.org.nz) or contact 09 476 7026.**

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*Sunset on Fox Glacier*

# Trips

Do you have a new trip idea? Perhaps you missed one before and want a repeat? We can only run as many trips as there are organisers. Volunteer to lead just one trip this year and get to do it where, when and with whom you want! You don't need to be the most proficient person on the trip, you are not a guide, its about car-pooling etc. Make your dream trip happen this winter, contact Grant (Trips Officer) grants22@clear.net.nz or Tel: 638-3346

*Alpine climbing is dangerous! You need to have the appropriate skill for any trip that you wish to attend. 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 would be proficient in all the basic alpine skills taught on the course. Advanced would have already gained further alpine experience.*

**You may need to assure the organiser that you have the appropriate skill level before they let you attend.** The best way to do this is to attend the monthly Monday night meeting, introduce yourself to the organiser and tell them what skills and experience you have. This is not just for your safety but for the safety of others on the trip.

## October

### Expression Session, Ruapehu Hut

October 7-8

Grab a rope mate and scour the guidebook for ideas. This is a free for all weekend when you are encouraged to "do-your-own-thing" whether its practising new snowcraft skills or topping out on that elusive route. Summit Pare, Tahurangi and Cathedral Rocks all in one day! Ice climbing on the Plateau or the mythical Barium Enema Face. Pitching with snow stakes and abseiling on Delta Ridge. Mixed bouldering on Delta Corner for the lazy. The key is to choose an objective suited to both your ability and the conditions!

**Level:** Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced

 Grant Sutton  grants22@clear.net.nz  638-3346

### Taranaki [Tahurangi Lodge]

October 21-23

An ideal opportunity to summit this mountain while developing your alpine skills. Whether its via the North Ridge, Surrey Road, East Ridge or Teds Alley this hut is ideally situated for all these routes. We re-group at the top for some ice climbing on the crater rim.

**Level:** New Snowcraft Graduates / Intermediate / Advanced

 Ben Lee  benlee923@hotmail.com  480-8381

### Outdoor First Aid Course

October 28-29

An intensive two day course run by Positively First Training see their web site [www.pft.co.nz](http://www.pft.co.nz) for more info. Kathleen is keen to attend and is probably looking forward to practicing her first aid skills on you!

 Kathleen Lee  Kwt\_lee@yahoo.co.nz  845-4487

# Webwatch

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Here's a list of sites to check out:

- www.avalanche.net.nz** Check snow conditions before heading to the mountain.  
**www.metservice.co.nz** The NZ mountain weather forecast sites.  
**www.metvuw.com**  
**www.snow.co.nz** Check out the snowcams around the country.  
**www.mountainz.co.nz** Everything that's going on in NZ's mountaineering world, plus gear for sale and discussion forums.  
**www.sportzhub.co.nz** Eventers check out this site! Also buy/sell/discussion.

## 2006 committee contacts

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**Chairperson** – Kathleen Lee

Phone: 845 4487  
email: kwt\_lee@yahoo.co.nz

**Vice Chairperson & Chief Instructor**

– Mark Roberts  
Phone: 845 4487  
email: mark2005roberts@yahoo.co.nz

**Secretary & Section Rep** – Deryn Williams

Phone: 441 3094  
email: deryn@hyper.net.nz

**Treasurer & Section Rep** – Allan MacLachlan

Phone: 579 8009  
email: allan\_mac@xtra.co.nz

**Newsletter Editor** – Suzanne Stickney

Phone: 845 1433  
email: suzstick@hotmail.com

**Membership Secretary & Hut Manager**

– John Salisbury  
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email: salisj@xtra.co.nz

**Trips Organiser** – Grant Sutton

Phone: 638 3346  
email: grants22@clear.net.nz

**Instruction Organiser & Snowcraft** – Chris Munro

Phone: 021 038 6230  
email: munrochris@yahoo.co.nz

**Meetings Organiser** – Matt Robertson

Phone: 523 4419  
email: matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com

**Events Organisers** – Sarah Owen

Phone: 0211 276 125  
email: Sarahowen99@hotmail.com

**and**

Rob Frost  
Phone: 027 244 6709  
email: robfrost\_nz@yahoo.co.nz

**Ruapehu Hut Bookings** – Margaret McMahon

Phone: National Office (03) 377 7595  
during office hours  
email: admin@alpineclub.org.nz

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# Snapped

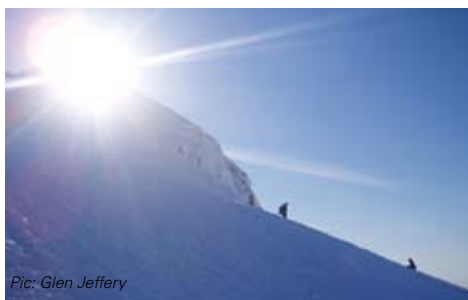
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Pics from the 3rd SnowCraft weekend.

*Pic: Brandon Daniel*



*Pic: Glen Jeffery*



*Pic: Chris McCullagh*

*The Auckland Climber*  
NZ Alpine Club Auckland Section Newsletter  
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New Zealand

