



*The*  
**Auckland  
Climber**

*April '07*

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is  
on the road across North America  
and the world!

**BANFF  
MOUNTAIN  
FILM  
FESTIVAL  
WORLD TOUR**

**SkyCity Theatre**

**Wednesday 2nd May 2007, 7.30pm**

*this month*

**AGM and photo competition**

*Welcome to April's edition of the NZAC Auckland Section's newsletter. The section runs a variety of alpine, climbing and other trips and courses throughout the year and new members are always welcome. The club generally meets on the first Monday of every month at St Luke's Community Centre, Remuera Rd, Newmarket at 7.15 pm, but check the newsletter for exceptions.*

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#### *Climber Content*

Is there anything you would like to see in the newsletter? Do you have a suggestion for improving the newsletter? If so, drop us a line, we're keen to hear from you. Alternatively, we love getting submissions from members – whether they be Trip Reports, Items for Sale or rants. Just send your material to the editor by the 20th of the month

preceding. Call Suzanne Stickney on 845 1433 or email [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:*

**Monday 2nd April 7.15 pm, St Lukes Community Hall**

## **AGM and Photo Competition**

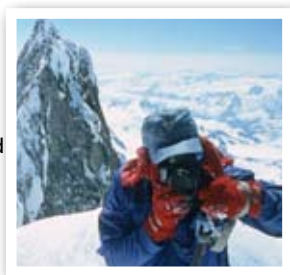
Come along for the AGM and hear what your committee members have been up to this year. Is it true the Treasurer gave up his day job, spent a month in a five star tramping lodge in Nepal and paid off his mortgage? No, of course not, but best to come and check for yourself to be on the safe side.

We're looking for new committee members and if you haven't already, this is the time to volunteer yourself for the (weighty) responsibility of Auckland Section committee membership.

The AGM will be followed by the annual photo competition. There are a few really talented photographers in the club and it's always great to see pictures of people's experiences. Photo categories are Alpine General, Alpine Activity, Alpine Nature, Rock Climbing, Photojournalism, Humour.

We can accept slides and digital photos and they need to be labelled up and with the Competition coordinator by 6.30pm on the night.

It's great to get as wide a variety of pictures as possible so please have a look through and see if you have anything to enter (there are prizes!!). Questions and queries to Matt on [matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com](mailto:matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com)



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

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## **Norman Hardie**

**May 14th – 7.30pm at the Hobson Room,  
Parnell Community Centre  
(Jubilee House), Parnell Road.**

Auckland is excited to welcome Norman Hardie as May's guest speaker. Norman is one of the country's most revered climbers with a fantastic climbing history to share with us. He was on the Everest expedition in '53 and led the very first ascent of the world's third highest peak, Kanchenjunga.

We suggest you get there early. Please note the change of venue and date!

# Auckland News

The festival showcases a collection of the year's most exciting and inspiring adventure and endeavour films gathered from across the globe. The films are of varying lengths and genres from autobiographies to comedies. This year's main feature is a fear-filled first crossing of a Patagonian glacier...



## BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

Tickets cost \$15 for members and \$20 for non members with all proceeds going to the NZAC (which in turn goes to hut maintenance!).

**Tickets can be purchased from Bivouac or Outdoor Action from April 1st, or from April's Auckland NZAC meeting, or if you are dead keen, by sending a self addressed envelope and a cheque made out to: NZAC Auckland Section to PO Box 3036, Auckland 1015.**

**SkyCity Theatre**

Wednesday 2nd May 2007, 7.30pm



The Banff Centre  
inspiring creativity

[www.banffmountainfestivals.ca](http://www.banffmountainfestivals.ca)

Proud to be a founding member of the



Last year this event sold out, so please buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment. See you there!



AUCKLAND SECTION

Photo © G Lang

# SnowCraft '07

An introductory course focused on taking participants new to the alpine environment into the mountains to gain skills, confidence and experience in alpine climbing.



### Topics covered in the course:

- Moving on snow
- Using ice-axe and crampons on snow and ice
- Self arrest
- Mountain navigation and route finding
- Mountain weather
- Snow anchors, abseiling
- and belays on snow
- Building snow shelters
- Avalanche awareness
- Crevasse rescue
- Equipment selection
- Introduction to multi-pitch climbing
- Summit experience (weather permitting)

### When is it?

Weekends at Ruapehu  
4-5 Aug, 25-26 Aug, 22-23 Sept

This course is very popular and the limited places typically fill up quickly. To secure a spot on the course see Chris Munro at a club meeting or contact him on 021 0386230 email: munrochris@yahoo.co.nz

## Rock climbing Instruction

Paul Rogers (premier rock climber) from Wanaka has expressed an interest in doing an intensive trad climbing course over a series of weekends in the spring/summer here on the NI. We'd hook up with Wellington and Central North Island Sections. To gauge interest, please email Roger Mayhill, Chief Instructor on roger.mayhill@xtra.co.nz or phone him on 021 732 127.

## National News

### Notice for Westpac Bank Customers

The New Zealand Alpine Club bank account is now set up as a payee on Westpac's phone and online banking services. If you are a Westpac customer you will be able to pay the NZAC for membership renewals, etc either:

- for phone banking, call Westpac on 0800 400 600 with their Customer ID and phone password, or

- for online banking, logon through the website at <http://www.westpac.co.nz> and select the 'set up someone new to pay online' link

Customers can then make one-off payments as required. They will incur an electronic transaction charge, at the rate applicable to their account.

If you wish to take advantage of this electronic system, please remember to enter

Particulars: Surname and Initials

Code: Invoice or Membership number e.g Member no. 007

Reference: What the payment is for e.g Annual Sub

We will let you know if we are able to extend this service to other major banks in the future.

## *Life Insurance*

The NZAC would like to gauge member's interest in being able to access Life Insurance via their NZAC membership. This life insurance would cover them while mountaineering. Current policies on offer usually either don't cover climbing, or charge an extremely high extra premium. We are looking at the possibility of having access to a standard premium offer from a respected NZ company, that will cover NZ residents while climbing either in NZ or Australia at no extra charge, plus give the option to extend Life cover when climbing in other countries. To obtain the best discount for our members, we would like to be able to provide a rough idea of numbers to the insurer. There is no guarantee we will go ahead with this idea, but the NZAC would really appreciate any feedback from members  
Please email responses to Margaret McMahon, National Administrator, New Zealand Alpine Club Inc. [margaret@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:margaret@alpineclub.org.nz) or call on 03 377 7595.

## *Bought, Sold & Offers*

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### **FMC BULLETINS**

Thanks to the efforts of Jenny Harlow, our library volunteer, we now have a selection of past FMC Bulletins that members are welcome to (for free!). Just send a large PREPAID A5 or A4 envelope for up to five copies – per envelope. Drop me an email to check we have the numbers you are after first.

PLUS, if anyone has spare copies of the following numbers, these are missing from our collection and we would like to complete the set if possible: Thanks everyone. Numbers 1-25; 27-39; 41-48; 50; 55; 71; 76; 88; 99; 101; 102; 120 & 123. Contact: [margaret@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:margaret@alpineclub.org.nz)

### **Video Offer**

Available from the National Office while stock lasts. Package deal of 1 Staying Alive Video (not DVD), plus 1 MSC34 Alpine Skills manual at the special price of \$40 + \$4.50 p&p. There are only 8 Videos left. Contact: [Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz)

### **For Sale**

Ski touring package. Ski's Rossi Bandit XX 191cm with Diamir Titanal 2 bindings and brakes, profile cut Montana Skins, Scarpa Denali XT (blue) boots with re-mouldable Intuition liners, suit sizes 10-13 approx. All in good condition. \$620 ono. Phone Matt 03 337 8018 or 027 688 7537.

## *2006 committee contacts*

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### **Chairperson** – Deryn Williams

Phone: 441 3094  
email: [derynw@datacom.co.nz](mailto:derynw@datacom.co.nz)

### **Vice Chairperson & Chief Instructor**

– Mark Roberts  
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email: [mark2005roberts@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:mark2005roberts@yahoo.co.nz)

### **Secretary** – Caroline Lonsdale

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### **Treasurer & Section Rep** – Allan MacLachlan

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### **Newsletter Editor** – Suzanne Stickney

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### **Membership Secretary & Hut Manager**

– Richard Knott & Brad White  
Phone: tba  
email: tba

### **Trips Organiser** – Grant Sutton

Phone: 638 3346  
email: [2grant2@gmail.com](mailto:2grant2@gmail.com)

### **Instruction Organiser & Snowcraft** – Chris Munro

Phone: 021 038 6230  
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### **Rock Instruction** – Roger Mayhill

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### **Meetings Organiser** – Matt Robertson

Phone: tba  
email: [matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com](mailto:matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com)

### **Events Organisers** – Brandon Daniell

Phone: 021 274 7040  
email: [brandond@lighthouse-ventures.com](mailto:brandond@lighthouse-ventures.com)

### **Ruapehu Hut Bookings** – Margaret McMahon

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

# Trips

If there is a trip you'd like to lead or something you would like to do (but not lead) please drop Grant (Trips Officer) a line. We rely on members' feedback and inspiration and so love to hear from you and will do our best to get your trips off the ground. Now's the time to be thinking about those winter trips! Email: 2grant2@gmail.com Ph 638 3346

## April

### *Easter Rock Climbing Escape to Whanganui Bay*

6-9 April

Some of the best rock on the North Island, offering a mix of bolted and trad routes. Also featuring campfire tall-stories, swimming and melted Easter eggs! Set on the western shores of Lake Taupo, the idyllic campsite is within walking distance of the crags, while electrical power and shops are miles away! A 4x4 can be handy for access but is not essential.

 [Brandon Daniell](#)  [brandond@lighthouse-ventures.com](mailto:brandond@lighthouse-ventures.com)  021 274 7040

### *Nikau Caves Day Trip*

Saturday 14 April

A guided tour through a unique and pristine limestone cave complex, a coastal forest walk, followed by a picnic in a wonderful farm homestead garden. The drive through the North Waikato to the coast and back with a swim at Sunset Beach is memorable. The cave trip is suitable for active, older children (say 8 plus).

Bring:

- headlamp if you have one (hand torches are provided)
- change of clothes and towel (you will get wet right through to underwear!!)
- food and drink for the picnic

Peter will organise car pooling. Leave Auckland about 9.00am and meet at the caves at 11.00am (drive takes about 1.5 hours).

#### **Directions from Auckland**

Take the Southern Motorway to Mercer. Turn right, following signs to Pukekawa and Golf Club. Drive through Pukekawa and on to Glen Murray. About 6 km past Glen Murray Motors is a Telecom tower where you take the right hand fork into Waikaretu Valley Rd. 15 km to Waikaretu (school and hall). It's another 3 km to our entranceway on the left where there are BIG limestone rocks and the number 1779 on the gate.

NB: There is NO Nikau Cave sign.

Price \$25 per adult \$15 per child

 [Peter Dossor](#)  [caropet@xtra.co.nz](mailto:caropet@xtra.co.nz)  09 523 2035

### *West Coast Wobble*

29 April

Maori Bay Low tide 2:15. Leave 31 Sandringham Rd, at 11 am.

Bring sarnies, dry clothes and a sense of adventure. All welcome, but please call Bruce first to give him an idea of numbers.

 [Bruce Calvert](#)  [calvert@math.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:calvert@math.auckland.ac.nz)  378 4840



Competitors watch as Alex demonstrates Speed Climb (Terry belaying)

# Masters' Climbing Competition

by Deryn Williams, photos by Paul Whitfield

**The first ever New Zealand "Master's Climbing Competition" took place in Auckland last Saturday, March 10th. A scorching day in every way!**

The idea behind the competition was to create a fun, social event to celebrate rock climbing and bring climbers of all different abilities and ages together. It was also cunningly designed to give the older "masters" an opportunity to show the kids how climbing is supposed to be done!

There were four age groups for men and women: Kids: 0-39 yrs; Masters 40-49 yrs; Grand Masters 50-59 yrs and Old Bastards 60+yrs. Climbers had the chance to participate in Speed Climbing, Individual Climbs and Lead Climbing in Pairs.

The crowds gathered in the sunshine at Mt Eden Quarry on Auckland Grammar School's grounds and first up watched Speed Climbs on the Short Side. Two climbs were demonstrated and the rules explained: stay within the white lines, no falling or hanging on the rope. The climbing order was then established, and the race was on! Everyone had a go (even me!), and the crowd was very supportive, even towards the Christchurch usurpers, one of whom ran away with the Kid's first prize (well done Kent Fiddymont). The Russians also outclassed the locals, with Janya taking the Women's prize (1:33min), and her husband Tim Gorobets being the fastest climber overall, with a speedy time of 45 seconds for both climbs. Peter Mobberley was only a fraction behind, at 46 seconds, and Bruce Calvert, in the Grand Masters section, showed he could keep up with the youngsters, with a time of 1:12min, while Hans showed the doctors that he didn't need their medical clearance!

Next up was the Individual Climb on the Long Side. This was an original, never-before-climbed, traversing route of about grade 18. Gena and Alexander had been busy setting this up for weeks, trying to find a route that would be new and challenging but not impossible for most people. The first crux came at about 4m high, where you needed to work your body around an arête with very little to hold onto. Nearly a third of the competitors slipped off at this point. If you made it past that difficulty, the next part required a long stretch to reach the quickdraw conveniently placed just out of reach. Again, the masters strutted their stuff, with Paul Whitfield flying to the 16m top in only 1:56mins, beating the Kids (Andrew Somervell in 2:41min) and the Grand Masters (Peter Mobberley in 3:33min).



By this time the sweltering sun had sucked the energy out of many competitors, and it was a reduced field that took up the last challenge of the Lead Pairs Climb. The idea was to lead-climb the route as safely and stylishly as possible, with a compulsory belay and changeover point about a third of the way up. Paul Whitfield and Colin Megson worked well as a team, using their protection effectively (even testing it by falling on it!), and just managed to outscore David Ackery and Peter Mobberley, despite the latter's impressive rack!

It was a great family atmosphere (even 4-week-old Agathe came down to watch!), and Hans, still showing his climbing spirit at 79yrs old, was an inspiration to us all!

The competition was organised by Auckland Alpine Club members, Alexander Scherbakov and Gena Sibae, and was supported by Bivouac, Outdoor Action and Simond ([www.iclimb.co.nz](http://www.iclimb.co.nz)).

A great day was had by all and the organisers are planning to make it an annual event. Start practising now!

Men in Hats



Gene belaying Individual Climb on long side (with sun protection?)



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