



The Auckland Climber

April '08

www.aucklandclimber.org.nz

The
**BANFF MOUNTAIN
FILM FESTIVAL**
is back!



SKYCITY THEATRE

WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 2008, 7.30PM

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 7.30 pm, but check the newsletter for exceptions.

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 15th of the month

preceding. Call Suzanne Stickney on 486 2024 or email 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

This month's meeting:

Monday April 7th 2008 – Auckland Section Photo Competition

You have had a year of adventuring and now and then you have taken that shot that makes you think 'hey, that could be in National Geographic (as opposed to Razzler readers' wives). Well now is your chance to see how you measure up at the 2008 NZAC Auckland Section Photo Competition – dig out your favourite picture and follow the submission instructions below. Big prizes for those photos the audience deem best!

This is a separate event to the club's national competition, which hasn't got the Adventure General category – and so loses out on all those camel shots.

This is an amateurs only competition – so sorry – no professional photographers (professional meaning those who earn their living from taking photographs)

Submitting your photographs.

1. Dig out your photos and choose a category from below:
 - **Alpine General** – that's your general alpine shot – a mountain at sunrise, a hut at sunset
 - **Alpine Activity** – that's people doing stuff in an alpine environment – a line of climbers heading for the peak, a dynamic leap across a crevasse
 - **Alpine Nature** – that's nature in an alpine environment – a kea doing something kea like, alpine daisy doing something daisy like

- **Rock Climbing** – rock climbing – rock climbers on a rock
 - **Humour** – something funny in the outdoors – climbing Aspiring in a pantomime horse outfit.
 - **Photojournalism** – pictures that tell a story in some way – usually involves moody hut shots or something from the third world
- And this year we have added a new category...

- **Adventure General** – this is a picture that doesn't involve a mountain or a rock face but does involve the outdoors and adventure – mountain biking, kayaking, camel trekking across the Cheviots
2. Each photograph needs to be titled with your sir name, a title and a category abbreviation. (Alpine General = AG; Alpine Activity = AA; Alpine Nature = AN; Rock Climbing = RC; Humour = HU; Photojournalism = PJ; Adventure General = AV)

For example, An example would be 'Robertson alpine sunrise AG.jpg'

3. Put your photos on a memory stick, CD or DVD and bring on the night before 6.30pm. Looking forward to seeing the best of your pics! Watch this space for news about a big name sponsor (or rather a small to medium sized retail business).

If you have any questions, or queries, call Matt on 362 1984 or 0272 241 3596.

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The little Canadian Rocky Mountain town of Banff is famous for two things: its skiing & its mountain film festival – a two week long festival of the world’s best adventure sport films.

Each year the most popular films from this prestigious festival are offered to a select group of mountaineering clubs around the world – and the New Zealand Alpine Club is always on the list.

We promise you an edge-of-your-seat night with a packed programme showcasing the world’s very best in adventure, adrenaline sports, exploration and endeavour films from around the globe.

The Auckland Section of the NZAC only puts this festival on for one night, and the seats always sell out quickly.

The Banff Film Festival in Auckland is a fundraiser for

the New Zealand Alpine Club. Thanks to the Banff Film Festival we’re able to offer a variety of subsidised mountaineering and rock climbing courses to the public and have alpine safety gear such as avalanche transceivers, helmets and harnesses for hire. If you would like to find out more about our trips and courses please contact www.alpineclub.org.nz

How to get your tickets for the Banff Film Festival:

On foot: Tickets can be bought from any Outdoor Action or Bivouac store city wide from April 1.

On the computer: Go to www.aucklandclimber.org.nz and follow the simple instructions for paying on line. Your tickets will be sent out to you.

Tickets cost:

\$20 for members and \$15 for non members.

See you there!



The Banff Centre
inspiring creativity

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!

SnowCraft '08

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

Dates:

Weekend 1: 26-27 July

Weekend 2: 16-17 August

Weekend 3: 13-14 September

For more info contact Chris on 029 238 6230

or email: NZACSnowCraft@gmail.com



National News

INVITATION TO ALL NZ ALPINE CLUB MEMBERS: JOIN A NATIONWIDE TRIBUTE TO SIR ED

The Hillary Foundation is co-ordinating a nationwide final tribute to Sir Edmund Hillary that will enable all New Zealanders to create a lasting memorial as an inspiration for the youth of our nation.

The Summits for Ed tribute tour will start on March 25 (the day after the Easter break) when Invercargill Mayor Tim Shadbolt will host the first of 32 memorial services on top Southland's famous Bluff. Three and a half weeks later, Lady Hillary and her family will conclude the tour at Cape Reinga on April 19.

In between those dates, the tour will visit 30 other towns and cities where tens of thousands of New Zealanders can make a tribute at a brief ceremony on top of their local summit.

Selected school children will lead the "summit climbs" in each area and Lions Clubs members will co-ordinate participation of local MPs, Mayors, councillors, emergency services, iwi, sporting and cultural figures.

New Zealand Alpine Club members are encouraged to attend their nearest event and provide support to the Lions Club members to help on the day. We send the time table to each club shortly.

At each ceremony event, attendees will be asked to contribute an engraved rock, which will be taken back to the Ed Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre at Tongariro to form a memorial cairn and a place of inspiration for New Zealand teenagers.

People will also be asked to make a donation to boost Hillary Foundation funds to enable financially disadvantaged or "at risk" youth to attend the Ed Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre courses at Tongariro and Great Barrier Island.

For 16-year-old Ed Hillary, Mount Ruapehu was the turning point that led to an extraordinary life of exploration and community service. Sir Ed was the Outdoor Pursuits Centre patron from its inception 35 years ago. He provided advice and guidance on programmes that introduce young teenagers to the outdoors.

The tribute tour is an opportunity to recognise and further the work of Sir Ed in helping young people gain confidence though enjoying the environment.

Schedule for Auckland Area Events:

- **12 April South Auckland** – Mangere Mountain GR: 690 709 (8am). Meeting point – at the end of the road into the Mangere Mountain Domain, near the sports clubrooms, walk time to summit 30mins 11.55am Lions National Convention – Kingsgate Hotel, Te Rapa
- **12 April East/central Auckland** – One Tree Hill GR: 693 764 (4.30pm). Meeting point – large carpark near the Archery club rooms on Kenneth Myres Drive, walk time to summit 30mins
- **13 April North Shore Auckland** – North Head GR: 720 844 (8am). Meeting point – On Cheltenham beach at the end of Cheltenham Rd, walk time to summit 30mins
- **13 April West Auckland** – Pukematekeo (Waitakere Ranges) GR: 475 786 (4.30pm). Meeting point – carpark near rangers station on Falls Rd (through the golf course), off Te

Henga Rd. More parking at the Cascades Kauri carpark, at the bottom of the hill. Walk time to summit 45mins.

- 16 April Warkworth – The Dome (Dome Valley – off S.H 1) GR: 561 367 (8am). Meeting point – Dome tearooms carpark on S.H 1, walk time to summit 60mins
- 16 April Whangarei – Parahaki (from Mair Park) GR: 316 089 (4.30pm). Meeting point – Mair Park (Banff Rd entrance), walk time to summit 60mins

To find out about your nearest Summits for Ed event, visit www.summitsfored.org.nz or contact:

Morrison McDougall Ltd – 04 471 0335
E: info@morrimac.com

Ed Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre – 0800 OUT THERE. RSVPs for events – Jill Prew 07 386 1808
marketing@opc.org.nz

Remembering a member

Club President Phil Doole rounds up the suggestions received from the various sections around the country on an appropriate lasting memorial for Sir Ed.

“You will probably not be surprised that the comments comprised a mixed bag of views, especially on the question of whether a mountain peak or other geographical feature in NZ should be named, or re-named in Sir Ed’s honour. However, there was also solid support for a couple of the other ideas.

Here’s a summary:

1. Strong support for adopting naming the Club’s Expedition Fund the “Sir Edmund Hillary Expedition Fund”. Plus ideas for having a substantial annual award or grant available (say \$5000) for expeditions, possibly linked to the SPARC grants.
2. Suggestion that the Club supports the existing Mingma Norbu Sherpa memorial fund, which has the aim of providing post-graduate scholarships for Nepal conservation management students – synergy of NZAC, Lincoln University, conservation, and parks in the Himalayas. (More info available on the link below). <http://www.fundraisonline.co.nz/MingmaNorbuSherpa/>
3. Encourage the Government to give on-going support the Himalayan Trust.
4. No support for naming or re-naming a Club building (or part thereof), BUT support for Mueller Hut to be known as “Ed’s Shed”. This can be suggested to DOC – something they could do informally at the hut and in brochures?
5. Suggestions that SH80 alongside Lake Pukaki to Mt Cook be re-named the Sir

Edmund Hillary Highway, but others were against this type of thing.

6. Naming mountains – there was a huge list of possibles, and I was reminded that I had omitted Mt Eden (in Auckland)! There were strong individual views for and against naming a mountain, with the weight of Section views being against the idea.

One person asked if we were thinking of a mountain that the “average kiwi” could scramble to the top of, or would it be a mountaineers mountain. The list of suggestions clearly favours the latter.

My conclusion is that the Club should NOT be initiating any proposals for naming or re-naming NZ mountains. However, as was mentioned I think it would be prudent for the club to have a suggestion on hand if the idea of naming something geographical gathers traction from others.

On that basis, the idea that appears to me to have most merit would be to re-name Mt Magellan – Ed was in the first ascent team of this 3000m peak, and as “Hillary Peak” would be in a cluster of mountaineers’ names. (Magellan was the first European explorer to enter the Pacific Ocean in 1521 but he did not sail close to NZ waters).

I will develop these proposals further for consideration by the Executive and Club Committees. “

Phil Doole, NZAC President

ENTRIES OPEN FOR SIXTH ANNUAL NZ MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

Organisers of the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival are calling all outdoor film makers to submit entries into the festival’s film competition which carries the theme “Adventurous Sports and Lifestyles”. The festival, (formerly the Wanaka Mountain Film Festival) attracts work from filmmakers around the world and plays to sellout audiences keen to experience alternative views of the great outdoors. With subject matter ranging from base jumping to high-altitude mountaineering, mountain biking to environmental issues, the films provide a fascinating insight into the minds of some of the world’s best, and lesser, known adventurers.

A prize pool of \$2,000 is on offer with a Grand Prize of \$1,000 and another \$1,000 for the best New Zealand made film. The deadline is set for June 4 so now is the time to start editing! Entry is free and all films should be sent accompanied by an official entry form that is available from www.mountainfilm.net.nz. For further media information contact Victoria Murray-Orr – Eve
P: 03 443 2700 E: vmo@evenz.co.nz

Trekking in Nepal

Himalayan Discovery is offering NZAC members a discount on its range of affordable treks in Nepal. Treks include – Everest Base Camp & Kala Patar, Annapurna Circuit, Ghorepani and Poon Hill, Kanchenjunga Base Camp, Cho La Pass, Mera Peak, Island Peak, Lobuche Peak, Annapurna Sanctuary, Gokyo Valley.... and many more.

For information visit:

www.himalayandiscovery.com.au

or email: treks@himalayandiscovery.com

Classifieds

Old style wooden handled ice axes (2).

Straight adzes, 85cm hickory shafts, stamped with "Cornelius, Whitehouse and sons Ltd, England, 1944", used and antique looking but generally good condition. Suit ornamental use only. \$200 each + postage (\$11-30 to Nth Island). The North Otago Section are replacing their gear for hire. Email for photos. Contact Nick Shearer, shearer@es.co.nz

Trips

New members are always welcome on trips. Also, if there's a trip you'd like to lead, or you have a suggestion for a trip but maybe don't want to lead, we'd love to hear from you. Amanda Holmes is Trips Officer and she's happy to answer any questions or queries you may have about any of the trips below. Please note, that for winter trips (apart from the Alpine Taster weekend and the SnowCraft course which are for those new to snow) its assumed that participants have attained a level of competency in the alpine environment.

April

Beginner's paddling trip

April 5-6

Beginner's paddling trip to Aniwhenua. It's a lovely place to camp. This is the weekend that daylight saving ends so a symbolic end to summer



Paul Whitfield



pwhitfield@bigfoot.com



021 150 8284

Wobble – Keyhole Rock

Sunday April 6

An scramble to remember around the coast from Anawhata, with voluntary detours up a steep inlet & potentially (ie very likely) damp crossing of a wave washed and exposed beach to climb up the back of the Rock & be seen in the Keyhole. It's quite a trip, this. Change of clothes, lunch and camera in a bag recommended.

Meet at 12pm, 5a Porter Ave, Te Atatu South.



John Salisbury



834 6699

2008 committee contacts

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Vice Chairperson & Event Organiser

– currently vacant

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Ruapehu Hut Bookings – Margaret McMahon

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during office hours

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A letter from French Ridge Hut

by Grant Sutton,
hut warden, January 2008.

The view from the hut is spectacular encompassing the head of the West Matukituki valley and the high peaks of the more distant ranges. On balmy afternoons everyone sits out on the deck gazing across the valley at Arawhata Saddle and Mts Barff and Liverpool or at Bevan Col where the helicopters land to disgorge climbers heading for Colin Todd Hut. A storm is approaching, but with the confidence of recent summiters a party at Colin Todd have booked a flight out for 10.0 am. I wonder if the flight will be cancelled, the conditions are looking marginal. A gusty norwester is pushing a thick streamer of cloud over Hector Col and down into the valley below. It is still clear skies above but for how long? The pilot is airborne and asks what the conditions are like at Bevan Col via Doc Wanaka, we hear the optimistic reply on the hut radio, just as a reinforcement of cloud starts steaming over Bevan Col.

Today is my last day at French Ridge Hut. I've spent the past two weeks as warden here and I'm sad to leave. I've been trying to spot a Rock wren, the small 'tail less' alpine birds are noticeably absent. DoC has also been hunting for them around the hut but no luck yet. The stoat trap installed under the hut has remained untriggered despite the attentions of the local Kea. The largest flock at the hut numbered 15 but usually it's 6 or 8 of the alpine parrots nosily trying to break their way into the hut.

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Snow levels are low this season. The Quarterdeck has vertical slots. Going straight through, rather than around them made for some good pitch climbing the day after Sharon and I arrived.

One always meets interesting people at the French Ridge. This year a wealthy Texan and his guide – they recently summited Mt Vinsen in Antarctica and are headed for Everest in April. Marty Beare fresh from the Changabang 2007 expedition and Don French working on number 89 (I'm assuming you read Climber No. 62).

The low snow conditions have made the routes on Aspiring more interesting. The Ramp is cut off by 'schrunds at top and bottom. The SW ridge is exposed rock and out of condition for most climbers. The normally snow covered slabs on the NW ridge offer slower scrambling rather than easy cramponing. Fresh bolts helped us with our dodgy route finding, but I suspect they may prove controversial.

French Ridge Hut is below the Quarterdeck (one of the two walk-in routes to Colin Todd hut). I linked the two routes together in an eight hour round trip from French Ridge, descending to the head of the valley then up to Bevan Col across the Bonar Glacier and down the Quarterdeck. Overnighting at Colin Todd would allow for peak bagging along the way.

It's 1 pm, the wind has been gusting strongly since 10 am but the cloud has lifted slightly to reveal a few insignificant specs descending the snow arête on Mt Bevan, there will be no helicopter rides today.

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