



The
**Auckland
Climber**

August '07

www.aucklandclimber.org.nz

this month

Norman Hardie

next month

**Around the world in
Eighty Minutes** (or thereabouts)



Welcome to August'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 845 1433 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:

Norman Hardie

Monday 6th August – 7.30pm

St Luke's Community Centre, Remuera Rd, Newmarket
Norman is one of New Zealand's pioneering mountaineers, and one of a number of elite climbers that established New Zealand's reputation as a centre for mountaineering. His talk includes an account of the first expedition to successfully summit Kanchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world. On this expedition in 1956, he was both deputy leader and one of the summiteers. Norman has also been to Antarctica several times as a leader at Scott Base. Meanwhile he has participated in many mountain rescues.

His eventful life story is told in his new book "On My Own Two Feet – The Life of a Mountaineer". Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear Norman first-hand.



Next month's meeting:

Around the world in Eighty Minutes (or thereabouts)

Monday 3rd September – 7.15pm. Cover charge \$3

Mt Eden Bowling Club, 17 Stokes Rd, Mt Eden, Auckland (It's licensed!!)

To cover our costs we have to charge \$3 per head for this evening. But there is a bar! (and it is allegedly the cheapest beer in Auckland!)

Well we figured it was wrong for one person to hog the limelight for the evening, so we thought why don't we hear from as many people as possible in 80 minutes? The plan is for members to come forward and entertain us with talks, pictures, presentations, songs, movie clips, skits etc. A maximum of 6 minutes per person or group (but no minimum) and we're looking for anything from alpine experiences to your favourite holiday, a mountaineer who inspires you to magic tricks. Anything goes – it's not all about alpine feats. The focus of this evening is entertainment, so use your imagination.

First up this evening will be the new New Zealand Alpine Club President, Phil Doole, all the way from Christchurch. We're not quite sure what he'll choose to do for his turn but suspect he may play it safe and just say 'Hi'. There will be a PA system and a digital projector. There will be prizes! This evening relies on everyone having a go – so contact Matt so he can get together some kind of running order matthewjvroberson@hotmail.com or 362 1984 or 0272413596. Remember – we know where some of you live so if we don't get the volunteers we will operate a press gang...

Cover pic: A long exposure reveals the headtorches of climbers heading down from the Pinnacles after a long day. © Marten Blumen / Marty Blumen Photography.

Auckland News

Auckland section get its own website: www.aucklandclimber.org.nz

Club Chair, Deryn has designed a brilliant website for the section. It's a new home for everything relating to the Auckland section and will be updated regularly. It's even got a gallery so you can upload and share all your weekend trip photos. Deryn's planning to put a bulletin board on it shortly so that members can buy and sell gear and find climbing partners.

If you've got any news or ideas for the site contact Deryn at deryn@hyper.net.nz

NZAC Ruapehu Hut Cancellation Policy

We've been experiencing a few problems with hut bookings; frequent cancellations and people overbooking to "save a space" – this leads to unhappy members who can't get a place in the hut and the club also loses out on valuable hut revenue.

In order to try and combat this the following system will be take effect from September 1, 2007.

1. Any booking made for dates after Sept 1st will have to be prepaid before a bunk space is confirmed.
2. Cancellation refunds will only be allowed if the National Office is informed three working days prior to the date booked.
3. The only exception will be for non-profit groups, school groups and NZAC Sections running instruction courses that have had to cancel due to safety reasons.

Club Gear For Hire

Don't forget the club has ice axes, avalanche transceivers, crampons and helmets for hire at very competitive rates!

SnowCraft Instructors

The club is looking to develop new and old members' skills in order build its pool of SnowCraft instructors.

As a SnowCraft instructor you will be asked to instruct on a minimum of one SnowCraft weekend per year. Low student / instructor ratios mean this is a great way to give something back or just to meet new people.

In addition you get to train (for free!) under some of the county's best alpine instructors, get access to NZAC subsidised instruction courses, get credits on NZAC membership and get up to 50% off some of the best mountaineering gear available.

As a SnowCraft instructor you'll be upskilling yourself for free and heading to the mountain in some seriously flash gear!

We're looking for interested people of all ages and abilities to build a pool of instructors for now and the future.

Contact Chris Munro on 029 238 6230 email: munrochris@yahoo.co.nz

Future Trips – we want to know what you want to do!

Photography Trip: Winter Alpine Landscape Photography weekend

If you'd like a weekend that's dedicated to getting some great sunset, sunrise and even night time alpine shots at the mountain – drop us a line. We may even be able to get a professional photographer along for advice (check out the front cover!). Email Amanda: amandafholmes@yahoo.com.au or 027 548 8831

February 2008 – South Island anyone?

Is there something you'd like to do in the Southern Alps? Or how about Nelson Lakes? If you're interested in a trip to the South Island, whatever your ability, we think it's about time we got a few trips going down that way! Email suzstick@gmail.com

Easter 2008 – Anyone up for a hop to the Arapiles?

Drop Brad a line if you'd like to join a trip to Australia's foremost climbing destination at Easter next year. The Arapiles is outside Melbourne so you can combine a bit of culture with your

climbing. The Australian section welcomes us with open arms (they've been know to lend us their cars and stuff!) and the climbing is awesome. Contact Brad : whitebradnz@hotmail.com
Been on the SnowCraft Course in the past?

We're looking to update our SnowCraft course participants database so we can start offering some tailored intermediate weekends and courses. Drop Deryn a line to update your details and let her know that the SnowCraft course didn't totally put you off! Contact Deryn at Deryn@hyper.net.nz

National News

Peak Fuel Ruapehu Ripper – August 18th 2007

The Peak Fuel Ruapehu Ripper is the only North Island event in the Scarpa 2007 Ski Mountaineering Race Series so don't miss this chance to participate in all the fun and challenge this unique dynamic new sport has to offer. In the Recreational category, big, beautiful wide open spaces, undulating climbs and cruisy downhills characterize this adventure tour well off Turoa's main area. The Race category is roughly equal to a half marathon in terms of effort required, but those with strong intermediate skiing and basic mountaineering/skinning skills will enjoy the challenge. www.skimonz.com

Surplus NZAC Alpine Journal Sales

Sales of our spare Alpine Journals have so far raised over \$1,700 towards vital work on our reference library. As from August 1, Journals will be available to non-members. There is now a webpage that lists the remaining issues we have for sale. Please check out this link: <http://www.alpineclub.org.nz/default.aspx?p=347>

Home of Mountaineering Library Collection

As part of the current work on the Club's library, work is underway to catalogue all of our sets of Bulletins and Journals. The collection is incomplete and there are many missing items that we would dearly love to have completed to complete it. We've made a web page which lists the missing items. Please have a look and see if you can help! The Library link is under the Activities heading: <http://www.alpineclub.org.nz/default.aspx?p=348> the library link is under the Activities heading. Alternatively call Margaret on 03 377 7595 for a list of missing items.

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.

August

MSC Avalanche Awareness – MSC Taranaki

Aug 3/4

Seminar/lecture is held on Friday 3 August, then field day is scheduled for Saturday 4 August. For more information: <http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz>. From Bruce Calvert who completed this last year: "The guys who run this are out there blasting the ski fields for avalanches, so they are really experienced. The course includes full scale practice of what to do in an avalanche and includes tests and handouts."

 Gayle Tricklebank  taranaki@mountainsafety.org.nz  (06) 753 5021

SnowCraft course weekend #1

Aug 4/5

 Chris Munro  munrochris@yahoo.co.nz  029 238 6230

Ice Climbing course at Ruapehu by Glenn Pennycook

Aug 4

Top rope ice climbing, setting up top rope anchors. Tukino waterfall. Limited to 20 people. Space still available, but HURRY!

 Glenn Pennycook  mailtothechief@gmail.com 

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Tree planting at Motutapu

Aug 5

Catch a ferry (\$15) at 9am and arrive back at 4.30pm. Free parking at ParkRight near Tepid Baths – just show parking ticket to organisers. Take your own lunch, but sausage sizzle provided at end of day. There is a 25 minute walk from wharf. For more information <http://www.motutapu.org.nz>. Must book in advance.

 Allan MacLachlan  allan_mac@xtra.co.nz  570 8009

Ice Climbing course at Ruapehu by Glenn Pennycook

Aug 11

Top rope ice climbing, setting up top rope anchors. Tukino waterfall. Limited to 20 people. Space still available, but HURRY! Contact Magnus Hammarsal on 021 314422 for carpooling.

 Glenn Pennycook  mailtothechief@gmail.com 

Intermediate SnowCraft weekend

Aug 11/12

You have already done the SnowCraft course and want to develop those skills and start putting them into practice. Note: this is not a formal course, but an active participatory forum. Based at Mangetepopo Hut Ngauruhoe

Level: Intermediate / Advanced

 Brandon Daniel  brandond@lighthouse-ventures.com  021 274 7040

Rock climbing at Extreme Edge.

Wed Aug 15

Come along to a social evening of rock climbing, especially aimed at new members. If you've not climbed before, the harness rental, belay lesson and unlimited climbing is \$18. Unlimited climbing only is \$13.50. Extreme edge have made these special prices for all trip participants, whether members or not. For more information on the indoor climbing venue <http://www.extremeedge.co.nz>

 Brandon Daniel  brandond@lighthouse-ventures.com  021 274 7040

Intermediate SnowCraft weekend

Aug 18/19

Climb Ringatoto from Southeast. Friday night, camp Ohakune, Saturday morning park at Turoa skifield, and traverse eastward, south of Girdlestone at 2,000m and descend to where the track meets the Wahianoa valley, then ascend part way and camp, taking about 9 hrs. Sunday up the Wahianoa to Ringatoto, then over Tahurangi and down to the cars, taking about 7 hrs.

Intermediate level, which has some choosing routes, bring compass and map. There is no steep climbing, possibly one tool is enough, but you may bring rope, stake, sling and harness so we can go the steeper ways. Share cooking gear and tents, or be prepared to make shelters.

Level Intermediate / Advanced

 Greg Virtue  greg.virtue@bvo.co.nz  027 307 0655 W: 520 4089 H: 528 6504

Tree planting at Motuatpu

Aug 19

Catch a ferry (\$15) at 9am and arrive back at 4.30pm. Free parking at ParkRight near Tepid Baths – just show parking ticket to organisers. Take your own lunch, but sausage sizzle provided at end of day. There is a 25 minute walk from wharf. For more information <http://www.motutapu.org.nz>. Must book in advance.

 Allan MacLachlan  allan_mac@xtra.co.nz  570 8009

SnowCraft course weekend #2

Aug 25/26

 Chris Munro  munrochris@yahoo.co.nz  029 238 6230

Moonlight Tongariro Crossing on skis

Aug 25/26

A shameless copy of the Moonlight Crossing taking place in July. Although this is a ski touring trip. The plan is similar: meet up at the Mangatepopo road end on Saturday evening (some people might drive down that day, others might prefer to spend the day skiing on the mountain). Spend the night on the Central Plateau. Next morning head up Ngauruhoe then ski out. Itinerary is dependent on snow conditions and may change closer to the time.

Experience required: intermediate ski ability, basic mountaineering skills

 TBA

Ice Climbing course at Ruapehu by Glenn Pennycook - BOOKED OUT!

Aug 25/26

Advanced rope work and leading on steep ground, must be already climbing grades 2+ and bring two tools, rope and protection, as a minimum: the more equipment you bring, the more you will be able to do.

Whakapapa skifield, Pinnacles. Limited to 10 people.

 Glenn Pennycook  mailtothechief@gmail.com

ALLAN'S GEAR CUPBOARD

An occasional series in which Allan Mac (pictured) reviews gear that he either has, or wants.

This month – Essential winter gear: snow chains

Eh, what? Not the sort of gear you normally pack in your bag, but they are certainly useful if you are heading down to the mountain in the face of a snow storm. Even if you have a twin-turbo- hi-low ratio suburban tractor with 4WD, you still need snow chains. That's because when you hit a patch of ice, snow chains give you much greater traction and ability

to steer. Think of chains as crampons for your tyres, and you get a picture of how they help.

Getting a set of chains before you head down the mountain is quite a good idea. I phoned around, and the only place that I could find in Auckland that stocks them is Repco in Greenlane (137 Gt South

Road, ph 520-7742), and Snow Centre (19 Mahuru Street, Newmarket ph 520-6699). They have "Easy-Fit" chains from around \$150, or the grippier "Diamond" pattern chains from \$250. Expect to pay more if you have a 4WD with big tyres though.

Alternatively, if you find yourself confronted with a snowy Bruce Road, you can hire chains at the entrance to the national park (by the Château). The friendly guys at the chain hire trailer will even fit them for you. You can also try Roy Turner's Ski and Board Shop in National Park (www.snowzone.co.nz).

They're open until midnight. Also, One Stop Ski Shop in Owhango (just before National Park) don't rent chains, but do sell them from just \$99.



Easy Fit



Diamond



Top tips for snow chains:

- It's worth bearing in mind that even if the Bruce Road is open and ice-free on Friday night, it could be a very different matter when it comes to moving your car on Sunday afternoon.
- If you do invest in a set of snow chains; practice putting them on in balmy Auckland first, because you just know the one night you need them will be the coldest, wettest and windiest night you've seen!
- Keep a pair of polyprop gloves or gardening gloves in the car so you have some hand protection when you put them on.
- Make sure the chains are on tightly. Loose snow chains can do serious damage to your car. They do loosen up after driving on them, so after 1-200m, pull over, check them and tighten them again if need be.

Big Greenies

Home entertainment systems gobbling up energy

For a long time it was the fridge or hot water that accounted for the lion's share of our electricity bills. But this is fast-changing. The surging boom in new technology for home entertainment, including MP3s, PCs, DVDs and flat-screen TVs, is taking up huge amounts of energy and undermining the fight against climate change.

A study by the Energy Saving Trust in the UK reports that the consumer electronics sector is now only three years away from becoming

the biggest single user of domestic electricity in Britain. By 2010 it will overtake the traditionally high-consuming sectors of lighting, and "white goods" such as fridges and freezers, in home energy use.

It also predicts that by 2020, entertainment and information technology electronics in the home will account for 45 per cent of all domestic electricity use.

According to the report 'higher spec' gadgets and electronic goods use more power than their low-fi

predecessors, even though some devices like washing machines have become more efficient over time. What's more the 'Standby' feature on gadgets means that they are on and consuming electricity all the time. Only switching devices off at the wall ensures that they are not consuming energy.

More http://www.nzherald.co.nz/category/story.cfm?c_id=39&objectid=10450339

Webwatch

Here's an updated 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.

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