



The Auckland Climber

December '07

www.aucklandclimber.org.nz



Welcome to December's edition of the NZAC Auckland Section's newsletter. The Christmas Ceilidh (get ready for Scottish dancing!) is the last event of 2007 and with tickets selling fast, a great band and a cheap bar it's going to be a night to remember. Everyone, members and non-members welcome.

2007 has been a great year for the Auckland section; rock and snowcraft instruction courses, plenty of great trips, the section's new website has gone up and the NZAC's new site is under construction, the Ruapehu hut is being knocked into shape, and the Banff Film Festival was a sell-out and enabled the section to purchase 10 new sets of winter gear for club members to hire. This was all done by volunteers. Nice one, guys!

Plans for trips and courses for 2008 are already well underway, and it promises to be another good year.

So, as you head off for your Christmas holidays, have fun in the mountains and come back in February and tell us all about it.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a great 2008.

Your committee; *Deryn, Allan, Caroline, Nick, Grant, John, Brad, Brandon, Amanda, Matt, Chris and Suzanne.*

last chance to get your tickets!

Christmas Dinner Dance '07

Tickets are selling fast to this year's Christmas Dinner Dance where members, friends and family will all receive a warm Scottish welcome. A not-so-wee festive buffet will be followed by Scottish dancing to Auckland's finest three piece, Twisty Willow. Full dance instruction is given by 'the caller' and once everyone is more or less on the right track the music begins!

Come and support your Alpine Club section.

If you haven't Scottish danced to Twisty Willow before, we guarantee this event will light up your Christmas calendar – they're an Auckland legend! (www.twistywillow.co.nz)

Dancing is optional – but should you require Dutch courage, it's \$3 a pint/glass.

We hope to see you there!

When: Saturday 15 December 2007
Where: Mt Eden Bowling Club, 7.30pm
Tickets cost \$35 for non members and \$30 for members.

To reserve your tickets or find our more information contact Suzanne on

Phone: 845 1433

Email: suzstick@gmail.com

Mail: Cheque to NZAC Auckland,
PO Box 3036, Auckland.

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@gmail.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

Next meeting:

Monday February 4th 2008 – Summer holiday trips

All the photos! All the gossip! Come and find out who climbed what and where and be inspired.

National News

Warning! Didymo – Top summer tips for trampers, kayakers and boaties in contact with fresh water from Biosecurity New Zealand.

Didymo, or 'rock snot' is an invasive algae that is spread through waterways only by human movement. Its microscopic cells hitchhike on equipment such as boats, trailers, waders, fishing rods, kayaks, bikes, and tramping boots.

It was discovered in New Zealand in 2004 and can now be found in many South Island rivers, where it is an unsightly threat to native ecology. In some rivers didymo forms mats 12 cm thick.

Once didymo dries out it is neutralised but if wet it is quickly able to establish itself in suitable water and multiply rapidly.

Outdoor lovers are urged to do their bit to keep didymo out of the North Island and slow its spread around the south Island these holidays. Follow these simple rules; Check, Clean and Dry everything, every time.

Check

Before leaving a lake or river, check your gear, including your tramping boots and socks, vehicle and tyres, any other equipment and remove any clumps of algae. Pay particular attention to tramping boots with a deep tread, kayak hulls, clothing, tyres and fishing gear and always decontaminate these regardless of whether there is any visible debris – you can't see didymo cells.

Clean

Clean your equipment, vehicle and tyres or clothing with either:

Detergent: soak or spray all surfaces for at least one minute in 5% dishwashing detergent or nappy cleaner (two large cups or 500 mls with water added to make 10 litres). If your vehicle has been in contact with a lake or river, you'll even need to spray the underside or take it through a carwash that does an underside spray. OR

Bleach: soak or spray all surfaces for at least one

minute in 2% household bleach (one small cup or 200 mls with water added to make 10 litres); OR

Hot water: soak for at least one minute in very hot water, kept above 60 °C (hotter than most tap water) or for at least 20 minutes in hot water kept above 45 °C (uncomfortable to touch).

Soak absorbent materials such as felt-soled shoes or boots, for at least 40 minutes in hot water kept above 45 °C; OR soak for 30 minutes in hot water kept above 45 °C containing 5% dishwashing detergent or nappy cleaner.

After treatment, items may then be rinsed with water that has come from a town water supply.

Dry

Drying will kill didymo, but to ensure didymo cells are dead by drying, the item must be completely dry to the touch, inside and out, then left dry for at least another 48 hours before use in a different waterway. Slightly moist didymo can survive for months.

To avoid having to decontaminate your gear, restrict equipment to a single waterway.

You can find out more on www.biosecurity.govt.nz or by phoning Amanda Peart, Freshwater Pests Communications Advisor at the Auckland Regional Council on 366 2000 ext 8623.



Old Climbing Shoes required by Adventure Specialities in Henderson. If you have any, John Salisbury will collect. Phone him on 834 6699.

Surplus Library Books – New Stock

A new stock of surplus library books has been put up for sale by the National Office. Please see under the Publications heading on the NZAC website (www.alpineclub.org.nz) for an updated PDF list or contact Margaret at the Alpine Club on 03 377 7595. Any money raised goes solely towards the Home of Mountaineering's Library fund.

Youth ski touring camp in Slovenia

26th Jan – 2nd Feb 2008

If you're between 17-29 years old and like ski touring read on...

A ski touring camp in the Julian Alps and organised by The Alpine Association of Slovenia will give those new to ski touring the opportunity to improve their skills with experts and for those who've done more, a chance to be really challenged on hard routes.

NZ can send 4 participants and the cost is 240 Euros (includes all meals and accommodation)

The registration deadline is 20 December. For more information contact the newsletter editor on suzstick@gmail.com

Trip report

Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC) River Safety / Navigation Workshop, Tongariro National Park, 17th/18th November 2007 – Colin Megson

This trip report is an advert and personal recommendation for the FMC's River Safety / Navigation Workshop based at the Taurewa Camp in Tongariro, near the Mangatepopo Road.

The workshop the workshop was run by Ray Goldring who has a wealth of outdoor experience as a hunter, Forestry Service employee and Mountain Safety Council co-ordinator.

The course work was a mixture of theory and practical and aimed to pass on the latest river safety information to club members so that they can, in turn, pass it onto other club members.

First off was the theory session which covered the approach to river safety and the considerations when choosing when and where to cross a river. The practical session involved multiple river crossings in progressively deeper and faster flowing water, as well techniques to enable you to get to safety if you fall in and for floating down through rapids. It was an inspired idea was to get attendees to wear wetsuits for the practical session, as it meant that we were happy to spend hours in the cold water practicing the techniques.

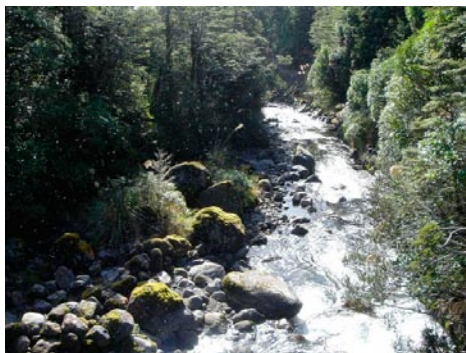
The navigation aspect of the course on the Sunday, covered 'micro navigation', working out your exact location using the contours on the map. Again it involved a theory and then a practical session in the Mangatepopo Valley.

As well as the excellent instruction and practice, the workshop was a really enjoyable experience. I will certainly approach river crossings with more confidence in the future. I also came away with a whole heap of new outdoor skills and the workshop was fully catered, with all meals cooked for the attendees.

Look out for details of future FMC courses and get your applications in – this was a great course.

Feel free to ask me about the techniques covered, and if there is enough interest I will run a river safety practical trip next year.

✉ colin_megson@yahoo.com



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.

December

Wobbles

*Karamatoro Stream (stream bashing): 1 pm 2nd December
Destruction Gully (first part): 10 am 9th December
Maori Bay: 10am 23rd December*

Come and explore Auckland's West Coast on John Salisbury's legendary day walks. Bring food, water, dry clothes and a plastic bag for your camera. Everyone welcome – but expect an adventure, a soaking and some very tall stories from our man in Te Atatu. Call John for more info. For all dates, meet at John's house, 5A Porter Ave, Te Atatu South..

 John Salisbury  834 6699

January 2008

NZAC Annual Climbing Camps:

*South Island Dec 29- Jan 6
North Island Jan 18-23*

See the website www.alpineclub.org.nz for all the info. Ben Lee from the Auckland section went on this last year and did some amazing trips with fabulous photos to match!

 Chris North – NZAC Activities and Events Co-ordinator  chris@alpineclub.org.nz

February 2008

Auapehu Hut working bee

Feb 1-3

Please come and join us help to keep the hut in good shape & have a few laughs along the way.

 Richard Knott or Brad White  021918642 (Brad)

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NZ Alpine Club Auckland Section Newsletter
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