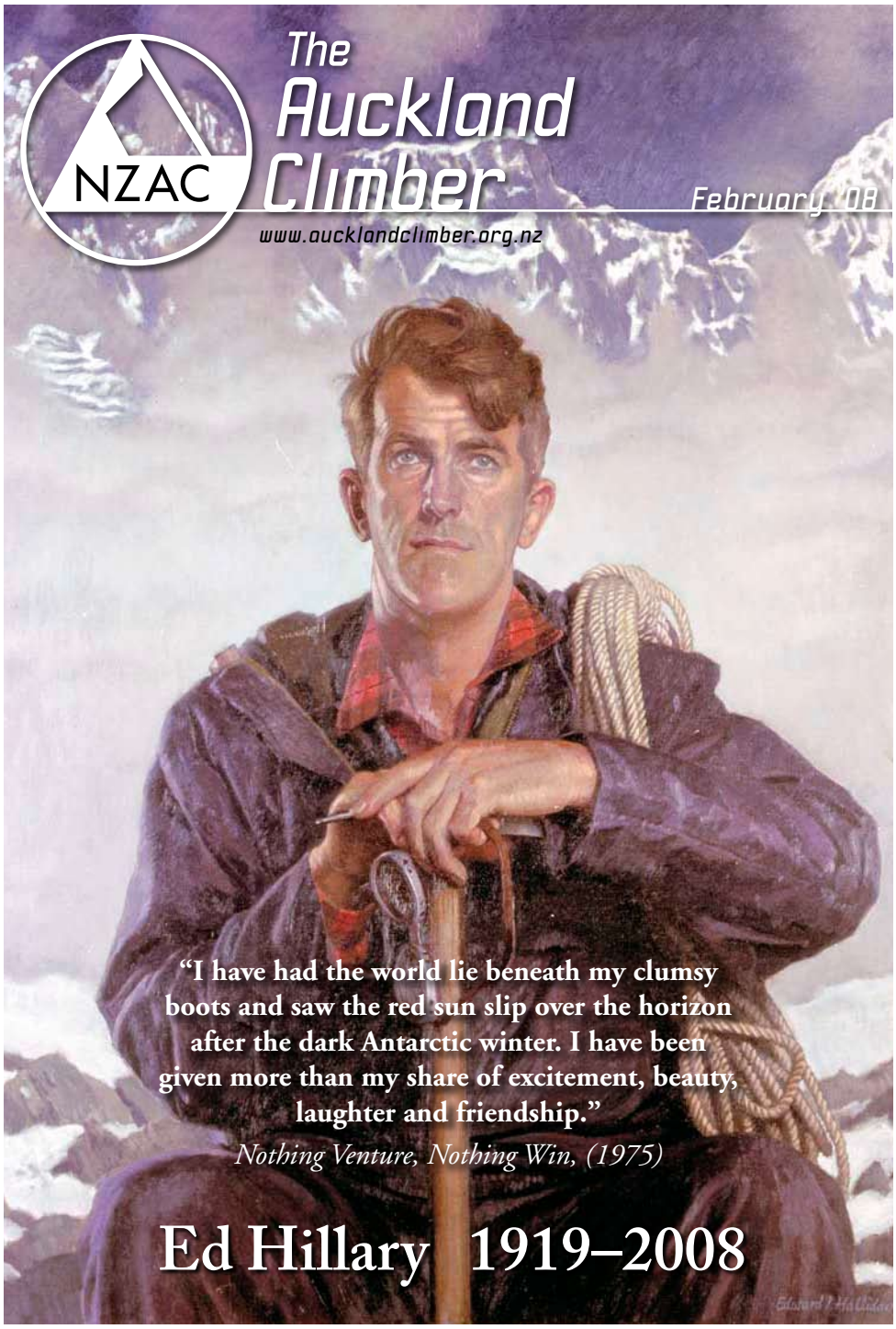




# The Auckland Climber

February 08

[www.aucklandclimber.org.nz](http://www.aucklandclimber.org.nz)



“I have had the world lie beneath my clumsy boots and saw the red sun slip over the horizon after the dark Antarctic winter. I have been given more than my share of excitement, beauty, laughter and friendship.”

*Nothing Venture, Nothing Win, (1975)*

## Ed Hillary 1919–2008

*Edward Hillary*

*Welcome to February'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.*

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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 15th 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

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

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##### **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. Just like at school after the holidays, you can stand up and tell the club what exciting adventures you got up to over summer. If you have digital photos, all the better. Contact Matt [matthewjvroberson@hotmail.com](mailto:matthewjvroberson@hotmail.com) for more info.

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

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It's not confirmed yet but, we think it may be Sean Waters! Don't miss the return of this man of the mountains! His last talk was brilliant. More info in the next newsletter.

## **Auckland News**

### *Christmas Dinner Dance*

Thanks for everyone who came and danced the night away at the Alpine Club's Christmas Ceilidh. 90 tickets were sold (we sold out) and just about everyone spent the entire night on the dance floor. We wore the band out, apparently! Nice work Alpine Club members!



## Master Climbing Competition

Announcing the second annual Masters' Rock Climbing Day to be held in Auckland on Saturday, 8 March 2008 at the Short & Long Side of Mt Eden Quarry (Auckland Grammar school).

**Purpose:** A social event to celebrate rock climbing and bring climbers of different ages and abilities together.

**Participants:** Everybody who has a climbing harness and rock shoes or can borrow some. (Shoes are optional :-)

### Programme:

- **Speed race:** Climb on two parallel lines and then swap climbs. The winner will be the fastest to finish both climbs (Short side).
- **Bouldering:** The purpose is to climb as many short routes as possible and score the maximum number of points. You will be given a time limit of 2 hours. Routes will vary in difficulty and so will the points you score. There will be about 10-15 routes to try. Everyone can try any route as many times as they want. To register your climb you need to invite a referee. Some routes will have a top belay and it will be a referee who belays you. Some routes will require a dynamic belay (Long side).
- **Barbeque and awards ceremony.**

**Format:** There will be four age groups and each of them will have a subgroup for men and women and winners will be determined for each of the subgroups.

- Kids: 0-39 years old
- Masters: 40-49 years old
- Grandmasters: 50-59 years old
- Old Bastards: 60+ years old

**Entry fee:** \$5 per participant (all entry fees will be used as prize fund)

**Entries:** Please email Alexander Scherbakov at [bask@orcon.net.nz](mailto:bask@orcon.net.nz) or phone 441 3094.

**Venue: Mt Eden (Auckland Grammar School) – long and short sides**

**Start time:** Saturday 8th March, 10am at the Short side of Mt Eden Quarry. From afternoon competitions will continue at the Long side.

**Prizes:** Great prizes to be won!

This is a SOCIAL event for the whole family, so bring a picnic and your fans.

To determine the number of participants we would be grateful for your preliminary entry form. Please fill out the following form and send it or pass it or fax it to Alexander Scherbakov before 8 March 2008. Address: 11 Laser Pl, Glenfield Ph/Fax: 09 441 3094, mob 021 160 9217, email: [basknz@gmail.com](mailto:basknz@gmail.com)

### Entry form

Your name: .....

Address:.....

Phone:..... Email:.....

Person to contact in case of emergency:.....

**I am a** (tick one):

Kid  Master  Grandmaster  Old Bastard

**Payment Options** (tick one):

I have paid \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ (organiser's signature)  I will pay on the day

I am fully aware that rock climbing can be a dangerous activity and I am willing to take this risk and will be completely responsible for all my actions. I will not hold the organizers responsible for anything stupid that I do, and I promise to follow all instructions carefully.

*Organisers have the right to change or add to any of the rules described above without notice.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (participant's signature)

# National News

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## *Books for Sale*

Past President, Dave Bamford, has offered the NZAC a percentage of the money raised from the sale of surplus books from his personal collection. For a list of the books available look on the website ([www.alpineclub.org.nz](http://www.alpineclub.org.nz)) under Publications.

If you have any enquiries, or wish to make a purchase, please contact [Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz)

## *Australian Members*

The New Zealand Alpine Club has secured insurance without a climbing exemption for New Zealand Alpine Club members in Australia. For more information see the Alpine Club website or contact [margaret@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:margaret@alpineclub.org.nz)

## *Watch Out For Wetas – Climbers asked to be on weta-watch at Mount Somers.*

The Department of Conservation and Lincoln University are carrying out research this summer on the Mt Somers bluff weta (*Deinacrida elegans*) and seek any information on sightings. The weta are usually found in crevices on cliffs and are recognised by their large body size (4–6 cm), olive coloured abdomen, orange and charcoal legs and white knees. They can also make a ‘grating’ distress call.

The research team is aiming to determine its range and also what makes this species so rare. Small isolated populations of this weta are known to exist in other South Island areas, so it is important to get a better picture of the extent of the Mt Somers population.

The more that is understood about this weta’s ecology including preferred habitat, diet, behaviours and threats including predation, the easier it will be to manage its future survival. The impacts of introduced predators such as rats and stoats will be assessed through trapping and dietary analysis, and the use of tracking tunnels to map weta movements will help researchers to better understand the behaviour of this amazing weta species.

Two areas are being surveyed at Mt Somers, these are the Woolshed Creek site, and the Pinnacles site. The Pinnacles area is a popular climbing location and it is here that the research team hope to work with climbers to record sightings of the weta.

Each hut has an information sheet to record weta sightings and their locations. Or alternatively you can direct any information or enquiries to Mike Bowie at Lincoln University:

e-mail: [bowie@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:bowie@lincoln.ac.nz) or phone (03) 325 2811 ext. 8388, or Warren Chinn at the

Department of Conservation, e-mail: [wchinn@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wchinn@doc.govt.nz) or phone (03) 3713788 ext. 5488.

The research team greatly appreciate the interest and support from the climbing community.

## *INTERNATIONAL CLIMBING MEET*

The Mountain Club of South Africa is holding an international climbing meet at the Magaliesberg, a mountain range an hour’s drive away Johannesburg, from Saturday 15.3.2008 to Monday 24.3.2008. Overseas climbers are most welcome to join the meet. For more information contact:

Ulrike Kiefer

[ukiefer@icon.co.za](mailto:ukiefer@icon.co.za)

Tel (W) +27 (11) 907 7438

## *Classifieds*

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**Lowe Alpine, 90 litre pack**, hardly used. \$100. **Women’s Lowe Alpine 3 season tramping boots**, hardly worn, size 5.5 UK, 39 Euro, blue Gore-Tex/Suede. Please contact Suzanne on 486 2024 **Scarpa Vega (Inverno) Plastic Double Mountaineering boots**. Size UK 11.5. Made in Italy. Bought new 2 years ago. Only used on snow. They are in great condition with only surface scuffs and a bit of wear on the laces. Comes with removeable heel wrap and volume adjusting undersole to fine tune the fit. Offers around \$275. Call Chris on 029 238 6230.

# 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.

## January

### Northland Anniversary Weekend Climb

Jan 26-27



Well past the time to work off Christmas and those back to work blues. Plus a must do in memory of Sir Ed. Pull out those shoes (if you can find them) – shake the rats nest off the rope (& all the other gear) and get out for a few days climbing. The plan ...

#### Kawakawa Bay – Saturday

Visit <http://www.freeclimb.co.nz/> for an update on what's hot on the spot. Find some accommodation close to the pub & lots of food Saturday night. Let me know if you have any preferences – or you might be stuck with what we choose..

#### Whakapapa Gorge – Sunday

Go to page 139 in your Tongariro guide to be enlightened. Drop me / Marcus a line ASAP so we can keep you informed as things develop – we don't want you to miss out on the wonderful opportunity..

 Kevin  [kevinha@winaggs.co.nz](mailto:kevinha@winaggs.co.nz)

 Marcus  [bai@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bai@xtra.co.nz)

## February

### 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)

### Black Stump Adventure Ride 1

Feb 16/17

Set in beautiful countryside near Raglan; I underestimated the 40km Gut Buster last year which was a lot tougher than I was expecting! Small, relaxed event. Visit [www.blackstumpadventures.co.nz/](http://www.blackstumpadventures.co.nz/)

 Richard Everitt  [reveritt@ihug.co.nz](mailto:reveritt@ihug.co.nz)  021 519 736

## March

### Photographic Workshop:

Mar 7

Runs for a one morning and the photographs are reviewed at the next Alpine Club meeting. Start time will be at dawn around an hour before sunrise. End time is around 30 minutes after sunrise. Maximum number of people will be 5.

Location will be at Churchhill Park or another local Auckland parkland.

#### About the course.

Marten will be teaching a fast and light approach to outdoor photography, creating photographic opportunities and getting the most out of the limited equipment that climbers carry on their adventures. Participants can then take these lessons and apply them to their own trips.

#### What people are saying about these workshops:

"I really enjoyed the course because it focused on photography, i.e getting the most out of what's there rather than concentrating on equipment. This is important for climbers who need to travel light... I could have gone on a course in a classroom for weeks and not gained as much." R. Findley Oct 07

#### About the photographer:

Marten Blumen is a highly regarded outdoors photographer who's work has appeared in publications including National Geographic Magazine and NZAC publications. Recently his work has been featured in the photo annual of Crux Magazine, December edition. You can find out more at [www.martyblumen.com](http://www.martyblumen.com).

 Marty Blumen  [marty@martyblumen.com](mailto:marty@martyblumen.com)  0211 560 309

or  Shiva  021 377079 or 9407339



# Memorial for Sir Ed



By 4.30pm The Domain, which had been full of people earlier in the day had emptied out, the wind had dropped, the billowing gray clouds had passed and the sun had returned.

It was in dappling late afternoon sun that climber John Nankavic, opened the Alpine Club's tribute to Sir Ed, member number 754, a club member since 1945, president for two and a life member.

In the audience, all four remaining members of the '53 Everest expedition; George Lowe, Alf Gregory, Mike Westcaccott, and George Band. Then there were Sir Ed's climbing friends, mountain guides, climbers young and old, writers and photographers.

Phil Doole, Alpine Club president opened the event, introducing Norman Hardie. Norman, there at the first ascent of Kanchenjunga and on three expeditions with Hillary, met Sir Ed over a fraught but successful alpine rescue in the Alps. They didn't see a yeti there, and they didn't find one in the Himalayas in 1960 – but did climb Makalu and Ama Damblan as part of the altitude psychology experiments – the results of which have been used to develop the US and Russian space programmes.

Brit George Band, the youngest member of the 1953 expedition, recalled Hillary's strength as a climber and how heroic the members' preparations had been in 1953. David Ellis, his own son in the audience, talked about his father Murray's involvement on the 1957 Antarctic expedition to build Scott base and be the first to travel (on Massey Ferguson's!) across that continent since Amundson.

Author Jan Morris bowled onto the band stand – the most appropriate send off

for Sir Ed she said, would have been a rousing chorus of 'For he's a jolly good fellow' but she felt it wise not to start it in the idle of a state funeral. As the Times reporter assigned to the Everest expedition she '53, she brought a lyrical approach to that expedition and to our event. "The fifties were boring, there was nothing going on, it was all very dull. When Ed and Sherpa Tenzing got to the top, it was like Ginger Rodgers and Fred Astaire were dancing through the Himalayas."

Mike Gill, doctor with the Himalaya Trust on many expeditions talked fondly of Ed's wit, down to earth nature and compassion and also spoke so highly too of Jan Morris, one of his own heroes. Graham Dingle was on top form with tales of the Grand Traverse of the Southern Alps in '71 and a few rather curly stories of Sir Ed (the sort that couldn't be told in church :-).

Top NZ Climber Lydia Brady spoke of her own Everest climb and how her choice to go without oxygen had been inspired by Sir Ed. "I thought, if he can do it, how hard can it be? Erm, it was very hard," she said. Never she said, did Sir Ed question her abilities as a woman to climb.

Bruce Jefferies spoke for the Himalayan Trust's conservation work and Diane McKinnon introduced the Sherpas who had been involved with the Himalayan Trust in Nepal.

After the formality of the state funeral earlier in the day, the NZAC's tribute was low key and light, full of life and adventure, of friends, humour and warmth. I think Sir Ed would have quite enjoyed himself.

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*More pics from the Christmas Dinner 2007*

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