



The Auckland Climber

March '08

www.aucklandclimber.org.nz

this month

CLIMBING KAMCHATKA



next month

Auckland Section Photo Competition

Welcome to March'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

This month's meeting:

Monday March 3rd 2008 – Mountaineering at Kamchatka in Russia

In August 2002, Jes Michaelsen was part of a three person team to make the first Danish ascent of Kluchevskaya Sopka, the highest active volcano in Asia. In 25 days they climbed Kluchevskaya Sopka and Kamen and had two failed attempts on Bezymianny.

Over the entire period they met no other humans and only a few bears. The trip was carried out in an unsupported and “leave no trace” style, meaning that no guides, mules or porters were used.

The success of the trip was compromised on the very first day as Jes lost his spoon. As a result he had to eat 75 meals (of which approximately 50 were freeze dried and very

Next 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

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

fluid) using the file in his Swiss army knife as a substitute for a spoon. Hence his short front teeth.

Hear all about Jes's once in a lifetime expedition – and his dental misdemeanours at March's meeting.



(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.

Auckland News

Masters' 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.**

heat and stretch nylon fibres to align molecules
 ↳ fibres become 3 times stronger
 ↳ less nylon needed
 ↳ tent is 50% lighter, yet stronger

2-person single skin mountaineering tent 1.48kg

2-person double walled mountaineering tent 1.81kg

2-person single skin hiking tent 1.19kg

mont-bell tents, using Ballistic nylon, only from www.iclimb.co.nz

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.

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 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

Master's Climbing Competition 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)

Federated Mountain Clubs Leadership Course

The FMC is holding a leadership workshop in Taranaki on the weekend of 19-20 April 2008 to improve the skills of club leaders.

The workshop covers risk management, planning, people management, group dynamics, navigation, emergency procedures, environmental care & liability, and new leaders. It will comprise mostly outdoor sessions in realistic practical exercises to illustrate the various aspects of good leadership.

The fee is \$80 per person which includes an FMC subsidy. Participants are to make their own travel arrangements.

Please contact a committee member (see list at back) if you wish to be nominated.

Your hut needs you

Working Bee 14-16th March

The little hut on the side of Ruapehu (our very own Alpine Club hut) needs some TLC. If you're handy with electrics or know an eave from a rafter then that's great, but if you don't mind wielding a paintbrush then that's good too. Brad White and his CNI compatriot,



Richard Knott, are in charge of repairs. Be there this weekend to witness a moment in

history as the kitchen benches are replaced! Have a BBQ, check out the views! Get your petrol paid! If you can spare some time and are up for meeting a few new people and bonding over a wet paintbrush or a rusty nail, contact Brad on 021 918642.

Get involved on the club committee

The friendly and go-getting members of the club committee are currently short of two bodies....

- 1) An auditor to make sure the treasurer isn't doing a Donna Awatere Huata with the club's funds.
- 2) A Catering Officer to make sure that as and when events come up and meetings happen, we are catered and ready.

Both positions are voluntary and the workload isn't massive! If you are keen contact Deryn, Club Chair on 441 3094.

Get ready for snowcraft

Put these dates in your diary for the 2008 Auckland Section Snowcraft course. Places have already been taken.

Instructors weekend: 5-6 July
SnowCraft Weekend 1: 26-27 July
SnowCraft Weekend 2: 16-17 August
SnowCraft Weekend 3: 13-14 September
There will be theory evenings in Auckland on the Tuesday before each weekend (yet to confirm this).

For more info contact Chris Munro at
nzacsnowcraft@gmail.com

Sir Ed – Climbers' Farewell,

NZAC Auckland Chair Deryn Williams wishes to say a big thank you to all members that helped out with the Auckland Section's organisation of the Sir Ed Hillary Climber's tribute at Auckland

Domain in February. It was a great afternoon and everyone's contribution was hugely appreciated by everyone there and the New Zealand Alpine Club.

National News

Clements Mill Road Closure and Limited Access

Repairs to culverts on Clements Mill Road in the northern Kaimanawa Forest Park means that the road will be closed 7km from the access point

from 3 March 2008. The work is expected to take up to five days. Additional information can be obtained from Murray Cleaver tel: 07 378 3008 or Terry Slee: 07 386 9245.

Classifieds

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 wraps to fine tune the fit. Offers around \$275. Call Chris on 029 238 6230.

Old climbing shoes. Rather than throwing out your old climbing shoes, call John Salisbury who will take them off your hands and put them to a good cause. Getting kids out climbing. Contact John on 834 6699.

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.

March

Karapoti Classic 1st March

Mar 1/2

Regarded as the premier MTB race in NZ. Consists of three big hills including the Devil's Staircase which you have to carry your bike up, the Rock Garden and a few river crossings. Great atmosphere and a good excuse for a road trip to Wellington. The website has a cool video of last year's race. Sells out so you need to enter by Christmas at the latest. www.karapoti.co.nz

 Richard Everitt  reveritt@ihug.co.nz  021 519 736

Photographic Workshop:

Mar 7 Morning

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.

Workshop runs for a one morning and the photographs are reviewed at the next Alpine Club meeting.


Start: dawn, around an hour before sunrise. End: is around 30 minutes after sunrise.

Maximum number of participants: 5. Location: Churchill Park or another local Auckland park

Final details will be sent to participants nearer the time.

About the photographer:

Marten Blumen is a highly regarded outdoors photographer whose 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

 Marty Blumen  marty@martyblumen.com  0211 560 309

or  Shiva  021 377079 or 9407339

Masters' Rock Climbing Weekend

Mar 8

Join the legends of rock climbing for a fun-filled, competitive/social weekend. All ages welcome, small fee of \$5. See newsletter article.

 Alex Scherbakov  basknz@gmail.com  441 3094 or 021 160 9217

Colville Connection

Mar 8/9

The Classic isn't my favourite as, other than one big hill, it is a roadie's course but has great views from the top of the Coromandel Peninsular. My preference is for the 40km Ground Effect as it is more of a MTB course. Good excuse for a social weekend in Coromandel. www.colvilleconnection.co.nz

 Richard Everitt  reveritt@ihug.co.nz  021 519 736

Karamatura Stream Wobble

Mar 9, 10am

Karamatura Stream

Scramble up this Waitakere stream bed & see waterfalls (and stars, if you fall off the rocks).

Meet at 5a Porter Ave, Te Atatu South. Bring dry clothes, lunch and water.

 John Salisbury  834 6699

Ruapehu Hut working bee

Mar 14-16

Join Brad and Richard in helping to fix up the hut. Handyperson skills or trade skills much appreciated!

 Richard Knott or Brad White  021 918642 (Brad)

Social: Bowling at Stanley Bay Bowling Club

Mar 16

Get your whites out for this social, fun (and highly competitive) event! Bring meat for a BBQ and an even hand!

 Suzanne Stickney  Suzanne.Stickney@arc.govt.nz  021 412 001 / 486 2024

Beginner's rock climbing trip

Mar 21-24 (Easter)

Sign up for this excellent trip with our very own John Salisbury. He'll patiently teach you everything you need to know to feel comfortable on outdoor rock!

 John Salisbury  jmsalisbury@googlemail.com  834 6699

Tramping in Raglan

Mar 29-30

Karioi Lodge is a unique accommodation venue in Whale Bay, Raglan. The lodge is set amongst native bush on a 110 acre nature reserve with beautiful ocean views & is close by to many great walks and treks in the Raglan area. Tramping clubs use the lodge as a base to walk the numerous coastal tracks around the Raglan district – often it's the Karioi Summit walk (756m) or others shorter walks like the Bryant Memorial, Bridal Veil Falls & Te Total Lower Gorge Tracks. The Karioi lodge which is nestled in a 110 acre nature reserve also has its own route up to Mount Karioi.

Track transport & full or self catering services, a Scandinavian sauna, hundreds of glow worms, flying fox & ropes course, sunset look-out & a sports barn are just some of the things on offer. For those keen to try their luck & have some fun in the water, we're also home of the Raglan Surfing School and are offering any tramping clubs staying with us fantastic discounts on surfing lessons as well as a tempting winter package (min 8 people needed).....

One nights accommodation, an evening sauna, track transport to any Raglan walk & a bowl of homemade soup with fresh baked bread for only \$39 per person...

Plus get a massively reduced rate on any extra nights accommodation required.

 Allan Maclachlan  allan_mac@xtra.co.nz  579 8009 or 027 210 9276

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

Trip Report

JOHN'S WOBBLE

By Auckland section legend, John Salisbury (pictured)



West Coast Wobble – Little Huia to Destruction Gully – 17th Feb.

Nine tough souls, some new to the wobble experience, braved warm weather and fragrant breezes to discover the scenic delights of this remote stretch of the Manukau Harbour. Starting from Little Huia, the coast is traversed, or wobbled, along the wave cut platform and across a series of guts which the sea gently laps in & out of. Minor inconveniences like scraped hands & knees dwindle into insignificance when momentous decisions have to be taken. Should you climb sideways along the water level, ignoring the explosions of spray at the closed end of the gut and the ever present chance of falling in? Or simply swim across with the tide playfully sweeping you into the gut and out into the harbour (remember those shark reports)? Or even scramble up and over a loose traverse 10 meters above the lapping waves, with stones rolling away from under your scrabbling feet? Oh the joy of free choice!

After several of these brief encounters of the wet kind, lunch was taken & the opportunity to dry out gratefully grasped, then off again to more of the same, a growing gannet colony & single disgruntled seal. Once at the gully, we went to look at the start of the other section to Whatipu, where a keen participant availed herself of the chance of total immersion for the final time.

A quick sortie up the gully and trudge down the road brought us to the cars, then survival was celebrated with ice cream at the Huia Tea Rooms. A grand day. The scars & memories will linger until next time

John Salisbury – leader

Victims – Janet, Spencer, Amanda, Linny, Nadia, Dave, Colin and Jane

2008 committee contacts

Chairperson & Section Rep – Deryn Williams

Phone: 441 3094
email: deryn@hyper.net.nz

Vice Chairperson & Event Organiser

– currently vacant

Secretary – Caroline Lonsdale

Phone: 021 050 9649
email: clonsdale@adhb.govt.nz

Treasurer & Section Rep – Allan MacLachlan

Phone: 579 8009
email: allan_mac@extra.co.nz

Newsletter Editor – Suzanne Stickney

Phone: 486 2024
email: suzstick@hotmail.com

Trips Organiser – Amanda Holmes

Phone: 027 548 8831
email: amandafholmes@yahoo.com.au

Hut Managers – Brad White (& Richard Knott)

Phone: 021 918642

Instruction & SnowCraft Organiser – Chris Munro

Phone: 029 238 6230
email: nzacsnowcraft@gmail.com

Meetings Organiser – Matt Robertson

Phone: 362 1984
email: matthewjrobertson@hotmail.com

Membership & Social Secretary – Nick Plimmer

Phone: 021 169 1146
Email: Nick.Plimmer@mainfreight.co.nz

Other Committee Members

Grant Sutton
Phone: 638 3346
email: 2grant2@gmail.com

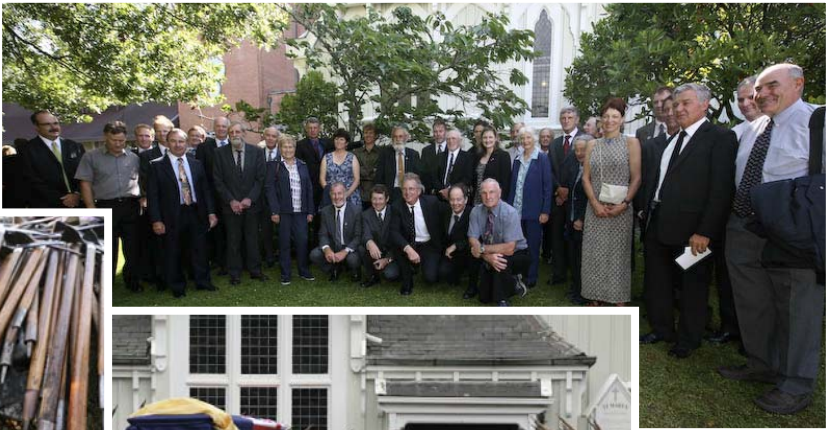
Nathaniel Wilson

Paul Cannin

Ruapehu Hut Bookings – Margaret McMahon

Phone: National Office (03) 377 7595
during office hours

email: admin@alpineclub.org.nz



The Alpine Club's Guard of Honour at Sir Ed's Funeral



Memorial service at the Ruckland Domain after the funeral

