



The
**Auckland
Climber**

October '07

www.aucklandclimber.org.nz

this month

CLIMBING IN IRAN

next month

Summer Trips Planning

Welcome to October'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:

CLIMBING IN IRAN

Mon 1st October, St Lukes Community Hall

As the Middle East political situation hots up, we've invited club member Shiva Nami to tell us about a different side to her home country of Iran. The side that isn't reported in the papers, Iran through the eyes of a mountaineer. It's not all desert, the capital, Tehran, has a population of 17 million but it is surrounded by 3400m peaks – all just a 30min drive from the CBD. There's plenty of Big Wall climbing too – 800m to 1000m. Shiva will also talk about the culture and obstacles around women climbing in Iran.

Shiva's a member of the Alpine Club and has been climbing for around 14 yrs. She was a member of the Iranian sport climbing team, was one of the first women rock climbing instructors after the revolution and was a member of Iran's Alpine club.

Next month's meeting:

Summer Trips Planning

Mon 5th November, Galbraith's Ale House, Cnr Mt Eden Rd & Symonds Street

Pull out your maps and get yourselves down to Galbraith's for a night dedicated to hatching plans, talking to the experts and finding new friends to do stuff with. Whatever your imagination has in mind for this summer, whether it be K2 in jandals, a 24 Hour Southern Alps Traverse or something slightly more achievable, you'll meet someone up for the challenge tonight.

Auckland News

Member injured in eruption

Our thoughts are with William Pike as he recovers in hospital after a boulder smashed through the roof of Dome Shelter on Ruapehu crushing his legs.

Keep this date free: 15th Dec 2007

It's the night of the Christmas party and we have secured top ceilidh band, Twisty Willow. After a huge Christmas buffet, 100 people on the dance floor Scottish dancing for 3 hours will be something to see, but we are the Alpine Club. Let's show 'em what we're made of! (A ceilidh by the way is Scottish dancing

and it's heaps of fun for all, Scottish or not ;-)). More info in November's issue.

Lactic Turkey keeps you fit

For keeping up that Alpine fitness throughout the year check out the off-road runs by Lactic Turkey at www.lacticurkey.co.nz.

3 November 2007: The Greatest Little Fun Run in the Universe, a fun run/walk for all the family based out at Huia. It includes 13km, 5km or 2km courses.

10 November 2007: The Scott P6 Adventure Race, a 6 hour adventure race for all levels – mainly aimed as an introductory race for people to try it out.

*On the cover: NZAC Ruapehu hut from The Pinnacles.
Brandon Daniell*

National News

Future instructors: FMC subsidised training workshops 2007

Each year the FMC runs a variety of excellent skills weekends for club instructors and leaders. Participants on previous FMC workshops found them highly rewarding. The Auckland NZAC is looking to up skill people of all skill levels right now. You need to be nominated by the club to take part in these courses, but we're really keen to nominate people! So contact deryn@hyper.net.nz if you'd like to be considered. Check out the FMCs website for course updates throughout the year.

River Safety / Navigation Workshop- Decision making, risk management, river crossing methods, recovery techniques. Navigation refresher and micro-navigation. Food will be supplied and accommodation will be in lodges.

South Island, 3-4 November 2007, Craigieburn.

Fee \$80, closing date 12 October

North Island, 17-18 November 2007, Central Plateau. Fee \$80, closing date 26 October

Funding Opportunity: The MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION

The Mount Everest Foundation was founded after the successful ascent of Everest in 1953 and initially financed from surplus funds and subsequent royalties of the 1953 expedition. It was established to encourage 'exploration of the mountain regions of the earth'

Since inception the MEF has dispensed almost £840,000 in grants to British and

Classifieds

Canterbury Mountaineering Club is rebuilding its membership database. If you or anyone you know has been a member in the past, or has a past CMC member lists/records please contact Greg Ewing at greg.ewing@ist.co.nz or write to: CMC, PO Box 2415, Christchurch Mail Centre 8140.

Seeking photos or memories of Peter Weston, an RAF member of the 1955-58 Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition. His daughter, Vivienne Hill is collecting information about her late father's endeavours. Email HillV@freyberg.ac.nz

Wellington Rock and Taranaki NZAC guidebooks going cheap until Christmas! Buy both for \$25, or separately for only \$15 each, plus p&p. Email: Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz

New Zealand groups. In recent years most expeditions have followed a trend towards attempting new routes of extreme difficulty on high or remote peaks with self-sufficient teams. There have also been ventures devoted principally to science and exploration.

Applications are considered twice a year and the closing dates for completed applications are 31st August and 31st December of the year prior to the expedition. To find out about previous funded expeditions and download the application form go to www.mef.org.uk *The Climber* hears that NZ groups are underrepresented in the distribution of these grants and are encouraged to apply.

Ball Pass guide needed for Nov-April 2007

Alpine Recreation Ltd seeks a guide to lead tourists over the Ball Pass this summer. A sound mountaineering background, good people skills, Current First Aid Certificate, Driver's Licence with P-endorsement, and preferably one of the industry's certificates: NZOIA Mountain II, NZMGA Glacier Guide, NZMGA Summer I, or overseas equivalent. There will be extensive on the job training and supervision with the possibility of long-term employment. Applications with full CV of recent climbing activities (dates, peaks, routes) to: Anne & Gottlieb Braun-Elwert, Alpine Recreation Ltd. PO Box 75, Lake Tekapo 7945. Phone: 03 680 6736

Lost on Ruapehu on weekend of 1-2 Sept 07, one toiletry bag with contents, including a pair of glasses. If anyone has seen or has picked this up, please email Dave Pearton at dpearton@gmail.com

Petzl Sarken Crampons – Product Recall
The front points of the crampons are susceptible to premature wear following heavy use. There is a risk of cracking of the metal forefoot near the front point(s), followed by possible breakage if usage continues. Stop using the crampons immediately. Do not return the crampons to retailers.

Ring 03 434 9535 from 9am to 5pm weekdays and provide your name and shipping address for delivery of a replacement.

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) it's assumed that participants have attained a level of competency in the alpine environment.

October

Winter Alpine Landscape Photography Workshop

Oct 6/7

Professional photographer Marty Blumen leads a weekend workshop down at the mountain for anyone keen to improve their alpine landscape photography and get some new ideas.

 Amanda Holmes  amandafholmes@yahoo.com.au  0275 488831

Rockcraft I [of 2 weekends]

Oct 13/14

New to outdoor rockclimbing? This weekend workshop, run by a qualified instructor, is a great way to get introduced to outdoor climbing and learn about leading on bolts and anchors.

Level: Beginner up




 Caroline Lonsdale  clonsdale@adhb.govt.nz  021 0509649

Taranaki [Tahurangi Lodge]

Oct 20/21/22

Labour weekend Ice climbing, Alpine ascent of the East Ridge, cold rock climbing.

Level: New SnowCraft Graduates/ Intermediate / Advanced

 Amanda Holmes  amandafholmes@yahoo.com.au  0275 488831

Whanganui Bay rockclimbing

Oct 27/28

Spring is in the air – it's time to get back out onto rock!

Level: New SnowCraft Graduates/ Intermediate / Advanced

 Amanda Holmes  amandafholmes@yahoo.com.au  0275 488831

November

K2/K1

Nov 3/4

K1 is a 100km bike ride in the Coromandels.

 Amanda Holmes  amandafholmes@yahoo.com.au  0275 488831

Rockcraft II

Nov 10/11

Second of two weekend workshops designed for people new to outdoor climbing. Each weekend will showcase a different climbing spot. This weekend the focus is on natural pro and anchor systems.

Level: Beginner up

 Caroline Lonsdale  clonsdale@adhb.govt.nz  021 0509649

Trip reports

TURTLE TRAVERSE (MT. TARANAKI)

8 SEPTEMBER 2007

By Rosemary Findley

Participants; Auckland Branch – Rosemary Findley, Eric Major, Steve Ritson, Stephen Matheson, Richard Everitt, Caren Shrubshall, Rob Laery, Brian Lamb, Dave Greenhough and Martin Knoche

Wellington Branch – Jo Langridge, Stuart Clark, Matt Wooster and Ken Stokes

Central Branch – Sharon Allen, Andrew Peacocke, Michael Greer and David Pearton

It's hard to say whether the forecasters are so bad they should be shot, or whether the Taranaki weather Gods are so fickle there is no hope for us mere climbers. In other words, we didn't make it to the Turtle but the trip had highlights.

Firstly, it was omitted from the 'Auckland Climber' newsletter, so HQ in Christchurch sent out an email which went to all North Island members. I wondered why the response was so overwhelming – the trip was full in less than a week. But we all met new people and it was great to get together with the Wellington & Central Branches. I would like to see more cross branch trips, especially as we play on the same mountains. The feedback was very positive.

Eighteen climbers headed for Tahurangi Lodge and Friday night's drizzle was not a good sign. Getting up Saturday morning it looked worse, but we would give it a go anyway- after all, the weather forecast was promising good things for Saturday, and we hoped it would improve.

It didn't, visibility was poor and up higher it was quite windy. After about 2 hours the

decision was made to turn back, although Ken and Steve continued to see if they could find the Turtle in the white out. The rest of us played around on some slopes and headed back to Tahurangi Lodge. About half decided as the Sunday forecast was bad they would

head home. The weather cleared up about 3pm and stayed wonderful.

Steve was first up Sunday morning declaring the weather perfect. We aimed for the summit on the north route and found it icy with a cool wind but the views were

to die for. Richard and Martin went up with snowboard and skis. Richard's crampons broke, (so it is now 4-0 to Mt. Taranaki for Richard). Martin took to his skis and had a spectacular slide nearly down to tree line when he lost his skis on an ice plate.

The rest continued to the summit where we got a good view of the Turtle – the summit was thick with ice, a tantalising sight and a good excuse for another mission to get on its head.

Thanks to everyone for their company and humour. The Turtle Traverse did not fail.....it's merely a delayed mission. WE WILL RETURN!



An excellent adventure

By John Broadwell

This is an account of a wobble undertaken at low tide from Maori Bay (north of the Waitakeres) southwards. It was charmingly conducted in the spirit of a "boys own" adventure by John Broadwell and Bruce Calvert.

Glossary of terms:

Wobble: *n.* a form of coasteering particular to Auckland's West Coast where the treacherous surf adds to the fun.

Zawn: *n.* A crack or fissure in the coastal rock of the West Coast that fills with the surging tide.

Wet, soaking wet; bloody well soaking wet. This was the fourth swim of the day and I wanted

out, this was definitely not in the plan.

Adventures, don't talk to me about adventures.

It all began quietly and innocently enough with a polite exchange of emails between Bruce and I, with me expressing an interest in "wobbling round the universe"

I geared myself up with a day sack and some wet weather gear, foolishly thinking I would be able to stay dry traversing cliffs all day.

The small intimations of disquiet soon began to subtly insert themselves underneath my well-padded comfort zone, while we waited at the car park fretting, wanting to get away, wondering if

we had missed the three or four other members of our group who never showed up.

So we of two, began the wobble to crown all wobbles.

The first zawn glimpsed, bloody hell! Were we really going to have to swim across that? Foolishly I had thought I would be able to climb away from all that wet stuff.

Get on with it wimp, show some courage and leadership. I jumped in, no Personal Flotation Device. I crawled safely out on the rocks opposite, reminiscent of a beached whale blowing hard.

Then, beach tramping for a while, doubts began to assail me. The wind was strong, the sea was very rough, it was low tide, safety margins decreased with each forward step. But I was enjoying the fresh air and exercise far too much to want to withdraw. All my antennae were by now fully extended and operating at code red.

The second zawn presented itself; it was at that very point, that one critical moment in the time space continuum when dignity was so very nearly lost, when the irreversible die was cast. How many bad ideas have been born out of bravado? I jumped, Bruce followed. Unbeknowingly, our fates were so nearly sealed from this point forward; we had done this with our eyes wide shut. Innocently we gathered ourselves together and headed out round the next headland to be met by a barrier of smooth rocks all facing the wrong way, if rock can face the wrong way. Those rocks were mutinous and I swear they were trying hard to eject us into a scary and inescapable seaward direction.

Forward progress diminished and was not inviting; an orderly retreat became the sensible thing to do. The tide was still out but it had encroached enough to create severe turbulence on the beach right below where we needed to climb up and exit the zawn where we came in. There were big waves there, whose power, akin to some kind of manic washing machine invented by Goblins either smashed out of their brains or high on magic mushrooms and without any sense of urgency or a desire to wash their clothes.

Bruce hove alongside and offered a leg up. The cliff here was short, steep and badly undercut. I very nearly made it but despite our best efforts each wave wiped us out.

One monster wave sucked us both in together,

like a giant whirlpool into which we both tumbled, the ground becoming an alternative ceiling. Climbing out of that oceanic soup onto the beach like primordial creatures, I could contain myself no longer. I may have just lost my favourite fleece hat but I had a severe fit of laughter, I could not stop laughing. Yes!?!? It was THAT serious. They do say that human beings laugh when uneasy or relieved.

Taking stock, we re-examined our options, cell phones were handy and I was ready to capitulate and call the rescue services whilst the opportunity still existed; despite the injury it would inflict on my pride.

Bruce bravely suggested that we have another go at swimming further out into the zawn where the waters were slightly calmer. He thought it was a goer. I stayed on the beach whilst he swam, then he gained a foothold, he climbed up. It was all over for him, and now it was my turn. The swim went well, much better than expected and I too was suddenly safe, spared the indignity. THAT was an extremely close call; past tense!

We chatted all the way back to the first zawn. That zawn was also tricky by now but again Bruce showed his mettle and led the way out, and I followed.

As I unpacked my rucksack at the end of the day, I realised it was going to be a very expensive wobble for me. There lay my new, six hundred dollar digital camera, oozing copious amounts of the briny ocean from its non-waterproof delicate electrical circuitry.

With my pride already severely dented, I just could not bring myself to tell Bruce.

He got me into and out of this excellent adventure.



Girdlestone Trip

14-15 July

The weather was perfect, okay there was one cloud in the sky right next to Taranaki, way off in the distance! The snow was crisp, clean and dazzling white. Somehow Guy and I managed to lose the others in the NZAC group, but we made it to the top of Girdlestone. That felt like a real achievement as we'd not made it to the top of the last mountain we'd tried to climb a week or two before in Canada largely due to time constraints... Oddly enough, on the top, we could see people (small ants in the distance) but even with careful squinting couldn't make out if they were part of our group. We did the time calculation and worked out that if we walked across to them, we'd end up walking down the



mountain in the dark. Back at the hut, we'd eaten (and washed up!) by the time the others arrived back having walked down the ridgeline by the light of head torches!

The next day we had a gorgeous day of ice climbing by the Giant Cafe on top ropes. The



photos tell the story everyone had a go!

Must extol the virtues of the Massey Uni Alpine Club (MUAC) Hut. Besides having a shower, gas cooking and a cosy lounge room, it is a mere 3km from Turoa. The only downside is having to book the hut in two weeks in advance. Grant was particularly pleased with the hut as he's stayed in the Ohakune Backpackers and gained insight into late night parties followed by well rested children running about at 5am. Congratulations to Ian for organising a fabulous trip, with the best weather I have seen all winter!

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Big Greenies

E Day 2007 – Get rid of your e waste!

On Sunday 30 September 2007 you can drop off your all your hazardous electronic waste for recycling. That's computers, printers, old mobile phones etc. It's the first ever event of its kind!

Drop off points: Telstra Pacific Events Centre, 770 Gt South Rd, Manukau City

North Shore Events Centre, Siverfield Rd entrance, (off Porana Rd) , Glenfield.

For more info call 09 379 2020 or go to www.aucklandcity.govt.nz



*Weekend 2 on the
SnowCraft Course*

