



# The Auckland Climber

September '08

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

*this month*

**AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MINUTES**

*next month*

**Ice climbing in Europe**

**Welcome** to September'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

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

**7.30pm Monday 1st September, St Lukes Church Hall, Remuera Road**

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

The idea is simple – club members stand up and deliver a series of short talks and presentations on their adventures taking the audience on an epic journey around the world.

IS there an adventure that you have been on that you could share – from an adventurous weekend on the slopes and ridges of Ruapehu to a first ascent in the Himalaya, a simple paddle out on Hauraki Gulf or an struggle amongst the mountainous swells off South Georgia – it isn't about the distance from Auckland, it's about the distance from your comfort zone.

So contact us please – we need you to get involved.

It isn't limited to your experience – is there a historic expedition or individual that has inspired you? Do you want to spend 10 minutes telling the story to inspire others in the club??

We are working on prizes for Best Expedition, Most Inspiring Trip, Funniest Talk and Best Photos (watch this space).

This is about sharing your passion with others – why not share your thrills, lessons or even pain with others??

Please contact Matt Robertson on [matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com](mailto:matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com) or [matt.robertson@leightonworks.co.nz](mailto:matt.robertson@leightonworks.co.nz) to book a speaking slot.

Give it a go. You know you want to.



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

**Mon 6th October, St Lukes Community Hall**

## **Ice climbing in Europe**

Nick Roberts talks about some ice climbing trips during his time in Europe.



# Auckland News

## *Bon Voyage, Amanda and Guy*

Amanda Holmes, Auckland Section Trips Organiser for the last 18 months, is off to France. The committee wants to say a huge thank you to her for her sterling efforts as Trips Organiser and to wish her and husband Guy 'du bon chance' for their sojourn in France. You lucky things!

## *The case of the missing ice axe*

In a mystery worthy of investigation by Sherlock Holmes himself, it appears that one of the club's ice axes has gone missing. We now have only 9. If anyone adze any handles on the disappearance of this item, or can help unpick this mystery, please contact Allan MacLachlan on allan\_mac@xtra.co.nz or tel 579 8009.

## *Changes to hire gear system*

In order to make things run a bit smoother, Allan has implemented some changes to the club's gear hire procedure.

- If you want to hire gear, pickup is after 8pm on Thursday night.
- It must be returned to me between 8:30pm and 9:30pm on Tuesday night, or by arrangement. Otherwise \$5/day charges apply for each item.

In any case, contact Allan to find out what time suits him.

If you need to hire gear, contact Allan MacLachlan on 579-8009 or email allan\_mac@xtra.co.nz

## *Auditor required*

Allan's done the financial statements for the Section, but our Auditor has gone to sunny Scotland. We reckon Allan has done a straight up job, but if you want to help out by auditing the accounts, please contact Allan at allan\_mac@xtra.co.nz

## *Marty Blumen wins Banff Mountain Photography Competition*

Marty Blumen was awarded the 2008 Grand Prize for his photo 'Rim Lit Climber'. The winning image was selected from more than 1900 photographs from 20 countries submitted for the 13th annual competition.

*"An ethereal fringe of light catches a sport climber on a cliff face at Céüse, France. I consider this my penultimate rock climbing photo. The unique light distils the essentials; a rope, chalk and a strong grip."*

[www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/photo/competition/2008/](http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/photo/competition/2008/)



*Rim Lit Climber, Céüse, France*  
© Marty Blumen, Auckland, New Zealand  
Grand Prize, 2008 Banff Mountain Photography Competition

# National News

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## *New Zealand Alpine Club farewells top mountain guide*

The New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) today farewells one of its outstanding members Gottlieb Braun-Elwert, who passed away last night at Rex Simpson Hut, in the Two Thumb range.

Gottlieb was a member of NZAC for the last 28 years, and throughout that time was an active mountain guide and prolific climber. Some of his more notable mountaineering achievements include:

- The first winter ascent of all 3000m peaks of the Southern Alps during one season.
- A winter traverse of Mt Fitzroy in 1993
- Several traverses of the Patagonian ice cap.
- A 29 day ski traverse of Denali (Mt McKinley) in 2002

In addition to these specific achievements, Gottlieb climbed many significant routes in the Southern Alps. As a mountain guide he was highly regarded and guided both his daughters to the summit of Aoraki/Mt Cook on separate trips.

His company Alpine Recreation, based in Tekapo, have introduced hundreds of people to the mountains, and also constructed two mountain huts – Caroline Hut, and Rex Simpson Hut. The nature of Gottlieb's sudden passing, in the midst of a landscape he loved, sheltered within the walls of a hut he constructed, beneath the summit of Beuzenberg Peak named after his long time climbing partner Erica Beuzenberg, was both apt and poignant.

Gottlieb was never afraid to express his views, and absolutely stuck to his values. On environmental issues concerning our mountain regions he was a leading advocate for taking a responsible and proactive role in minimising human impact, and preserving the pure beauty of the mountain environment. As part of this commitment he was a member of the Aoraki/Mt Cook Conservation Board, and the Land Access Committee. Gottlieb's contribution to the mountain community was significant, and his legacy will not be easily forgotten.



## *Commonwealth Women's Antarctic Expedition*

Is looking for New Zealand Woman to ski to the South Pole.

A major international Antarctic expedition is looking for ordinary women from New Zealand to join an all-female team skiing to the South Pole next year.

The 8-woman team representing the Commonwealth countries of Cyprus, Ghana, India, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, New Zealand, Jamaica and the United Kingdom will ski more than 500 miles across the icy wastes of Antarctica to reach the South Pole on New Years Day 2010.

The 30 to 50 day journey will involve sleeping in tents on the ice in temperatures down to -30°C, pulling sledges full of food, fuel and equipment weighing 80kg, battling through vicious snowstorms and avoiding treacherous crevasses hidden beneath the snow surface.

The New Zealand woman selected to join the team will become the first woman of her nation to ski to the South Pole.

Expedition Leader, Felicity Aston said, 'We are not necessarily looking for super-human athletes. What is really important is the determination to succeed and a passion for adventure.'

Candidates from New Zealand can apply through an application form on the expedition website

and a short-list of applicants will be interviewed in September. The closing date for applications is Friday 5th September, 2008.

Expedition Website: [www.commonwealthexpedition.com](http://www.commonwealthexpedition.com)

### *SPARC Hillary Expedition Fund 2008/9 – Applications closing soon*

The SPARC Hillary Expedition initiative aims to inspire and encourage New Zealanders to take on exciting, world-class physical challenges in the great outdoors.

In 2008/09, up to six groups of adventurers will be offered grants between \$10,000 and \$30,000 each.

Every two years, adventurers are invited to submit applications for funding. The expeditions can take place anywhere in the world. They might include, but are not limited to, any one or

combination of the following activities: tramping, mountaineering, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, white water and/or sea kayaking, mountain biking, and sailing.

SPARC envisages that Hillary Expedition adventurers will be role models, encouraging Kiwis to set their sights high, dream 'big dreams' and embark on a lifetime of physical activity.

Applications are currently open and close on 26 September 2008

For full details on application criteria and to download the application form visit:

[www.sparc.org.nz/getting-active/hillary-expedition](http://www.sparc.org.nz/getting-active/hillary-expedition)



### *NZAC Publication Specials*

Blue Mountains Climbing (2002 3rd edition) only 4 left – Special \$30 each

NZAC Alpine Journal Reprints – Selected volumes only – Special \$10 each

Volumes II (1895-96), VI (1935-36), VII (1937-1938), VIII (1939-40)

Post and Package \$3.50 first book and \$2 per book thereafter. Details on the NZAC Homepage.

To purchase contact Margaret at the National Office: [Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz)

### *Archives Update*

The Hocken Archives, who hold the New Zealand Alpine Club's historical paper and photographic collection, have provided us with two more indexes of items deposited in 2004. They are still getting through a backlog of items and further updates will come in time. To view the new indexes, please see our website Archives page:

<http://www.alpineclub.org.nz/default.aspx?p=19> where you will also find a direct link to the Hocken search engine.

Further updates on the Sir Edmund Hillary Timeline have also been completed. His webpage can be viewed here:

<http://www.alpineclub.org.nz/default.aspx?p=367>

### *TwinNeedle – New Outdoor Equipment Repair Specialists*

From the ashes of the Macpac Product Support team rises New Zealand's newest equipment/clothing repair service. While the company is new the people behind the machines have over 35 years experience in repairing/servicing and advising in the outdoor manufacturing industry. With a completely kitted out workshop we repair, service and customize all brands of packs, tents, clothing and sleeping bags. From simple patching to panel and zip replacement, washing and re-proofing, down boosting & replacement, seam sealing, tent pole repair, MSR cooker repairs.

Outdoor gear is expensive – why bin something that can be repaired or rejuvenated for a fraction of the cost of buying new!

Reduce, Re-use, Recycle and REPAIR.

Contact us for free quotes, free advice or just a yarn!

Tel: 03 9434444 or visit [www.twinneedle.co.nz](http://www.twinneedle.co.nz)

## Consumer Warning: Fairydown fuel bottles

### The problem

The bottle lid may degrade and cause fuel leaks.

### Details

Red 600ml Fairydown aluminium fuel bottles.

### What to do

Cease using the product, empty any fuel from the bottle and return the empty bottle to a Macpac store (Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington, Petone, Napier, Takapuna or Newmarket) for a full refund. For further information freephone 0800 622 722.

# Trips

Do you have a new trip idea? Perhaps you missed one before and want a repeat? We can only run as many trips as there are organisers. Volunteer to lead just one trip this year and get to do it where, when and with who you want. You don't need to be the most proficient person on the trip, you are not a guide: it's about car-pooling, collating emergency details and forwarding information to the trip participants. Make your dream trip happen this winter, contact Richard (reveritt@ihug.co.nz) or Magnus (hammarsal@hotmail.com). Also email us to obtain updates to this list. Trips marked with "organiser tba" means that we don't have a trips organized allocated and that trip can't go ahead until we find a volunteer to do so.... All suggestions for trips welcome!

## September

### SnowCraft course weekend #2 [Rescheduled]

Sept 13-14

 Chris Munro  NZACSnowCraft@gmail.com  029 238 6230

### Rock climbing at Extreme Edge

7pm Sept 17

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.

[www.extremeedge.co.nz](http://www.extremeedge.co.nz)

 Allan MacLachlan  allan\_mac@xtra.co.nz  579 8009

### Ruapehu Peaks trip

Sept 20-21

Fancy doing a few peaks down at Ruapehu? Contact Suz.

 Suzanne Stickney  suzstick@hotmail.com  486 2024

### SnowCraft course weekend #3 [Rescheduled]

Sept 27-28

 Chris Munro  NZACSnowCraft@gmail.com  029 238 6230

## October

### MSC Back Country avalanche awareness course #1

Oct 11/12

Run by Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, if this course is anything like the brilliant MSC Avalanche Course, then it will give you a fantastic insight into avalanches and how to keep out of them. Cost is around \$500 for the two weekends but is well worth it for anyone intending on venturing into avalanche prone areas. [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz)

 Andy Hoyle  ahoyle@mtruapehu.com  07 892 3410 ext 7870 or 027 544 4258

### MSC Back Country avalanche awareness course #1

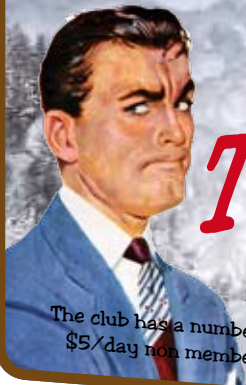
Oct 18/19

Run by Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, if this course is anything like the brilliant MSC Avalanche Course, then it will give you a fantastic insight into avalanches and how to keep out of them. Cost is around \$500 for the two weekends but is well worth it for anyone intending on venturing into avalanche prone areas. [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz)

 Andy Hoyle  ahoyle@mtruapehu.com  07 892 3410 ext 7870 or 027 544 4258

*DON'T GO TO THE MOUNTAINS WITHOUT ...*

# AVALANCHE TRANCEIVERS



The club has a number of these for hire to skiers and mountaineers. Cost \$3/day members, \$5/day non members. Contact Allan MacLachlan on 579 8009 or [allan\\_mac@xtra.co.nz](mailto:allan_mac@xtra.co.nz)

## Webwatch

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Here's a list of sites to check out:

- [www.avalanche.net.nz](http://www.avalanche.net.nz)** Check snow conditions before heading to the mountain.
- [www.metservice.co.nz](http://www.metservice.co.nz)** The NZ mountain weather forecast sites.
- [www.metvuw.com](http://www.metvuw.com)**
- [www.snow.co.nz](http://www.snow.co.nz)** Check out the snowcams around the country.
- [www.mountainz.co.nz](http://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](http://www.sportzhub.co.nz)** Eventers check out this site! Also buy/sell/discussion.

## 2008/09 committee contacts

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### **Chairperson & Section Rep** – Deryn Williams

Phone: 441 3094  
email: [deryn@hyper.net.nz](mailto:deryn@hyper.net.nz)

**Secretary** – Marten Blumen  
email: [martyb@gmail.com](mailto:martyb@gmail.com)

**Treasurer & Section Rep** – Allan MacLachlan  
Phone: 579 8009  
email: [allan\\_mac@xtra.co.nz](mailto:allan_mac@xtra.co.nz)

**Newsletter Editor & Events** – Suzanne Stickney  
Phone: 486 2024  
email: [suzstick@hotmail.com](mailto:suzstick@hotmail.com)

### **Trips Organisers**

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

Magnus Hammarsal  
Phone: 021 314 422  
email: [hammarsal@hotmail.com](mailto:hammarsal@hotmail.com)

**Hut Managers** – Brad White (& Richard Knott)  
Phone: 021 918642

**Instruction & SnowCraft Organiser** – Chris Munro  
Phone: 029 238 6230  
email: [nzacsnowcraft@gmail.com](mailto:nzacsnowcraft@gmail.com)

**Meetings Organiser** – Matt Robertson  
Phone: 362 1984  
email: [matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com](mailto:matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com)

**Vice-Chair & Membership** – John Salisbury  
Phone: 834 6699  
email: [jmsalisbury@googlemail.com](mailto:jmsalisbury@googlemail.com)

**Librarian & Events Assistant** – Andrew Hinkes

**Ruapehu Hut Bookings** – Margaret McMahon  
Phone: National Office (03) 377 7595  
during office hours  
email: [admin@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:admin@alpineclub.org.nz)