

New Zealand Alpine Club

Central North Island Section Newsletter August/September 2007

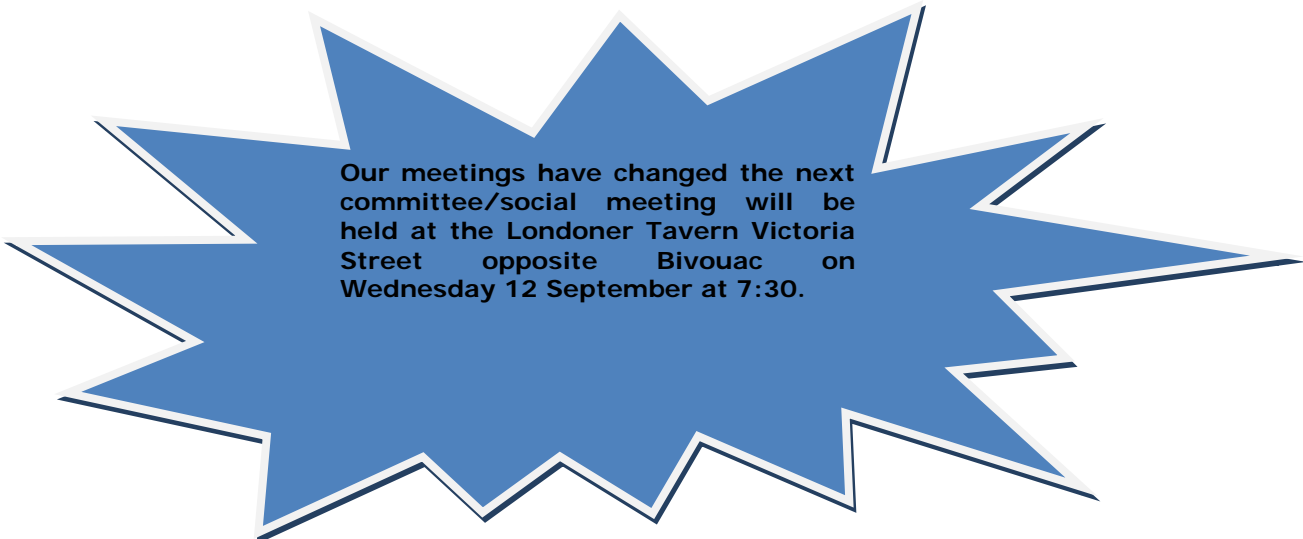
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Jack Magill	07 8341525	jackmagill@xtra.co.nz	Newsletter
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Editors Corner...

CNI said farewell to Kevin Barrat on 28 July, Kevin has moved to Christchurch to start a new job. Kevin's decided that after 10 years in the Waikato there wasn't much he hadn't climbed and needed fresher fields to explore. Kevin can still be contacted on his email address barratt@paradise.net.nz and looks forward to visits from his old friends, *bring your own sleeping bag and beer.*

Kevin reluctantly gave up the role of Newsletter editor and has passed the job on to me. We desperately need articles from **you**. Share your stories and adventures with us whatever they may be. Photographs really can make a difference so don't forget to include 1 or 2. Email me jackmagill@xtra.co.nz

I look forward to hearing from you.



Our meetings have changed the next committee/social meeting will be held at the Londoner Tavern Victoria Street opposite Bivouac on Wednesday 12 September at 7:30.

Gear Hire Rates

- Ice axes- crampons- safety helmets
- Harness - karabiner - figure 8 descender - and safety helmet.
- Transceivers - Snow shovels - Ice hammers.
- \$15.00 per item per weekend \$30.00 per set per weekend.
- \$15.00 per set per day or \$30.00 per set per weekend.
- \$15.00 each per weekend. *Note no discount.*

CNI Section members receive 30% discount on above rates. Please Ring Dennis on 078566754 or email ssanders@ihug.co.nz to hire any gear

Activities Programme

Indoor Climbing-

It is only \$5.50 on Tuesdays to climb at Extreme Edge Climbing Wall, Hamilton, if you have your own gear. Come on down and learn from the wealth of experience down there. Harness and shoes are available to hire. Ask for Kevin, Steve or Marcus.

If anyone is interested we are also going to Newstead Orchard Wall on Thursday evenings at 7pm Contact Eric Duggan for a lift or details of how to get there

This is a good time to socialise with fellow members, catch up on the goss and a great opportunity to organise trips. Hope to see you down there.

NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB –CNI SECTION

Annual General Meeting

Held at Burger King, Hillcrest, Hamilton on Wednesday 11 July at 7.30pm

Present: Steve Burrows, Kevin Hammond, Marcus Bai, Dennis Sanders, Jack Magill, and Kevin Barratt.

Apologies: Eric, Paul, Smithels, Dave Addison

Chairman's report tabled - Marcus/ Jack

Financial Report tabled – Dennis / Kevin B.

Election of officers

Chairman; Steve Burrows – Marcus / jack

Secretary; Eric – Kevin H / Steve

Newsletter; Jack – Steve / Dennis

Instruction; Kevin H – Marcus / Dennis

Gear hire; Dennis – Steve / Kevin B

Section Rep; Richard Knott – Steve / Marcus

Hut Bookings; Barry Smith – Dennis / Steve

Other Committee members – Cliff Ellery, Kevin Barratt, Mark Ashurst.

General Business

All items were held over for the new committee to deal with.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Day Usage of Huts

We have recently had a problem with day use at Ruapehu hut.

It appears that some non-NZAC groups, that have been unable to make bookings at the hut, have decided to camp outside and still use the hut facilities. As we don't know who the groups were, we are unable to charge them a day use fee.

We would like members to know that should they come across a situation where large numbers of non-members are making use of our facilities without prior booking through the National Office, they should feel

free to tactfully approach the group's leader and explain the terms of hut usage and day fee charges. If they feel uncomfortable in doing this, then members could take note of the group's name/numbers involved and let Margaret in the office know. Hut etiquette and day use conditions are outlined on the Clubs website here: <http://www.alpineclub.org.nz>

Members assistance in keeping the office informed of problems at any of the Club's huts is extremely helpful and greatly appreciated.

JOB VACANCY

Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park is a great place to live and work if you're a climber or skier. Some of New Zealand's best outdoor terrain is at our backdoor. Steep alpine rock and ice, awesome glaciers and nearby ski fields are just some of the features of the Area. Why not leave the bustle of the city behind for a new lifestyle.

We are seeking an enthusiastic and well organised individual with a strong alpine climbing background and experience in alpine rescue. This demanding position requires a person with proven leadership ability in emergency situations who is capable of living and working in a small community. You will train and lead the

Department's Alpine Rescue team, be involved in rural and industrial fire and assist in the provision and maintenance of visitor and village assets.

You will be part of New Zealand's leading Alpine Rescue team. Your ability to keep a cool head, effectively manage risk and make well reasoned decisions is critical.

Applications will need to describe experience that demonstrates personal competence to succeed in this role.

For further information please contact Ray Bellringer, telephone (03) 435 1179 or email rbellringer@doc.govt.nz.

For an application pack, contact crsmith@doc.govt.nz, or the Aoraki Area Office, telephone (03) 435 1819, quoting vacancy 82/212. Role description can be found here: Role Description

Applications close in the Aoraki Area Office at noon on Wednesday, 5 September 2007.

The Department encourages diversity in the workplace

www.doc.govt.nz



CANTERBURY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB/MACPAC MOUNTAINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2007

The Canterbury Mountaineering Club is calling for nominations for this year's Macpac/NZ Mountaineer of the Year Award which will be presented in November 2007. This award is presented annually to an individual or, if appropriate, a group who best meet at least two of the following criteria.

1. A climb or climbs of an outstanding nature which have taken place in the last 12 months
2. A sustained high level of climbing over a number of years service to the climbing community by way of instruction/training, search and rescue, advocacy, etc

Nominations can be forwarded to the CMC Secretary at
PO Box 2415
Christchurch

No later than 30 September 2007.

MOUNTAIN SEMINAR IN LONDON

4 December 2007
Summits of Learning

150 Years of Mountaineering, Mountains, and
Science

Swiss Embassy, London

This seminar, open to the public, is part of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of The Alpine Club. Its aim is to celebrate how mountaineers and scientists have increased our knowledge of mountain regions since The Alpine Club was founded in 1857. Mountaineers - both British and foreign - have made many important contributions to our understanding of mountain environments and their people, as shown in many articles in The Alpine Journal and elsewhere. Much of this research has had global significance, e.g., in medicine, glaciology and, more recently, in contributing to our understanding of climate change and its impacts. The seminar will provide an opportunity to hear about historical trends and recent research from world-class speakers, with adequate time for discussion.

Programme

Ed Douglas: Cathedrals or Laboratories? Mountains, Science, and the Alpine Club
Jim Milledge: 150 years of mountain medicine
Wilfried Haeblerli, University of Zurich, Switzerland: The Alps without ice?
Rolf Weingartner, University of Berne, Switzerland: Mountain waters: their significance in a changing world
Harald Pauli, University of Vienna, Austria: Upwardly mobile plants: from early Alpine botany to modern surveys for detecting climate change impacts
Alton Byers, The Mountain Institute, USA: 5,000 Years of Change: Landscapes and people of the Sagarmatha (Mount Everest) National Park, Nepal
Bruno Messerli, University of Berne, Switzerland: Local to global: mountain science and mountain policy

The number of places is limited. Tickets are:
\$50 for members of the public (non-Alpine Club members)
* \$40 for Alpine Club members and students
Tickets are available from Angela Paterson at the Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College - UHI, Crieff Road, Perth PH1 2NX; 01738-877761;
ac150@perth.uhi.ac.uk

**DISCOUNTED NZAC
PUBLICATIONS**

Up until the National Office closes for Christmas (21 December 07) we will be running a special deal on the Wellington Rock and Taranaki guidebooks. You can buy the pair for \$25, or get them separately for only \$15 each, plus p&p. Email: Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz if you are interested

Protector Safety

Protector Safety is a nationwide company supplying 1st aid/medical, safety & protection gear, outdoor wear, etc They are now offering NZAC members a 15% discount. Please check out their website www.protectorsafety.co.nz Also you may wish to view the Club's recently updated "member benefits" page for other offers.
www.alpineclub.org.nz

**Change to Monthly
Meetings**

**Same time different place
7:30 The Londoner Victoria Street
Opposite Bivouac
2 tables at the front of the bar have
been booked,
See you there**

Surplus Library Books For Sale

Work has begun on sorting through our National Reference Library to weed out surplus and unsuitable books.

As this is worked through, details of the books will be placed on the following webpage. Until October 1st, books will only be sold to NZAC members. After that time public sales can begin. We hope that, alongside the sales of surplus Alpine Journals, this will help raise funds for the maintenance and protection of the Club's main

Reference Library. The list of books will be added to as sorting continues, so please check the page periodically for additions to the list. Contact Margaret (at) [alpineclub.org.nz](http://www.alpineclub.org.nz) if you have any enquiries.

<http://www.alpineclub.org.nz>

Stolen ^{Pair} of 160cm Karhu

Catamount telemark skis with cable bindings and pattern base. They're metallic blue and had green Mainland Great Outdoors sticker on them. Taken from the back of my car in Heathcote sometime between Sunday night and Weds morning. These were imported from the US and are overwhelmingly likely to be the only pair in New Zealand, so should stand out. Any info, contact John "Miffed" Henzell on 021 150 5927 or henzell@gmail.com

Thanks



Turtle Traverse – Mt. Taranaki

Date: 8/9 September

Traverse from Tahurangi Lodge north and upwards for a Grade 2 climb to the nose of Mt. Taranaki's Turtle. Abseil or back climb off the nose and continue to the summit returning via the North ridge route. Staying at the super comfortable Tahurangi Lodge there's access to many other good climbs. On the menu is Ted's Alley (Grade 2), East Ridge & Sharks Tooth (Grade 2+), East Face – Pleasant Valley (Grade 1), Surrey Road (Grade 1+) and the standard summit route (Grade 1). Also ice-climbing opportunities at Organ Pipes, Turtle or the summit. Bring ice tools, rope and snow stakes. Navigation can be tricky on Mt. Taranaki with white-outs coming out of nowhere so bring map and compass.

Level – Depending on choice of route - Advanced/intermediate/beginner.

Rosemary Findley

Ph. 585 2287

Mob. 021 038 3181

rosefindley@xtra.co.nz

**FOR SALE
BIVVY BAG \$200
TERRA NOVA EQUIPMENT DISCOVERY**

**LEATHER MOUNTAINEERING BOOTS
GALBIER SUPERGUIDE MADE IN FRANCE
GOOD CONDITION ARMY STYLE
\$50**

CONTACT DENIS sanders@ihug.co.nz

CREVASSE RESCUE ICE CLIMBING WEEKEND



Christian and I thought it was about time some of our CNI bunnies caught up with what the big boys on the other side of the Bombays were getting up to. So in September last year we took it upon ourselves to crash one of the Auckland section alpine weekends away up on Delta Ridge.

We walked up to the hut on the Friday night in near perfect conditions with Ben, Boon, James & Rebecca from Auckland. Summit fever had already set in and it was oh so tempting to just keep going up to the top. However common sense prevailed (about the only time the whole weekend) and we got an early night (morning?) after arriving at 1:00am

At sunrise the weather started off looking promising. But by the

time we'd made a decision to go for it, the dodgyness had set in. When we finally stepped out the door it had turned into a bit of a zephyr out there. There was no other course of action but to procrastinate some more - during which time the weather totally crapped out.

We did eventually set off out into the abyss for a bit of token ice climbing on Delta Corner. I got to try out my shiny new ice screws - pure pleasure! Well, actually, Chris tried one out first when I wasn't looking (bastard!) and when I found him, he was having so much fun, and it was bordering on obscene!

We hauled our freezing butts back to the hut for some lunch. By the time we'd finished, it was all starting to look a bit desperate outside. After prolonging the "anticipation" as long as possible by doing a bit of crevasse rescue theory indoors, we bravely surrendered our souls to the elements outside. Only a few of the more hard core members of The Dark Side could take it for long out there though, before even they gave up on the

crevasse stuff in exchange for a bit of "rope work" back indoors (i.e. coffee). Needless to say, the only thing that really needed rescuing that weekend was the weather.

The toils of the day were, however, amply rewarded by the much more "risqué" hut games to follow that evening. After the obligatory stool and table traverses, Rebecca stunned us all with her skills and finesse in the chapstick game (!). The most squeamish highlight of the evening however was to find Chris, The Prince of Darkness himself, in the arms of another man - under the guise of playing the telephone book game of course.

The next morning was not looking so flash either, so we opted to bail.

A bloody good weekend away, despite (because of?) the weather, and we will be looking forward to teaming up again with some of the guys from up that way. Thanks to Boon & Ben for an awesome weekend!

Marcus Bai

Jack & Denis on Te Ataahua



Three Summits

WHEN IT LOOKED LIKE WE MIGHT GET A BRIEF WEATHER WINDOW ON THE LAST SATURDAY IN JULY, I SENT OUT A LAST MINUTE CLUB TRIP EMAIL TO ALL THE SNOW BUNNIES FROM LAST YEARS SNOWCRAFT COURSE AND THIS SEASONS POWDER PUPPIES. THE SUGGESTION OF DOING EITHER GIRDLESTONE, TAHURANGI, OR POSSIBLY EVEN BOTH SEEMED AN APPROPRIATE NEXT STEP UP TO CONSOLIDATE AND POSSIBLY CHALLENGE THEIR NEW FOUND SKILLS.

HOWEVER, WITH NO RESPONSE, THE GUANO GERBIL QUARTET OF KEVIN HAMMOND, DENNIS, JACK AND I WERE LEFT TO GO AND DO IT ON OUR OWN ANYWAY.

DENNIS AND JACK WENT DOWN THE NIGHT BEFORE TO ENSURE A DECENT NIGHTS SLEEP AND AN EARLY START (WIMPS). KEVIN AND I OPTED FOR DAWN PATROL WHICH MEANT LEAVING HAMILTON AT 5AM FOR A TRADITIONAL ALPINE START.

THE LIGHT RAIN AND CLAG MIRACULOUSLY PARTED AS THE CAPTAIN AND I DROVE UP TO THE CARPARK. DENNIS AND JACK WERE BUT TWO BLACK SPECKS UP AHEAD IN THE DISTANCE (BASTARDS!). WE WERE LEFT WITH NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SUCK IT IN AND GO HARD - THE RACE WAS ON.

WE KNOCKED OFF GIRDLESTONE IN ABOUT 2 ½ HOURS, BUT DENNIS AND JACK WERE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN. WE FOUND OUT LATER THAT THEY'D OPTED FOR A DIFFERENT LINE UP BUT WERE CUT OFF RIGHT BELOW THE SUMMIT. VERY SWEET INDEED TO PIP THEM TO THE TOP AFTER ALL THE SMART-ALEC TEXTS WE'D BEEN GETTING FROM THEM ALL MORNING!

COMING DOWN OFF GIRDLESTONE, KEVIN & I DECIDED, WHAT THE HELL, THAT SINCE THE CONDITIONS WERE SO PRIMO WE'D HAVE A CRACK AT THE THREE SUMMITS INSTEAD OF THE PLANNED TWO.

WE WERE STANDING ON THE SUMMIT OF MITRE AN HOUR AND A HALF LATER, AND THEN TOPPED OUT ON TAHURANGI AN HOUR AFTER THAT. FROM THERE WE COULD SEE DENNIS AND JACK HAD ALSO GONE WALKABOUT AFTER GIRDLESTONE AND HAD JUST SUMMITED TE ATA AHUA A LITTLE FURTHER ALONG THE CRATER RIDGE FROM US.

WHEN WE MET THEM ON THE WAY DOWN, WE ALL "RELUCTANTLY" AGREED TO TAKE THE SOFT OPTION OF CHAIRLIFTS DOWN SO WE'D ALL BE BACK IN TIME FOR KEVIN BARRATT'S GOING AWAY PARTY THAT NIGHT. OH THE SACRIFICES WE MAKE.

WE WERE BACK DOWN AT THE CAR PARK MID AFTERNOON - 6 1/2 HOURS ROUND TRIP. A REFLECTION OF THE FANTASTIC CONDITIONS ON AN AWESOME DAY OUT.

Marcus Bai

Max's Gear Rants

Plastic vs. Leather Boots (That gear topic that more alpine hut walls have listened to than any other)

When I had the idea of using this age-old discussion as the topic for my first column thought, at last! Not only will I find out what to upgrade to from my Makalus, but also I will find, the ANSWER!

Unfortunately as you've probably guessed there is no "answer", no right or wrong, better or worse. Just like any other piece of gear it's all about what you're using it for and what you expect from it.

So starting with the lesser of two evils, plastics, they're completely waterproof, very warm (usually warmer than Leather ones), and very durable. Plastics are usually cheaper comparatively and were once the lighter option (though this is changing with the new generation of Leathers on the market). Downsides to the mighty synthetic are that they lack the ankle flex one would get from a Leather which combined with the unforgiving solidarity of the boot make these painful and unsuitable for anything longer than a very short approach to the white stuff on hard ground. Another is you lose the feel of foot on rock contact when mixed climbing.



As far as the cowhide goes, the likes of your La Sportiva Nepal Evo GTX and Scarpa Cumbre, you're getting a more flexible boot which excels at crazy ice routes/competition icefall and mixed climbing. Leathers have the edge in manoeuvrability and now lightness, sensitivity, and a snug fit.

So in the end I've decided to get a pair of plastics, not only will they be durable, but also they will be better suited for what I'm currently up to, cheaper, and I will have hut booties! But I will probably end up eventually buying a pair of

the Nepal Evo's to fill out my boot selection. Talking to a few guys they say this is the only way to get yourself out of the hut conversation and leave people speechless. Though in saying that Leathers will do for almost all NZ alpine activities especially with some of the longer approaches our mountains in the South give us.

A few tips on choosing the size and fitting your boots etc when you go to the shop; bring your crampons so you can make sure they fit well with any boot you're looking at. If the boot feels great but your crampons won't fit it's cheaper to buy a new pair of sharps than new boots. Fit is paramount, all the top brands are pretty darn similar quality wise so forget everything else and concentrate on how good it feels. Make sure to wear them around the house for a little while when you get home (don't go outside) to make sure that after 2 hours of wear your feet aren't dying. Always try boots on in the afternoon, as your feet

will be larger from having been standing on them all day.

When looking at plastics, It's a lot easier to find an adequate fit with plastic boots that have liners; also the liners reduce blisters and rubbing. When fitting, remove the liner first and check your foot length inside the plastic shell. It is possible to widen plastics either using a ski shops service or your missus' hair dryer and a thick piece of broomstick the same width as your foot if you're into your gear DIY, so the length is the crucial part.

Hope this was informative, I'd just like to say that my column is my personal viewpoint only and not affiliated with any shop but probably stolen from websites and secretly recorded conversations with half cut mountaineers :) Until next time NZ C.razy N.uts Incorporated branch!

Max D. Coyle

Disclaimer: None of these views expressed in this newsletter necessary reflect those of the New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) or the Central North Island section of NZAC